

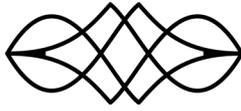
**HOW TO**  
EXPERIENCE  
GOD'S  
MANIFEST  
PRESENCE  
**IN A SERVICE**

**BY PASTOR SINO AGUEZE**



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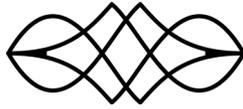
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# INTRODUCTION

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God is not a magician waving a magic wand to make things happen. We rob ourselves of so much when we come to Church or to any Christian event unprepared. Many believers in America come to church with little to no hunger or expectations. They place all the responsibility of the service on the Pastor and the worship team expecting them to perform magic. Not all of the moves of God are sovereign. Over the years, I've learnt why God moves in a certain environment and why He won't move in others. I pray that this mini E-book would help you prepare better for any service, and help you experience the best of God.



# PREPARE YOURSELF AHEAD OF TIME

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It's important that we look ahead for a mighty move of God right in the beginning of every week. Start early. You have to have God on your mind all week. Your spirit needs to stay in contact with God's Spirit all week long. You can't be busy with life from Monday through Saturday, and then only remember God an hour before Sunday service. You can't be all about yourself, and all into yourself all week, and then go to church as a checked off list.

## **A) Begin by defining your purpose for coming to Church.**

In the first place, why are you really coming to Church? What's your real motive for coming? Are you coming because you're fulfilling some religious obligations or because someone made you come or because you simply need something from God? Are you coming because your back is against the wall, and you finally need God to come through for you? Spell out

your motive sister? What's the one overriding reason why you're coming to Church brother? There's only reason why we should all come to Church. And that's to encounter God in a transformative way. I am coming to experience the person and the power of Jesus Christ in a way that transfigures me — in a way where am becoming more progressively like Him. I define transfiguration as an impact of the Spirit of God that's irreversible. Imagine what a Sunday service would look like if we all came to Church with such a mindset. You'll have to check in with your own heart from time to time too. Ask yourself, "am I becoming more obedient to God? Or am I developing more in the fear of God? Am I learning to love people more?" Growth happens when the soul receives corrections.

## **B) Come to Church Full of the Spirit and not Empty**

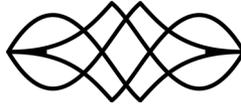
It's a sad sight to often see God's people coming to Church to simply get a fix like an addictive person on drugs. They come broken; they come with little to no energy; and, many others simply come to take. In the American Church, many believers give their best to the world all week, and then offer God their leftovers on Sunday. They place all the responsibility for a powerful and life transforming service on the pulpit. However, that move of God actually depends on the hunger from the pew. We need to come to Church as assets and not liabilities. We need to come with our cup full and spilling over.

*And he came by the Spirit into the temple ...*

*Luke 2:27 KJV*

We need to come guided, and full of God's Spirit to Church.

We need to come offering God nothing less than our best. God is not a beggar standing on the streets asking for crumbs from people. He is the king of Kings and the owner of your life. He deserves the best of all your worship and sacrifices. Come ready to pour out your soul in service to God. This is how you prepare yourself ahead of time. All you can get out of a service is what you put into it.



# STAY SINGLE MINDED IN YOUR FOCUS AND CONCENTRATION

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Life is full of distractions. The soul carries with it an inner turmoil. Some are so used to the chaos and drama of life. Their minds wander aimlessly. There's so much of the external and the internal noise of the soul in this generation. No wonder the Psalmist says that the shepherd would lead him beside the quiet waters, restoring his soul.

*Then he said to them, "Be diligent to understand the meaning behind everything you hear, for as you do, more understanding will be given to you. And according to the depth of your longing to understand, much more will be added to you. For those who listen with open hearts will receive more revelation. But those who don't listen with open hearts will lose what little they think they have!"*

*Mark 4:24-25 TPT*

## **A). The attention we give is the attention we get.**

We need a new type of discipline in today's contemporary churches. You'll often see people chewing gums, chatting and playing on social media and going back and forth to the restroom and service. They really believe that they can act anyhow in the house of the living God. Others are mentally distracted by the cares of this world and the personal problems at home. Some are simply thinking about what they'll eat after service or the soon to come on football game that would be playing. Coming to Church requires that we come focused throughout the duration of the service. It requires that we completely shut down all distractions and detractors, and give God one hundred percent of our attention. It requires that we give the respect the word of God deserves. We've all gathered to essentially hear from God, right? So, when the king speaks, we should show reverence in our action and conduct. I know how some would act if they were in the presence of a celebrity or congressman. How dare we move when God is speaking.

*And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.*

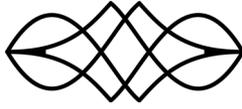
*1 Thessalonians 2:13.*

## **B). Worship God with our whole desire**

*And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he*

*was found of them: and the Lord gave them rest round about.  
2 Chronicles 15:15 KJV.*

You'll notice how Judah sought Him. They sought the Lord with their whole desire. And this is the biblical pattern on how we should seek to worship God during our services. This is the divine protocol of gaining God's attention. You'll often notice that God doesn't just speak in any environment. There's a specific atmosphere and frequency where God speaks. He'll often call people away from the hustle and bustle of life to an isolated place whenever He has something to say. He often speaks when we fast and pray. Fasting helps to reduce the noises of this world and our over preoccupation of ourselves with our natural appetites. Prayer connects our spirit to God's. We need to come to Church or any Christian meeting with single-mindedness. All our spiritual, mental, emotional and physical energies should be spent on Him. Let's come to these gatherings with our whole desire until nothing else is left to give.



# CONSTANTLY GROW IN YOUR HUNGER FOR GOD

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*When your soul is full, you turn down even the sweetest honey. But when your soul is starving, every bitter thing becomes sweet.*

*Proverbs 27:7 TPT*

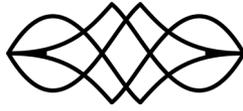
Nothing breaks my heart in Christian meetings as the lack of hunger from God's people. Preaching or teaching or ministering to God's people who have no desire or hunger for God is almost a complete waste of time and effort; and often, nothing of any significant value can be born of it. I am beginning to form as a personal conviction never to minister in a believer's meeting where the people are not hungry for God. It's a waste of effort. God can do nothing where there is no hunger — absolutely nothing! When the soul is full, it will trample under feet the honeycomb. But when it is starving, every bitter thing becomes sweet. When God's people become hungry for God, they wouldn't mind what the condition of

the facilities look like. They just want to encounter God. They want God and are willing to entertain any inconvenience to meet with Him. That desperation for God is revealed in their actions. People will come an hour early and spend time in prayer even before the service starts. They'll worship wholeheartedly without looking at who's watching. They'll listen to the message intently without any distractions. And they'll leave transformed and work further on the message even after the service is over. All week, they'll look for meaningful ways to apply that message into their daily living as they look forward with great anticipation toward the next service.

*As the deer pants [longingly] for the water brooks, So my soul pants [longingly] for You, O God. My soul (my life, my inner self) thirsts for God, for the living God. When will I come and see the face of God?*

*Psalm 42:1-2 AMP*

Where there is the presence of a true hunger and thirst for God, there's also always a mighty outpouring of God's Spirit. We must all take personal responsibility for spiritual things. Our soul must thirst for God. We must develop an insatiable desire for His presence in our services because only the hungry ones are filled — Matthew 5:6. When we become hungry that hunger drives us to prayer. In deep fellowship with God's Spirit, our souls start panting after Him. There's a cry from within our innermost being reaching out for God — a cry that nothing else would satisfy. We need this desperation after God in today's Church.



# **GROW IN THE LIGHT OF GOD'S WORD**

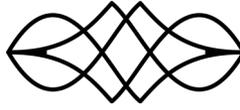
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*All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage]; so that the man of God may be complete and proficient, outfitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 AMP*

God's word essentially has four specific functions in our lives, without which, there will be little to no transformation. God's word is profitable for teaching us the truth; convicting us of sin with the truth; correcting us of error with the truth; and for training us in right living with the truth. God uses His truth to change us and to grow us. When the word comes to me, it opens up my soul to God's truth. That truth lovingly exposes

the things in me that need to change. Then it convicts me of the sin in my life, corrects the errors of my ways and shows me the right way to walk in. Without this ministry of the word, there would be no evidence of growth. Growth in God doesn't happen because I learned something new or filled my head with deeper and profound things. It happens only when we fully embrace the four functions of the word of God in our lives. Therefore, when we come to a meeting to hear God's word, we should be eager to allow God's Spirit above all else to fully carry out these four functions in our lives. If this is not our reason for hearing God's word, then, we've gathered in vain. Maybe, we simply came to be entertained or to have goosebumps.



# LEARN TO SEEK GOD WITHOUT A SHOPPING LIST

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It really does get tiring always coming to God with a shopping list. There's nothing wrong with asking for things, but there's something very wrong when our prayers become self-centered. Truth be told: we would never need to ask for things when we seek God first. We must move away from selfish and self-centered prayers to kingdom prayers.

*And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper.*

*2 Chronicles 26:5 KJV*

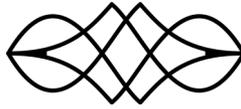
Uzziah was sixteen years old when he started to seek the Lord fervently. He didn't seek things, he sought God Himself. He sought the heart of God. He sought the will of God. He sought the grace of God. All his seeking was God-focused.

## **A. Seek Him for the Joy of Himself**

Like Enoch, we should often seek God simply for the joy of living in Him and wanting to spend moments of eternity with Him. Enoch simply loved God, and living in active communion with God was all that he wanted most out of life. His life was all about joy in the Holy Ghost. Imagine for a moment if your children only come to you when they need something. How does that make you feel? Now imagine again whenever they take a moment just to tell you how much they love you and how much of a great parent you are. The latter invokes a deeper emotion of love and feeling appreciated. We need to spend time with God simply because we enjoy His presence. That is, we worship Him for who He is and not for what He can do for us. Fellowshiping with one another is what best friends do. Hanging out and enjoying each other's company is what best friends do. Our friendship with God should work the same exact way.

## **B). Seek Him for the Cause of His kingdom**

Let us seek the things of the kingdom. In other words, seek the things that have to do with the matters of the kingdom of God. Find out what God is up to, and where God is going and what God is doing. What's God's plan for the world? What's God's plan for Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America? What's God's plan for your community and for your family? How many souls does God want born into the kingdom this month or today? Our prayers need to become kingdom driven. Have God's agenda on your mind and in your spirit. Our gatherings should primarily consist of kingdom agendas anyway.



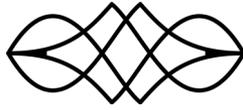
# **PREOCCUPY YOURSELF WITH GOD DURING AND AFTER THE SERVICE**

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Learn to preoccupy yourself with God during the service, and more especially after the service. Don't just live in the moment of the service. Learn to live in the aftermath of the service too. Take time to digest the message. Work on the word to get it inside your spirit and subconscious mind. Remember, Satan comes to church too. And he comes to steal the seed of God's word by getting you preoccupied with other things. He doesn't want you getting the seed planted, watered and flourishing. After service, people need to spend time praying in the word into their hearts. It is purely a demonic agenda to get the American church preoccupied with sports on Sundays. While in a service, some are thinking more about their family's lunch or dinner or sport events. They can't wait to get out of the service and indulge these appetites. So, while the word is fresh hot off of the oven, take a little more time to meditate on it. Let

it accomplish its four functions in your life. Only those who retain the word can live it out in daily life.

*Then he taught me, and he said to me,  
“Take hold of my words with all your heart;  
keep my commands, and you will live.  
My son, pay attention to what I say;  
turn your ear to my words.  
Do not let them out of your sight,  
keep them within your heart;  
for they are life to those who find them  
and health to one’s whole body.  
Above all else, guard your heart,  
for everything you do flows from it.  
Proverbs 4:4, 20-23.*



# **ALWAYS EXPECT TO EXPERIENCE GOD FAR MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS SERVICE**

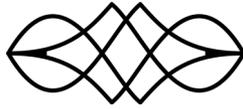
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It's dangerous to never expect greater things and greater moves of God in a service. This is because God only meets people at the level of their expectations. If you want predictable shows in the church, that's what you'll get. If you want more of the same, that's what you'll get too. God can reveal a side of Himself each day for the rest of eternity. We often without realizing it settle for less or at least the same old paradigm. How long would it take man just to explore our galaxy or our universe? How much more God in whom the universe dwells. Why have we become satisfied with the known rather than the unknown. Expecting greater things to happen places a demand on God's power. There are hardly any known biblical miracles of scripture in the American church because majority of the people never expect them to happen.

Each service should be born out of a greater expectation from the people to want to see God do the exceeding. No service should be the same. Our services, like the wind God should be unpredictable.

*The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.*

*John 3:8*



# SEEK TO LIVE MORE SELFLESS FOR THE CAUSE OF THE GOSPEL

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What use is a service if it doesn't drive us to live more for Him. Every service should brand the way of the cross deeper on the table of our hearts. We should spend all of our lives in service to God, and in service to the cause of the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

*For it is Christ's love that fuels our passion and motivates us, because we are absolutely convinced that he has given his life for all of us. This means all died with him, so that those who live should no longer live self-absorbed lives but lives that are poured out for him—the one who died for us and now lives again.*

*2 Corinthians 5:14-15 TPT*

Any service that doesn't transform us each day toward the

goal of winning the lost has failed in its purpose. More of Him means less of me. More of Him means more of His kingdom. May God help us prepare better for each meeting or service.

