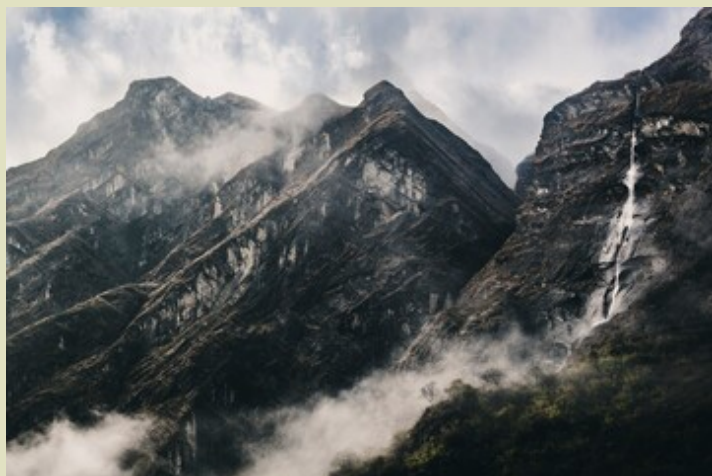


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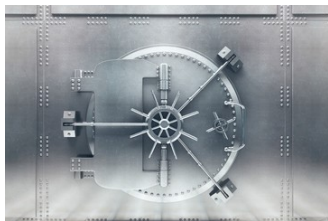
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**Love is demanding, yet truly
fulfilling. Come and discover,
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your marriage.**



Designed to be permanent.

“The truth is that the Creator of marriage, did not design it to be transient; it was made to be permanent, to be lifelong.”



A godly marriage is vaulted on God's promises.

Be Married Permanently

In this series on God's Recipe for Success in Marriage, I have addressed the importance of leaving (i.e. setting and maintaining appropriate boundaries between one's marriage and the pertinent others). I also, addressed the importance of uniting to become one, as the purpose of leaving is to become one. Then, I went on to write on being intimate, by enjoying the shared life of Christ Jesus. In this article, I address the final ingredient—permanence.

Permanence means continuing or enduring without fundamental or marked change; in other words, stable. I got curious and wanted to know God's mind on this subject, such as what comes to His mind, when He considers the word “permanence.” Bearing in mind that He lives forever, and does not change; then, He turns around, tells us who are but transient beings, and who change, not to chuck our spouses? One phrase came to my mind—the bonds of marriage. The bonds between a man and his wife are strong, and enmeshed into their lives; and like a complex network of nerves, these are so intertwined, that on one hand, these make for a very strong and secure relationship; but on the other hand, if broken, lives get permanently ruined. Another word that came to my mind was integrity, which in itself defines one's identity. When getting married, we make promises, as shown below.

A Typical Marriage Vow

I, *Name*, take you, *Name*, to be my wife (or husband), to have and to hold from this

day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy law, in the presence of God I make this vow.

Then, one day we come up with another phrase, “irreconcilable differences.” One cannot but wonder, “What about ‘till death do us part?’” Herein lies the issue of the lack of integrity, and as such the bashed identity. With a divorce, then, one transgresses from being loving to being hateful; from being whole to being shattered; from a person of integrity to a covenant breaker; and from a reliable member of the society, to an untrustworthy person. It is avoidable; at least, God thinks so.

That permanence is intended in marriage is not only founded in the marriage vow, but is buttressed by the spiritual, psychological, physical, fiscal, and other sociocultural connections that are enshrined in the relationship. In 2 Corinthians 6:14-15, we are exhorted to bond with fellow believers (see below).

2 Corinthians 6:14-15

(NKJV)

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.

For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

The process of bonding spiritually, with another believer in marriage is likened to being in the light, which is the shared life of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This bond

traverses into the psychological realm, where we soon find out that we think alike on some things, have the same feelings, and express the same emotions on some issues. It is not uncommon for a wife to say, “I am beginning to react just the way you do.” It is due to the shared bonds, the shared lives. What about the shared physical assets including spaces, the deeply intimate sexual engagements, and often, the children that result from these loving encounters? The truth is that the Creator of marriage, did not design it to be transient; it was made to be permanent, to be lifelong. It is like a door that one opens, and walks into another realm, knowing fully well that one's life will never be the same again. Even the primates, achieve this great fit. So committed was the Creator to matrimonial permanence that He gave the husband and wife fixed roles, and backed these up with the unique anatomic and physiologic features, that would able them to function effectively. Finally, He locked them in by asking them to not only procreate and raise godly children, who would populate His kingdom, but to also simulate the godhead—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:32); thus, giving the married couples, a cause beyond themselves—establishing the kingdom of God here on earth. This is why the Paul the apostle, in 1 Corinthians 7:29, exhorted the married believers that in troublous times, they should live as if they were not married. He did not by any means suggest that they should abandon their marriage covenants, but instead that they should turn their marital rights to privileges, and focus on the *hands that they have set on the gospel plows*. Beyond all of these

Be Married Permanently

inferences, is the fact that God commanded that marriage should be permanent (see Malachi 2:13-14; 2:15; 2:16; Matthew 19:3-6).

Malachi 2:13-14 (NKJV)

¹³ *And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and crying; So, He does not regard the offering anymore, nor receive it with goodwill from your hands.*

¹⁴ *Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been Witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant.*

So distraught is God by the desolation and the resultant anguish of getting divorced, that He turns away from the culprit who has abandoned his lifelong companion and broken the covenant, and refuses to receive his worship, or to answer his prayers. To be treacherous is to betray one's trust, be unreliable, to be dangerous, hazardous or perilous. A statement of this nature from God, who was the head of the marriage that had just been dissolved is frankly damning. However, it does not end with what one does to oneself, but goes on to what one does to the Senior Partner—God Himself (see Malachi 2:15 below).

Malachi 2:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ *But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore, take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.*

God is like a master builder, who designed and built a mar-

riage with the intent that He would have them share His Spirit (i.e. the Holy Spirit), and also raise for Him godly offspring, who would offer Him true worship; thus, establishing His kingdom here on earth. However, when treacherous divorce raised its ugly head, these dreams were dashed against the rock of hard heartedness.

Malachi 2:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ *"For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore, take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."*

What about the women, the hitherto treasured and delicate flowers? The ones who were to be loved and cherish to the very end. These are left uncared for, and exposed to the "elements." The New International Version puts the verse above this way, "*The man who hates and divorces his wife,*" says the Lord, the God of Israel, "*does violence to the one he should protect,*"

"Does violence?!" Yes, in that he abandons her to poverty, penury, and the harsh world, where she would be abused and often enslaved. It was so in the earlier times, and remains the case today.

Matthew 19:3-6 (NKJV)

³ *The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"*

⁴ *And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'*

⁵ *and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and*

mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?

⁶ *So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate."*

Even where divorce is permissible, it is clearly when the marriage covenant has been desecrated through adultery. However, if one dares to add the "seventy times seven" clause to the contract (see Matthew 18:22), then it would be permitted only after one has done what is doctrinally sound to curb it, and these steps have failed. Therefore, the frivolous dissolution of a marriage is far from God's intention, and is more devastating than most would like to accept, especially in marriages that were hitherto worthwhile. He culminates by accusing us that we toss out our beloved spouses because of our hardened hearts. These are hearts that do not forgive, are prideful, unfeeling and woody towards God and man. This brings us to the questions, "In order to avert this destructive outcome, how does one build a marriage strong?"

In order to answer the question above appropriately, one must first define what a strong marriage is. I define a strong marriage as a covenantal relationship between a man and a woman that is characterized by effective boundary setting and maintenance, being strongly united, and selflessly sharing each other's lives, for the purpose of procreation and raising godly children, personal development and fulfillment, and Christian service, permanently. Thus, the marriage is strong because they spouses have left certain pertinent environmental influences out of what makes up



Divorce is treacherous.

“So distraught is God by the desolation and the resultant anguish of getting divorced, that He turns away from the culprit who has abandoned his lifelong companion and broken the covenant, and refuses to receive his worship, or to answer his prayers.”



“Do not deal treacherously with your spouse!”



Failing to serve is building on sinking sand.

“To build in vain is to do that which will collapse. To watch the night in vain, is to fail to stop the thieves and destroyers from invading your home, and carting away your treasures. And, these happen a lot in today’s marriages.”



Doing is being committed.

Be Married Permanently

the inner core of the relationship; they have thus formed a more effective union comprising of a husband and wife; and have gone one to address the objectives of this union in a way that fosters wholesomeness and permanence. In order for these to be achieved, one needs a very sound premise, and this can be found in Proverbs 24:3-4, as follows.

Proverbs 24: 3-4 (NIV)

*3 By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established;
4 through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.*

It is interesting to note that this is the same principle that God used to create the world. Wisdom was right beside Him at the very beginning, as He founded the earth. Understanding, was what He used to moderate the relationships, such that things would walk smoothly. And, knowledge was how He provided for the needs, wants and desires of creation, such that all became fulfilled (see Proverbs 3:19-20 [NIV]).

Proverbs 3:19-20 (NIV)

*¹⁹ By wisdom the Lord laid the earth’s foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place;
²⁰ by his knowledge the watery depths were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew.*

So, let’s take a closer look at how wisdom, understanding and knowledge work to stabilize and preserve a marriage.

In contemporary terms, wisdom is defined as the soundness of an action or decision with regard to the application of experience, knowledge, and good judgement. For us

as human beings, where does this begin? It begins when we take into consideration, the order of authority in the universe. If one builds on a false concept, a lie, or a misperception, which are “sinking sand” or faulty foundations, then the house (i.e. the marriage) would not stand the test of time, and the trials of life. In Psalm 11:3, it is stated, “*If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?*” The foundation is the most important part of any building, and as such when one builds on a sure foundation, then one is truly wise. In Psalm 111:10, it is stated:

Psalm 111:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.

The reverence for God is truly wise because, in Him all things consist; and since He is the essence of life itself, all things will return to Him. Thus, in order to build a strong house, one should consult the Creator, the One Who knows the future, and also lays the foundations according to His pattern. Simply put, let Him build it for you (see Psalm 127:1 below).

Psalm 127:1 (NKJV)

¹ Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

To build in vain is to do that which will collapse. To watch the night in vain, is to fail to stop the thieves and destroyers from invading your home, and carting away your treasures. And, these happen a lot in today’s marriages. Not only

does God build a strong foundation that can never be moved (i.e. lasting relationships), He comes into the relationship as a senior partner, to endow it with His grace—wisdom, knowledge, power, and favor; such that the relationship can thrive through various types of weather conditions. Beyond what God brings into the foundation of a marriage is what the spouses also do in terms of creating a viable partnership with Him. In Matthew 7:24-27, we see the terms of this partnership.

Matthew 7:24-27 (NKJV)

*²⁴ “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:
²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.
²⁶ But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:
²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”*

These call for stepping away from the skipping heart beats, the contracting intestines, and all the other symptoms of infatuation to the reality of loving deliberately; in other words, just doing. When I am irate about Faith’s actions, I would go to God to complain, and He’ll just retort, “Love your wife.” In other words, He expects me to just go out there, and do what I should do, no matter how I feel. The fascinating thing about the passage of scripture above is that the house that was built on obeying God’s commands

Be Married Permanently

passed through the same conditions that the one on sinking sand did. The rains descended, the floods came, and the winds blew, and pummeled the houses, yet the one that fastened to (i.e. one with) the Rock (i.e. Christ), stood the test of time. May your marriages be like this!

Understanding. One may then ask, “What is there to understand?” Understanding is also very important, in that, the lack of understanding would leave the house useless, dysfunctional, or inoperable. A look at this fact at the time of creation, is sure to shed some light on this assertion (see Genesis 1:1-5 below).

Genesis 1:1-5 (NKJV)

¹ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

² *The earth was **without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.** And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

³ *Then God said, "**Let there be light**"; and there was light.*

⁴ *And **God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.***

⁵ *God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So, the evening and the morning were the first*

The wise and omnipotent Creator had already created the earth, such that it would stand forever. Yet, when He took a look at it, it was shockingly formless, in darkness, and submerged in water. This was stunning and infuriating, in that He knew that at this point, it was fundamentally useless or inoperable. So, He set about the delightful work of turning it into a functional system, by calling in first of all the light, such that He could better assess the won-

derful components of this new system. “What I am trying to convey?” I am trying to convey to fact that God created us to have attributes, parts, tendencies, or aptitudes, which need to be identified, studied and understood, and given the opportunities to operate. A marriage can start to fall apart, when one or both spouses are not known, understood, nor can make effective contributions to the decisions that are made periodically. Perhaps, one might accuse me of sensationalizing this fact. However, Psalm 104:5-13 below suggests otherwise.

Psalm 104:5-13 (NIV)

⁵ *He set the earth on its foundations; it can **never be moved.***

⁶ *You covered it with the **watery depths** as with a garment; the **waters stood above the mountains.***

⁷ *But at your rebuke the **waters fled**, at the sound of your thunder they took to flight;*

⁸ *they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, **to the place you assigned for them.***

⁹ *You set a boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth.*

¹⁰ *He makes **springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains.***

¹¹ *They give water to all the **beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.***

¹² *The **birds of the sky nest by the waters; they sing among the branches.***

¹³ *He waters the **mountains from his upper chambers; the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.***

Once again, the foundations were rock-solid, and eternal, yet all was not well, as it was covered by the waters. Thus, the Creator “rebuked” the waters and caused these to

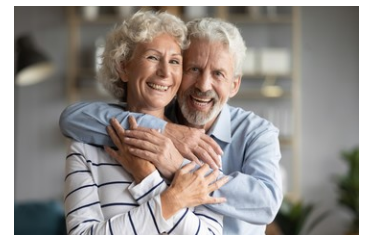
“flee” to an assigned stable and permanent location. He created the “boundaries” between the components, until the oceans stood apart from the land, the rivers meandered between the valleys, and the fresh water streams came towering down from the hills to accessible springs, where man and beast could now find refreshments. He is God! Understanding each other’s personalities, and the other pertinent relationships, and then, going on to create the appropriate boundaries foster a sense of belonging, and wholesomeness, which in turn engender effectiveness and efficiency—demonstrating relational competence.

Building a solid foundation, and establishing a functional relationship, without identifying, delineating, and meeting each other’s needs, wants or desires is suggestive of a slave camp, as there would be no fulfillment. A look back at how the Creator did it in Psalm 104:11-13 (see above), provides a clear example of how this should be done. He (God) filtered the waters through the rocky labyrinth; He forged pathways through the mountains, in order to give cool refreshing drinks to His creation, and for these we thank Him, and rejoice—fulfillment. The needs are defined by the word “survival.” These are food, shelter, clothing and healthcare services. The wants speak of things that one can do without, but would make for a more comfortable or interesting life. While the desires are synonymous with the word “luxury.” Here is the shocker—as a father or husband, you are only responsible for the needs! However, your love for your spouse and children compels you to do



Understanding foster relational competence.

“Building a solid foundation, and establishing a functional relationship, without identifying, delineating, and meeting each other’s needs, wants or desires is suggestive of a slave camp, as there would be no fulfillment.”



Meeting the needs brings fulfillment.



Beware of materialism!

“Thus, the Holy Spirit’s joy is the ambient joy of the Spirit-filled Christian; and when the needs, wants or desires are met, then our joy becomes complete.”



Godliness with contentment is great gain.

Be Married Permanently

more, and besides this, you’ll have peace of mind (see 1 Timothy 6:8 below).

1 Timothy 6:8 (NKJV)
⁸ *And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.*

Matrimonial fulfillment is important. For soccer lovers, it is like playing soccer, burning the calories, and loving every moment of it. In other words, fulfillment fosters matrimonial stability, in that the mere fact that the relationship is so enhancing or joyful, makes doing something to hurt it unthinkable. In addition, while we have the joy of the Holy Spirit, which comes without an earthly event as a source of our strength, and is indeed unspeakable; we are encouraged by our heavenly Father to ask for our needs, wants and desires to be met, so that our joy might be full. Thus, the Holy Spirit’s joy is the ambient joy of the Spirit-filled Christian; and when the needs, wants or desires are met, then our joy becomes complete. So then, just ask! (See John 16:24 below)

John 16:24 (NKJV)
²⁴ *Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*

Another very important way to achieve matrimonial fulfillment, and as such secure its stability, is to delineate between serving one’s spouse, and serving a fellow believer. There is one marriage, but at least, two levels of relationship—first as believers in Christ Jesus, and then as spouses. Sometimes, things just do not sizzle, yet, you are still two coheirs of the grace of God. Therefore, as stated in James 2:15-16, one is encour-

aged to endeavor to meet the other’s needs, and some appropriate wants and desires.

James 2:15-16 (NKJV)
¹⁵ *If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,*
¹⁶ *and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?*

Apostle James exhorts us to demonstrate our faith by the works of serving others, spouses or not. Just do it because it should be done. Just do it, as you would to a brother or sister in a Church service. However, as often is the case, by simply loving sacrificially, even when one does not feel loved, a positive and enabling environment is created, which in turn fosters the repair of the marriage, even the ones in devastated states. In 1 Peter 3:1-2, the Apostle, encouraged the wives who were married to unbelievers to reach out to their husbands in such a way that they “without words” would demonstrate God’s character, and bring salvation to them.

Often hidden behind the irreconcilable differences, which ultimately lead to the dissolution of many marriages, is the discontentment that is borne out of covetousness. Thus, it becomes needful to learn how to adequately deal with what one does not have as yet, or may never have—contentment. One of the first things that a Christian should master is to know his or her limits, and then set and communicate the appropriate boundaries. In other words, one should not promise the other spouse heaven and earth; and even if one had

done so, one should acknowledge this error, and then elect to re-evaluate and reset such objectives. The successful management of life’s crises calls for the periodic reappraisals and resets of one’s previous objectives. Concerning what other associates expect, it is always necessary to set the proper boundaries in view of other competing needs, wants or desires. On financial matters, a good and fairly set budget is like the truth that sets one free! In addition, in view of the universe of various needs, wants and desires, which cannot or should not all be met, it becomes needful to learn to cast one’s cares on a loving Father (see 1 Peter 5:7-9 below).

1 Peter 5:7-9 (NKJV)
⁷ *casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*
⁸ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*
⁹ *Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*

If one understands that failing to understand and apply this very principle is the burial ground of the faith of many Christians, one would endeavor to take this very seriously. The cares come at us like an avalanche, and for many reasons, are accentuated by our misperceptions of their importance. If we allow our ourselves to be overwhelmed, we fall underneath, and become discontented and disgruntled with our spouses and God Himself. If this state persists, then we become brazened, and commit ourselves to ungodly compromises, and

Be Married Permanently

eventually we perish. However, learning to turn to God in prayers, and drawing from the wells of support of other Christians; knowing fully well that He knows our needs before we pray, takes care of the lilies of the valleys and the sparrows; we can then rest assured that all that matters will be addressed, eventually (see Hebrews 13:5-6 below).

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

⁶ So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

A successful marriage has thin periods, and in such times, one may even feel betrayed by the other. But, if we

have laid the strong foundation of loving God more than we love ourselves, we would find His grace in the times of need. And being fully submerged in the wealth of His love, we would be able to engage each other and our worlds with strength; and would find fulfillment in the joy of the Lord, until all the good things come to pass. Then, we would truly have loved strongly.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Mfon Cyrus-David is a preacher and teacher of God's word.



Love strong.

“The cares come at us like an avalanche, and for many reasons, are accentuated by our misperceptions of their importance. If we allow our ourselves to be overwhelmed, we fall underneath, and become discontented and disgruntled with our spouses and God Himself.”

OUR MESSAGE IS THAT GOD IS SOVEREIGN, WE SHOULD WORSHIP HIM; HIS LOVE IS UNFAILING, WE SHOULD TRUST HIM; GET READY FOR HIS IS COMING BACK.

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God feeds His sheep.

“It is the puffiness of worldliness. It is the malignancy of materialism, that grows out of worldly people, and through misemphasis, destroys them.”



The misemphasis of materialism.

True Wealth

Let us briefly reflect on the man Jesus Christ. He turned water into wine and restored joy to a spent wedding feast (Matthew 14:17-21). He fed five thousand men excluding women and children with five loaves of bread and two fish, and went on to do it again, this time for four thousand men (see Mark 8:20 below).

Mark 8:14-21 (NIV)

14 The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. 15 “Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.” 16 They discussed this with one another and said, “It is because we have no bread.” 17 Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? 18 Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don’t you remember? 19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” “Twelve,” they replied. 20 “And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” They answered, “Seven.” 21 He said to them, “Do you still not understand?”

What did Christ mean by the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod? It is the puffiness of worldliness. It is the malignancy of materialism, that grows out of worldly people, and through misemphasis, destroys them. This view is underscored by the fact that Christ reminded them of the miracles that showed clearly that He was the Master of the Universe, and had com-

manding control of material things, yet refused to embellish them. However, it is important to note how He made sure that all the leftovers were carefully gathered and stored for later use. In spite of such show of great wealth and power, He walked around the streets of Judea with nothing to His name. It is not surprising that the disciples found it hard to understand His warning, in that we are geared to be materialistic or to care about worldly things. Sadly enough, even when we encounter the divine, we still err, in that if we were Him, more often than not, we would have turned everything we touched into gold in an effort to “demonstrate” God’s glory.

What was the secret behind His attitude towards material things? Why did He have such control over His needs, wants, and desires? Simply put, He knew what true wealth is. What He said to us by His lifestyle while on earth was that when one has it all, when all things are by you, for you and from you; you do not need to accumulate or embellish material things (see John 13:3-5 below).

John 13:3-5 (NIV)

3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

As a purpose-driven person, He knew that *purposeless*

wealth is a burden, as it distracts one from attending to the things that matter the most, attracts the wrong kind of attention, and has the tendency to take up a godlike position in people’s lives, and to enslave them. On the other hand, true wealth is spiritual (i.e. knowing God and yielding to His purpose for one’s life). It is eternal and incorruptible; and once it has been obtained and treasured, leaves one wealthy forever. When we permanently connect to the source of all things, then He (God) will provide us the wherewithal to acquire what we need for His great purpose, and will also go on to give us our hearts’ desires (Deuteronomy 8:18). The impact of this understanding will manifest first psychologically. As with the Lord Jesus, we will have a clear understanding of the place of money in our earthly endeavors. This will lead to great liberation from mental poverty, and will cause us to respond appropriately when confronted by our needs, wants or desires (see Matthew 26:7-12 below).

Matthew 26:7-12

7 a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. 8 When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. 9 “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.” 10 Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. 11 The poor you will always have with you, #26:11 See Deut. 15:11. but you will not always have me. 12 When she

True Wealth

poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial.

The passage above gives us a clear example of propriety with respect to handling materials wealth. One moment Jesus Christ was feeding thousands, and storing away the leftovers for future use; the next, He was keeping away a costly jar of perfume for another laudable cause, instead of using it to feed the poor.

At the material level, a truly wealthy person knows that material wealth is a consequence of seeking and participating in bringing down God's kingdom to this earth (i.e. righteousness, peace and the joy that comes from communing with the Holy Spirit). In other words, having discovered God's plans for one's

life, one is then empowered to acquire all that is needed to fulfill that purpose. Thus, money is like the furniture that are brought into a well-designed and built house (our relationship with God), and the pieces fit into the places meant for them. It is not the master of the house, but the servant. It is not the end but just part of the means. It did not pay the piper and as such should not dictate that tune. It is a means to acquire what we need or desire, and an earthly tool that we can use to lay up heavenly treasures by financing the gospel of Jesus Christ (see Luke 16:8-11 below).

Luke 16:8-11 (NIV)
8 "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing

with their own kind than are the people of the light. 9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. 10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

If our material wealth is used to support the generation of true wealth, then, we would be truly wealthy in God, and would truly go over the wall.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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True wealth is knowing and serving God.

“On the other hand, true wealth is spiritual (i.e. knowing God and yielding to His purpose for one’s life).”

PRAYER TOPICS ON TRUE WEALTH

- ⇒ Give thanks to God for this insight. Our God is a jealous God, and wants to be the means and the end of all of our endeavors. It is He who gives us the ability to acquire wealth, and does so abundantly for those who exalt Him above all things in their lives.
- ⇒ Is the Lord the means and money the end, or is money both the means and the end for us? It is time for us to turn to the Lord, and truly repent of this attitude, and ask Him to forgive all of us for this misplaced priority.
- ⇒ The insight into true wealth is to be treasured. It is a mystery, and it changes how one approaches life. Ask the Lord to help us discover what true wealth really is, so that we might get about life like Jesus Christ did (Ephesians 1:15-23).
- ⇒ Do you feel inferior to others because of your material lack? Are you desperate or depressed because you are not as well off as you would like to be? It is time to turn to the Lord and seek Him for your place in His scheme of things. Then, you may ask what you desire and your desires will be met (John 15:7).
- ⇒ During the festive seasons, take authority over the seductive influences of the materialistic world that we live in, and break their strongholds in our minds. Say to yourself, “I will not spend God’s money recklessly, and I will not put myself in bondage (debt).”
- ⇒ Ask the Lord to help us meet others’ needs. Pray that we may use godless mammon to lay up for ourselves eternal treasures, and to judiciously use the rest to meet our needs, and to have some fun; because He gave it to us to do just that!



King Solomon; young and fervent.

“He opened his mouth, and wisdom came out. He picked up his seat, and sound judgement flowed out like a fresh water spring.”



Wisdom, the principal thing.

King Solomon’s Folly

I have had the blessing of writing on many topics, and I have learned a lot while doing so. However, when this topic came up, it made me to pause and think of myself and my world, and how one can gradually derail from the very facts that one knows, believes in and propagates, into ruin. King Solomon was the wisest of men, and even today, there are few who would dare to compare themselves to him. Yet, in spite of all his wisdom, he was trapped, and drawn away from his fervency towards God, his God. In order to better understand his challenges, it is pertinent to take a closer look at his life—his rise, his glorious reign, and his decline.

King Solomon came out of an unusual relationship for the king of a conservative and austere people like the Israelites. He came out of what was an adulterous relationship, where King David took Bathsheba (i.e. Solomon’s mother) from Uriah, who was one of his generals, and then killed him in order to cover up his sin. So abominable were these acts, that God punished King David by cursing his household, and also took the life of the child that proceeded out of that tryst. Yet, He (i.e. God), in a sweeping demonstration of magnanimity, did not only bless King David and Bathsheba with a son (i.e. King Solomon), but picked him as the next successor to the throne of Israel. If one takes note of the fact that King David had been on the run from King Saul for quite a while, and had married four wives prior to Bathsheba, who had given him many sons—Solomon’s senior brothers; then, one would understand that the choice of Solomon, especially in view of his back-

ground, must have been quite a hard bone to have swallowed. To buttress this fact, one just has to remember the rebellions associated with his ascension. First was that of Absalom, which led to a civil war, and later to his death. Then came the rebellion and self-crowning of Adonijah, who was so maladjusted to not being the king, that he asked for the king’s concubine, which meant that he insisted on being treated as a king. The result of this treasonous request was his death. Thus, out of this chaos, arose King Solomon, who had an initial challenge, which was to prove himself to his warrior brothers. This turned out to be a lot easier than one would have thought, as it was done though his superior wisdom. He opened his mouth, and wisdom came out. He picked up his seat, and sound judgement flowed out like a fresh water spring. Thus, Israel gathered, and so did the rest of the world. A star had been birthed, because God had visited the Israelites, and had given them King Solomon. In response, his warrior brothers sheathed their swords, hung up their bows, and went about their businesses. If this story ends here, then I would have failed to tell the most important part, which is that at the beginning, King Solomon was a man of God, a very righteous man. Believe me, when I state that I cracked jokes about his many wives and concubines, until I studied his life for this article; then, I stopped and respected the man that he was at the very beginning, and hoped that in my ministry, the Almighty God will show up as He did with King Solomon (see 2 Chronicle 1:7-12 below).

2 Chronicles 1:7-12 (NKJV)

⁷ On that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

⁸ And Solomon said to God: "You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place.

⁹ Now, O LORD God, let Your promise to David my father be established, for You have made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude.

¹⁰ Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?"

¹¹ And God said to Solomon: "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life--but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king--

¹² wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like."

The truth about any man is in his heart. And when prompted by challenging circumstances, what is in his heart would be expressed. Overwhelmed by the tall shadow cast by King David—the great warrior and the tamer of the Philistines, he fell on his face, and poured out his soul to his God; and his content became very clear—he was a righteous man, who wanted to do good to his people, and to maintain his father’s legacy. Having had his heart set aright, he was ready to receive God’s blessings; and God poured out

King Solomon's Folly

knowledge, understanding, riches and much wealth upon King Solomon. These, he demonstrated through his insights, his strategic mindset, his worship, and his affluence. A particularly interesting case was his judgement of the dispute between the two prostitutes over the parentage of the dead child. The two women had given birth, but unfortunately, while asleep, one suffocated her child. While, the real mother slept, the other whose child had died replaced hers with the living child. This perplexing dispute was brought to King Solomon, and he rendered an astounding judgement that was well beyond the knowledge content of his era (see 1 Kings 3:23-28 below).

1 Kings 3:23-28 (NKJV)

²³ *And the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son, who lives, and your son is the dead one'; and the other says, 'No! But your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.'"*

²⁴ *Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So, they brought a sword before the king.*

²⁵ *And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other."*

²⁶ *Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!" But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him."*

²⁷ *So the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother."*

²⁸ *And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the*

king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.

The bitter and jealous woman, wanted the other woman to share her fate; meanwhile, the real mother, being full of love and compassion, would rather see the child alive and thriving. These facts sealed the issues, and nailed King Solomon's judgement into the history books as a very wise man. Then came his strategic mindset, in that, it is one thing to be picked as a king, yet another to be established as one. Through King David his father, he knew what his tasks were, which were to build the temple of worship for the Almighty God, and to also build a palace for himself. To cut the long story short, terms such as design, organization, governance, multidisciplinary collaboration, talent acquisition, logistics, cultural competence, resources management, mutual respect, and the like; were inculcated into and described the establishment of his kingdom, and the accomplishment of these tasks (see 2 Chronicles 2:1-18). Once one finished reading his acts, one immediately became informed on how to get things done, and these strategies are in common use today. It is no wonder that he successfully completed his tasks, and went on to dedicate the glorious temple (see 2 Chronicle 5:12-14 below). He was a wise man indeed!

2 Chronicles 5:12-14 (NKJV)

¹² *and the Levites who were the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one*

hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets--

¹³ *indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,*

¹⁴ *so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.*

Under the king's leadership, the Israelites came together with one heart, to restore the worship of the Almighty God. They followed His instructions completely (perfect obedience), they sanctified themselves, stood in their rightful places, then, they lifted up their hearts with instruments of worship, and gave God fervent praise and worship. As they came into one accord, and their spirits became one in worship, they reached a threshold that triggered God's response, the cloud of His presence filled the house, and the worship became totally spiritual; as natural worship became impossible. Often, we are reminded that "They that worship God, must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth..." Thus, it is one thing to offer acceptable worship to the Lord, yet another for Him to respond so promptly and evidently. So sold out was he to worshipping God, that as he went on to



Heartfelt worship.

"Then, I stopped and respected the man that he was at the very beginning, and hoped that in my ministry, the Almighty God will show up as He did with King Solomon."



The splendor of the king.



The affluence of the king.

“King Solomon rode the high winds with the high and mighty, and was known as the foremost of the monarchs of his world; and this was to be his demise.”



King Solomon's numerous, and often foreign wives.

King Solomon's Folly

dedicate the temple, and just like God did in the days of Elijah, He responded to King Solomon's prayer by releasing fire from heaven to consume the offering (see 2 Chronicles 7:1-3 below).

2 Chronicles 7:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

² And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house.

³ When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever."

To the average believer today, God's responses to prayers often seem sparse. However, when one takes into consideration that this occurred under the old testament (i.e. Mosaic covenant), when sin stood between man and God, then one would better understand the quality of King Solomon's worship, and as such his fervency. When King Solomon would pray, God would answer almost immediately (see 2 Chronicles 7:12-14 below).

2 Chronicles 7:12-15 (NKJV)

¹² Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice.

¹³ When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land,

or send pestilence among My people,

¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

¹⁵ Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place.

In simple terms, King Solomon brought down the presence of God in his days, established fervent worship under the old covenant, and the glory of God was revealed to his generation. He was a son of God. Pertaining to his wealth and affluence, without a major conflict, he amassed enormous wealth, until as was noted in 2 Chronicles 9:27, "...silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedar trees as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland." (see 2 Chronicles 9:22-28 below).

2 Chronicles 9:22-28 (NKJV)

²² So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.

²³ And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.

²⁴ Each man brought his present: articles of silver and gold, garments, armor, spices, horses, and mules, at a set rate year by year.

²⁵ Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king at Jerusalem.

²⁶ So he reigned over all the kings from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt.

²⁷ The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as

stones, and he made cedar trees as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland.

²⁸ And they brought horses to Solomon from Egypt and from all lands.

Because he was wise, many came to gain from his wisdom, and with these visits came gifts, friends, allies, and affluence. And by brokering great deals, he expanded his kingdom all the way to the border of Egypt. It is not surprising that he was Pharaoh's son-in-law. So great was he that the following described the visit of Queen of Sheba.

2 Chronicles 9:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to Jerusalem to test Solomon with hard questions, having a very great retinue, camels that bore spices, gold in abundance, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart.

² So Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult for Solomon that he could not explain it to her.

³ And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built,

⁴ the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers and their apparel, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her.

King Solomon rode the high winds with the high and mighty, and was known as the foremost of the monarchs of his world; and this was to be his demise, for within these complex relationships came

King Solomon's Folly

his ungodly compromises, and his decline. For in order for him to avert wars as a means of expanding his kingdom, he made friendly treaties with many kings, including the mighty Pharaoh of Egypt. Typically, these treaties were sealed by marrying the sons or daughters of your allies. Thus, came the challenge, which was how to marry an unbeliever (i.e. a heathen) without desecrating God's covenant and Israel (see 2 Chronicles 8:11).

2 Chronicles 8:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now Solomon brought the daughter of Pharaoh up from the City of David to the house he had built for her, for he said, "My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places to which the ark of the LORD has come are holy."

He attempted to resolve this conflict by acknowledging it, and by making some effort to keep his foreign wife from what he considered to be holy. However, the compromises had already been made, in that he, an Israelite, had gone into and married many non-Israelites, which was a contravention of God's command (see 1 Kings 11:1-8). The sin had been committed; the rationale stated; but the case was not closed. In fact, the cases had just been opened—opened for the gradual decline of his faith and values; because, he ended up marrying 700 wives and had 300 concubines, many of which were foreign. It is one thing to have married many Israelite women, who were sublime and compliant with Judaism, but another to have married the foreign princesses; who came in with enormous wealth, including cities and servants; political power and their hea-

thenish values. These types, were sure to have challenged Jehovah's commands, and to have had alternative explanations for the popular views about the events in Israel. Thus, it was just a matter of time before they corrupted the people with their wild sides, and insisted that these should be accommodated; as per the terms of their respective treaties. Because of their proximity to his person, and his position in Israel, even the people could not have been spared the ensuing decay. From the day that he made those compromises, he was doomed to decline; for he had turned from circumcision to uncircumcision; from holiness to lewdness; from godliness to idolatry (see 1 Kings 11:30-33 below).

1 Kings 11:30-33 (NKJV)

³⁰ Then Ahijah took hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces.

³¹ And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you

³² (but he shall have one tribe for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel),

³³ because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the people of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments, as did his father David.

Things did fall apart, for with the broken covenants came

disfavor; and as such, the rebellion that his ascent had crushed, resurged through his servant Jeroboam. The once untouchable King Solomon, had new challengers, for he that would not revere God, cannot bear rule for long. This was evidenced by the fact that Shishak, the king of Egypt, his once mighty ally, now provided a place of refuge for Jeroboam (1 Kings 11:40). Indeed, God had truly left him. This was his folly—ungodly compromises, ungodly deals to get ahead, which led him to full blown idolatry.

So, what can one learn from these, as we all want to be successful, and to accomplish our hopes and aspirations, even the godly ones? Here are some points to ponder.

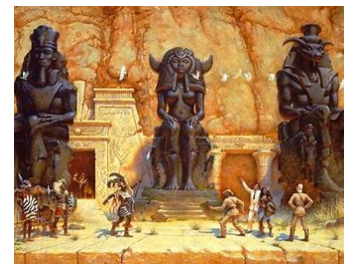
Commit to Living the Circumcised Life: The baseline is to live a circumcised life, because, what you permit will ultimately influence you. In Genesis 17:9-14, God asked Abraham to circumcise all of his male offspring and his acquired servants. His duty was to ensure that his domain was a consecrated one, and as such holy. It is our duty to become born again (see John 3:3), and thereafter, to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in order to keep ourselves pure. In short, prayerfully conduct an impact analysis before embarking on a new adventure. For example, before taking a trip to Cancún, Mexico, make sure that you are comfortable with the sleeping arrangements, because things can retrogress quite quickly. Stay pure!

Contend for the Faith: Spiritual conflict is unavoidable—You cannot marry your way



The Princess of Egypt.

“From the day that he made those compromises, he was doomed to decline; for he had turned from circumcision to uncircumcision; from holiness to lewdness; from godliness to idolatry.”



Idol worship.



Contend for the faith.

“We cannot have it all in this life; sometimes, we must fight rather than reel and deal.”

King Solomon’s Folly

out of spiritual warfare. King Solomon had a lot of truce marriages, but these came with hidden wars, the wars within his flesh, and he lost. All that he needed to do was to redline at the point of transgressing God’s laws, and to make do with the political realities of such decisions. According to Jude 1:3, Paul the apostle exhorts us to fight for sound doctrine, reconciliation, salvation, holiness without which no man shall see God; suffer persecution; and then grow into mature sons and daughters of God. We must be ready to be cast out like the scape goats of old, and suffer without; in order to be conformed to the image of Christ, and to resurrect with Him in this life, and in the one to come. Simply fall on your knees, and bring the contradictory forces under sub-

jection to Christ within and without your heart, praying in the name of Jesus Christ (see 2 Corinthians 10:4-5). Then, you can address the person directly, by stating, “No, I am not comfortable with that proposal.”

Commit to Abiding in Christ: Behold the infinite God by never stopping to seek Him and to learn from Him. In Psalm 91:1, we learn that it is the person who abides rather than visits God’s heart, that dwells under His protection; and from this place of safety and strength, he makes bold declarations of faith, and goes on to prevail in life. The *visitors* leave to an uncertain future, but the children remain and are safe.

Continue to the Very End: In Luke 9:62, we are exhorted that the overcomers are those

who having laid their hands on the plow of faith do not turn back until their course is finished.

King Solomon was a very great man, who loved God passionately. Yet, he was caught between a rock and a hard place, and made his mistake, very costly ones; which took him out of the fight and out of victory. We cannot have it all in this life; sometimes, we must fight rather than reel and deal. We should learn from him, and then, we will be pure and strong.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Mfon Cyrus-David is a preacher and teacher of God’s word.

COMING SOON

TO

THE TRUE WORSHIP MAGAZINE

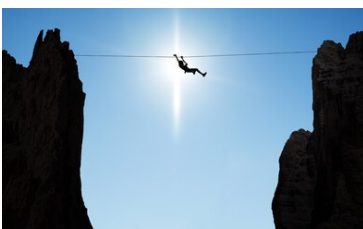
Are the articles, titled as follows.

Joyful Forbearance

Can a Rich Person Go to Heaven?

Maturing Spiritually

Do not miss these!



The road may be rough, but one must persevere.

Breast Cancer: Secondary Chemoprevention Therapies



Knowledge is power.

“Current evidence indicates that the risk reduction effects remain up to 10 years after the initial therapies.”



Yes, we can!

Introduction

While the level of participation of potentially eligible women in primary breast cancer (BC) chemoprevention therapies is limited, the promise of this mode of prevention has been realized. However, the story does not end here, in that, now, women who had been diagnosed with estrogen receptor positive BCs, and had been treated to the point of clinical resolution, can be placed on secondary BC chemoprevention therapies. This is in order to prevent the recurrence (i.e. same breast [ipsilateral]) or the development of new or primary breast cancer on other (contralateral) breast. Accordingly, unlike primary chemoprevention therapy, which is given to a woman who is at increased or high-risk but has never been diagnosed with invasive disease, secondary chemoprevention therapy is the treatment of a woman who already had hormone-responsive cancer, to prevent the return of or new cancer.

The Agents Used for Secondary Breast Cancer Chemoprevention Therapies.

Current agents used in the treatments to reduce the risk of local, regional or distant recurrence, and the development of new contralateral BC include tamoxifen, anastrozole, letrozole, and exemestane. Table 1 below summarizes the findings from selected randomized controlled studies.

The randomized controlled study design, the long follow up periods, the statistically significant findings, and the consistency of the findings across studies done by various groups and often multinational, all work together to affirm that these agents are effica-

cious and relatively safe for the secondary risk reduction therapies for BC. Current evidence indicates that the risk reduction effects remain up to 10-15 years after the initial therapies. However, while the decision to access and use this mode of treatment is a laudable one, one still has to diligently participate in the decision-making process, in order to ensure that one's preferences are taken into consideration—shared decision making. It is expected that having undergone the treatments for BC, this should not be too difficult to achieve. For more information, kindly visit the following websites.

Helpful Resources

- ⇒ Breast cancer chemoprevention: Medicines that reduce breast cancer risk. This website is accessible at <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/breast-cancer/in-depth/breast-cancer/art-20045353>.
- ⇒ The UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center's Lyda Hill Cancer Prevention Center. The website is accessible at: <https://www.mdanderson.org/patients-family/diagnosis-treatment/care-centers-clinics/cancer-prevention-center.html>

Conclusion

The benefits of chemoprevention therapies for BC risk reduction are limited to the risk of developing hormone-responsive BCs. However, it is comforting to note that most BCs diagnosed across all racial/ethnic groups are hormone-responsive. The statistics from the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance Epidemiology and End

Results program where the prevalence of hormone receptor status was compared across racial/ethnic groups, showed that for ER+ve versus ER-ve were, for whites (82.4% versus 17.6%), Blacks (60% versus 39.7%); and the PR+ve versus PR-ve were, for whites (70.8% versus 29.2%) and for Blacks (53.7% versus 47.3%). Thus, the reported higher prevalence of non-hormone responsive BC subtypes among women of African descent compared to their Caucasian counterparts, does not indicate that they would not stand to benefit from chemoprevention therapies. Each woman has to be assessed at a personal level, and the decisions made according her risks-benefits profile.

The journey of a thousand miles starts with just a step. All that one needs to do is to take that vital step to get some intelligence on the all-important matter of maintaining one's health. In other words, “Just do it!” It is pre-

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Breast Cancer: Secondary Chemoprevention Therapies

Table 1. The Summaries of Selected Randomized Controlled Studies of the Agents Used for Secondary Chemoprevention Therapies.

Study	Population	Objectives	Treatments	Outcomes*
Arimidex, Tamoxifen, Alone or in Combination (ATAC) Trial. (Baum M et al., 2002)	9366 Patients who had primary BC.	To compare the efficacy and safety of anastrozole, and tamoxifen as follow-up (adjuvant) treatments.	Anastrozole alone; Tamoxifen alone; and the combination.	After a median follow up of 33.3 months, the rate of local/regional recurrence was lower for anastrozole (7.1%) than for tamoxifen (8.5), but higher for the combination (9.1%). Anastrozole (0.4%) was more effective than tamoxifen (1.1%) and the combination (0.9%) for reducing the incidence of new contralateral BC.
Goss PE et al., 2002.	5,187 patients who had primary BC, who had received 5 years of adjuvant tamoxifen.	To compare the efficacy and safety of letrozole versus placebo.	Letrozole alone, or placebo alone.	After 2.5 years of median follow up, the study was stopped because the results were confirmatory. Letrozole was superior to placebo both by reducing the local/regional recurrence or distant spread of BC, and a lower incidence of new BC.
Goss PE et al., 2003.	1,918 patients who had primary BC, and had received tamoxifen for 5 years, and then letrozole for 5 years.	To extend the letrozole treatment for an additional 5 years versus placebo.	Letrozole alone, and placebo alone.	Median follow up was 6.3 years. The letrozole group had superior outcomes: 5-year disease-free survival of 95% versus 91% for placebo; lower new contralateral BC (21%) versus 49% for the placebo group. However, the letrozole group had increased risk of bone pain, bone fracture and new onset of osteoporosis.
Coombes RC et al., 2004.	4,742 BC patients who had received 2 years of adjuvant tamoxifen.	To continue with tamoxifen or to switch to exemestane.	Tamoxifen alone, and exemestane alone.	Median period of follow up was 2.4 years. The exemestane treated woman had superior outcomes, in that they had lower risks of local or distant recurrence, and of new contralateral BC.

Abbreviations: BC, breast cancer; ATAC, Arimidex, Tamoxifen, Alone and in Combination. *For more details on the safety (i.e. side effects) profiles of these agents, see the True Worship Magazine, Edition 8, Volume 1 at <https://newfoundlandfi.org/media/>.

“The randomized controlled study design, the long follow-up periods, the statistically significant findings, and the consistency of the findings across studies done by various groups, and often multinational, all work together to affirm that these agents are efficacious and relatively safe for the secondary risk reduction therapies for BC.”



The Newfoundland Foundation



“...For such a time as this.”

FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK: This month’s edition has articles from the four arms of our ministry, namely:

The Marriage and Family Ministry - **Love Strong.**

The Christian Life Ministry - **Over the Wall.**

The Young Adults/Singles and Campus-Focused Ministry - **Pure and Strong.**

The Clinical Cancer Prevention program - **It’s Preventable!**

These are designed to inform, motivate and revive our spirits, as we continue on our walk with the Holy Spirit.

ABOUT THE NEWFOUNDLAND FOUNDATION, INC.: Our mission is to live our lives and to carry out His commands in such a way that would demonstrate God’s sovereignty through His interventions in the lives of individuals or nations; His unfailing love through the salvation of souls, and the meeting of various needs, and to prepare our world for His return by building the body of Christ unto maturity.

CONTACT INFORMATION: For further information, visit www.newfoundlandfi.org, or send an email to mscd@newfoundlandfi.org.

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