

Foreword by Edwin Offei-Danquah

VESSELS

*Are you fit for the master's
use?*

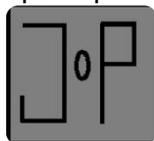
Jeffery Opoku

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Unless otherwise stated, all scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the bible.

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I dedicate this book To the Sweet Holy Spirit of God

I thank you for your immense help and support. You've always been there for me. You are such a wonderful friend and companion.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I express my profound gratitude and appreciation to my very good friend and companion, The Sweet Holy Spirit Of God for being there for me throughout all my years in this life. Without Him, this book never would have been written. He is the cause of this wonderful work and I give him all the praise.

I am also very much grateful to my mentor, the second person of the trinity, JESUS CHRIST, for His love for you and me. You and I are nothing without Him.

Also, to the Final Authority, and the Creator of the universe, YAHWEH, I say thank You. I shall forever adore and worship You.

I can never proceed with this wonderful work without expressing my earnest indebtedness to my beloved father, Rev. Dr. Wisdom Kpehor, for his prodigious support. In fact, he has contributed a lot to what I am today. Truly, you are a great father. I could not have accomplished such an undertaking without you by my side. You have being a wonderful father to me all these years and personally, I believe your kinds here on earth are very few. No doubt about that.

And to the first woman I ever loved, my beloved mother, Mrs Georgina Dadzie, I say thank you. Without the help of God through you, I would never have been in the position to write a book as this. You are actually the one who taught my infant lips to pray and to love God's Holy Book and day. It is by your example that I learnt how to surrender my knees to the ground in absolute submission to the Triune God. I am forever grateful to you.

And to all who helped in making this book a success, I say thank you.

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PREFACE

There are many books and teachings on the anointing today with very little being said on character. This book is therefore written with deep insight from God's word to enlighten believers and the entire Body of Christ on the importance of character and its necessity in the life of every son or daughter of heaven.

This is especially because God is not after a people that can only manifest his power. He is after those that will exhibit His manner of life. He is after a people that will seek his face and not just his hands . . . He is after a people of character and not of power.

Character is the secret behind the success we see in Jesus' ministry. It was what made Him accomplish and sustain his mission here on earth. From the moment He was baptized by John to the day He ascended up on High, it was his character that sustained Him. I believe the church needs more enlightenment with regard to this topic but hardly do we find one.

The rareness of this topic in the body of Christ and its negligence by the pulpit is what has motivated me to frame this design. I pray this book will be a blessing to you.

Before you begin reading this book, I want you to pray and ask God for protection and guidance. Ask Him to confirm to you what is true and also to deliver you from any mistake I have made.

I will also plead with you not to take anything written in this book at face value. I want you to question its contents and to analyze it carefully in the light of the scriptures before assimilating its fact.

My prayer for you as you read this book is that your eyes may be opened to know what Christ expects of His Church and His vessels at this time and age.

It is my greatest wish that as you read this book, you become a vessel unto honor fit and sanctified for the master's use. All thanks and glory be unto God and our Lord Jesus Christ forever and ever. Amen.

Jeffery Opoku.

FOREWORD BY EDWIN OFFEI-DANQUAH

Jeffery Opoku is a venerable giant in the field of basic rubrics in Christianity enlightening us over the years regarding the moral sensitivity, leadership ability and overall growth concerned with the Christian. His newest masterpiece “The Vessel” is a treasure for pastors, evangelists, deacons, church leaders and all the like who are in the business of working for the kingdom of God. This book integrates insights regarding the conduct of Christians with respect to the anointing (the oil) and how the Christian (the vessel) wielding such power, should conform to biblical standards. Jeff has the gift of making complex spiritual analogies accessible to the reader through his books.

Church leaders, upcoming Christian leaders and members of the body of Christ with the hunger and thirst for things pertaining to the Kingdom of God will find this book a gold mine as it takes time from chapter to chapter to dissect and to bring to light sensitive issues on the subject of the character of Christians and how important it is to God that we not only do His work but His will also.

In the first chapter of this book, “The Character and the Anointing”, Jeff establishes a relationship between the character which he calls the vessel and the anointing which he calls the oil. The most interesting fact is he uses his personal life experience as a baby Christian to teach us on the adverse effects of being ignorant of the fact that the anointing must be coupled with the right kind of character. The moral crusader, Brother Jeff, in chapter two of his book, describes the three influences of the anointing(oil) on the individual(vessel). He explains the verity that we are subject to these influences and relates it to a statement “without character desiring an anointing is calling for trouble”.

“Character: the prerequisite for ministry” is the focus of the third chapter. It emphasizes the view that, for a

Christian to be established in his ministry and in the body of Christ, character cannot be left out in his daily dealings. He explains that for our ministries as Christians to be fully successful, we need to meet these three criteria: wisdom, godly character and the ability to teach the Word. In Chapter four which is my favorite chapter, Master Jeff relates science to the word of God. This chapter captioned “Performing litmus test on vessels” shows that the people(vessels) around us should be tested as the bible said in 1 Timothy 3:10. The author outlines practical steps to prove the vessels around us in this chapter.

In the last chapter “Building a Strong Character”, the writer asserts the importance of building a strong character fit for the Master’s use. This incorporates the procedure to build such a strong character.

Jeff is a brother and spiritual mentor to me. I have been blessed immensely by this book and other writings of his. Character is a sure solid foundation for us as Christians. This book provides a road map of how to channel our efforts to all spheres of our lives to develop our character to prove ourselves worthy of our calling.

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Chapter 1

CHARACTER AND THE ANOINTING

The anointing and the presence of the Holy Spirit is a necessity in the life of every believer. This is due to the fact that it sharpens and equips us for a perfect, victorious and a glorious life in Christ. Without it, we believers are incapacitated and spiritually disabled. We are highly incompetent for any spiritual discipline without it. In fact, we are not too different from the outsiders without it.

That is why Samson told Delilah the prostitute on the very last occasion owing to the pressure given to him that, his strength would be gone from him and would become *as any other man*, the very moment the locks on his head are shaven.

Samson was a mortal man just like us and was even subject to like passion as we. There was nothing physically strange about Samson that any man lacked except for the fact that he was born a Nazarite, which was quite uncommon then and even now.

What distinguished Samson from the other sons of men was the fact that He had some kind of Supernatural aura, strength and force backing his life. This was what separated him from the other sons of mortals. The kind of strength and power he wielded was very uncommon to the men of his days.

That's why he could say, ". . . If I be shaven, I shall become weak and ***be like any other man.***"

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*"That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I [have been] a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: If i be shaven, then my strength will go from me, **and i shall become weak, and be like any [other] man.**" (Judges 16:17)*

The hair on Samson's head is just like the influence and the presence of the anointing and the Holy Spirit on the life of the present day believer. Therefore we like Samson can also say that without the Holy Spirit or the anointing, we are and will be like any other man.

This is because it is the anointing that defines our life and grants us empowerment as Christians. The day we will lose the Holy Spirit is the day we will lose power, strength, influence and intimacy with God. We will be like the ordinary man.

The church is even more or less a social gathering without the presence of the Holy Spirit. That's why King David was very strategic in his prayer to God after his fall by entreating God not to take His Holy Spirit away.

David in agony said: "Cast me not away from thy presence and **TAKE NOT THY HOLY SPIRIT AWAY FROM ME**" (Psalm 51:11).

David was very particular about this prayer because he knew the consequences of losing the Holy Spirit. He knew all that happened to Adam, Samson and even his predecessor - Saul - when they lost the influence of God's divine Spirit and was not ready the least to go through

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that ordeal. He happened to be a witness himself to how Saul was tormented day and night after the Spirit of God had left Him.

“But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him (1 Sam. 16:14)”

He also knew how Samson suffered affliction, torment and mockery after he had lost the source of his power – the locks of hair on his head. David was therefore distraught concerning his plea: he didn’t want to be a victim. You and I can’t also afford being a victim.

The anointing undeniably is very imperative in the life and ministry of every believer. The church can’t even do with its absence. Without it, there is no church, no power, no believer and no witness.

That’s why Jesus charged His disciples not to depart from Jerusalem but rather to wait for that promise of the father in sending down His Holy Spirit. Because He knew without His Holy Spirit, there will be no power available to them. They will be like ordinary men and will labor in vain to establish His Church.

*“But **YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER**, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **YE SHALL BE WITNESSES UNTO ME** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and **UNTO THE UTTERMOST PART OF THE EARTH.**” (Acts 1:8)*

This tells us how superior, influential and powerful the anointing can be. But even with that, we see men like Samson and Saul messing up their lives.

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So my question here is why do some men and women of God with powerful anointing fall into scandalous sin and condemnation even when they have such powerful influence over their lives?

The problem, I know, is because such men and women lack character. They have not taken time and pain to develop a godly character.

We live in a generation and in a dispensation where believers have placed too much premium and importance on the anointing and the giftings of the Holy Spirit. There is nothing wrong with that. I love the anointing and I always thank God for it. But this is what we have to bear in mind: that no matter how anointed we may be, if we lack a strong, solid and a godly character to stiffen it up, we will only end up destroying ourselves. We will be messing up big time.

Samson for example fell, not because there was a problem with the anointing. He fell because he lacked the needed character of discipline, decency and obedience.

Many of the problems of believers have to do with a vessel problem and not a defect in oil. Our character is what determines the influence of the oil - the anointing - we carry. This makes the correlation between character and the anointing very strong.

Therefore, in desiring the anointing, the first thing we have to work on is our vessel by exercising ourselves first unto godliness. Because until we have taken the time and pain to develop a solid and a godly character, there is no way God will trust us with a serious anointing.

Character and the anointing

In his book, the anointing of the Holy Spirit, Peter Tan wrote: “The anointing that God puts on His servants is such a precious commodity that God expects consecration from His vessel before He puts it upon them.” He was making reference to character in that comment he made and it is very scriptural.

This makes character building a strategic and a stepping stone to unlimited access in the supernatural. But unfortunately, many folks see it not as so.

They are interested in the manifestations of the Spirit more than the fruits of the Spirit. The oil rather than the vessel. The mantle rather than the body (vessel). And of course charisma rather than character.

Many folks in Christendom today are too obsessed about the anointing. Some even leave the comfort of their homes to stay on mountains tops and in forests, seeking the face of God for it. Some can be there for as long as three to four or five years praying and seeking the face of God through fasting and thirsting for the anointing. They neither eat, bath nor pomade themselves. All they do is to holler in prayers from morning till evening expecting some supernatural power to fall on them.

They are all good and I write not condemn any. But the truth here is that, there is rather a diplomatic way of approaching such request and in doing so it necessitates that we do the first things first. Until we have done what is supposed to be done, there is no way we can be blessed with what we seek. But unfortunately, many folks don't understand it that way. They rather believe by fasting themselves to death and by being harsh on their body, they will receive some kind of “power.”

I attribute this ignorance to lack of Wisdom and also youthful exuberance.

My own experience.

I happen to be a victim myself. I fasted and waited on God for three good years expecting to receive some kind of anointing. I was only a secondary school student then. I would fast from 6:00 in the morning to 6:00 in the evening every day without even taking a sip of water.

All this while, I was also a nonresident student, I would journey all the way from my house to school spending hours in buses and several hours walking. I didn't know I was killing myself then.

Those days were my crazy moment as an adolescent believer. I was so desperate and thirsty for spiritual power. At some point in time, my own mother and sister even began to suspect me because I wouldn't even pomade nor comb my hair.

As a means of deterring me from that miserable lifestyle, there were even times she refused me money for school as I refused to take breakfast. She always gave me an option every morning to choose. That is either I will take a breakfast or will have no money for school. Anytime she proposed that option, I just ignored her and looked for money elsewhere and went. This was how stubborn I was. She would later suspect that I was an occultist.

I grew so lean and malnourished to the extent that, if you had known me before, you would begin to fear for me. You would either think I have been attacked by a deadly virus or was being abandoned to die.

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I was engaged with questions at every corner of the street both from relatives, friends and sympathizers. They asked me questions like, “Is there anything wrong with you? Are you sick? Why have you grown so lean?” and many others I don’t even want to mention.

My mother reported me to several elders and pastors but they all couldn’t convince me the least because I felt I knew what I was doing. I would listen to them all right but would later turn back living my old life.

I can remember vividly that one evening, my mother came back from a prayer retreat with bottled water in her hands which was so unusual of her. When I asked for its purpose, she told me it was given to her by a visiting prophet for her personal use. I believed her because she further explained to me that it was for a prophetic direction that came up.

Unknowingly, I was the cause of that water. She had told the prophet the problems she was having with me and as a remedy, the prophet gave her the bottled water. He told her to sprinkle it in my food anytime she cooks for me.

She was told by the prophet that I was under a strong occultic spirit and that the only way she could deliver me out was to be sprinkling the water in my food, which will expose and liberate me with time.

That couldn’t be by the spirit of God because it wasn’t true. I was only on fire for God. I wonder the spirit at work in that prophet then. If we were to be in the Old Testament era, he would have been stoned to death. I would have personally enforced that.

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