

A close-up, low-angle shot of a person's feet wearing vibrant, multi-colored running shoes (teal, blue, and red) on a dirt path. The background is a soft-focus natural setting with green and yellow tones. The text is overlaid on the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

OLUFEMI BABALOLA

STEP OUT

**GAIN MOMENTUM; PURSUE
AND FULFIL YOUR DREAMS**

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*Gain momentum; pursue and fulfil
your dreams.*

OLUFEMI BABALOLA

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Gain Momentum; Pursue and Fulfil Your Dreams.

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DEDICATION

This is my first published book, and I dedicate it to YOU. Yes, YOU, because YOU are special and within YOU are potentials, powers and possibilities that can change our world if YOU will step out and explore those innate abilities. I love YOU and I celebrate YOU. Please step out! We are waiting for YOU!

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Helen Keller once said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” How true! A great dream requires a great team and this work, though small, is the product of teamwork.

First, I acknowledge the Source of the inspiration. He is the real Author but He decided to write through me. I am simply His secretary, a ghostwriter. Indeed, “there is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding” (Job 32:8).

I acknowledge my parents, Chief and Mrs. I. O. Babalola, and my siblings—Jide, Dayo, Abiola, Kemi, and Moji. Thanks to Taiwo, Tewo, Timothy, Toye and Sunday, my in-laws. I am grateful for all your support.

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grateful. Thank you for ensuring that I keep stepping out of my comfort zone.

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Of course, there are hundreds of individuals that I am supposed to acknowledge, but this space will not permit me. I celebrate all covenant and destiny friends around me and everyone who kept demanding that I publish my books. This is the product of your importunity.

Thank you.

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INTRODUCTION

Her husband had died. The future was bleak; the vista was dull. There was no hope but she had to make a choice—to stay in her comfort zone or to step out in faith. The situation became complicated when she lost the support of her relatives. Her sister-in-law with whom she began the journey had turned back, and her mother-in-law who should have inspired her only aggravated the situation. She made her see how crazy her decision was; that the price was too high, the risk too big and the consequences too grave.

Yet, she chose to step out in faith. She was responding to an impulse within that was stronger than all the contrary forces around her. She saw the invisible. She held on and stepped out, never to look back again. Ruth would later emerge as the great grandmother of the Messiah. She wrote her name in gold in the sands of time; a wild

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Moabite branch became engrafted into the lineage of grace.

Orpah, her sister-in-law, perhaps eventually had a comfortable life, but that day when she stepped back and turned down the offer of destiny was the last time she was named in the scriptures. She turned back, never to be heard again. She died unknown and uncelebrated.

Today, everybody seems to have some sort of lofty dreams, but very few have the gumption required to pursue those dreams. Many prefer to be comfortable and follow common sense rather than pursue their God-given dreams. I have stepped out before, and I am still stepping out. I am ever emerging and evolving as I receive fresh revelation of what God wants me to do. I am striving and growing to become all that God has ordained for me.

This book, now expanded, was first published as an article in our magazine, *Fresh Bread*. It was

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published at a time when I was at a crossroad. I was at a point where I had to choose between my comfort zone and my dreams; eventually, I stepped out and the rest is now history. I am a living proof that life will never give you less than what you leave behind to pursue God's purpose.

This book is also an evidence of my showing up and stepping out to fulfil my calling as a writer. I have written hundreds of stories, articles, studies, blog posts and tracts, but this is my first published book. I am now stepping out from being just a writer into being an author. And of course, many more books are coming after this.

I have written this book for those who have a dream that won't go away but are stuck in the grip of fear and uncertainty. I want to be part of your success story. I want to give you a boost and a trigger that will launch you into your life's assignment.

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Friend, you owe it to yourself, to God, and to the world around you to pursue and fulfil the reason for which you were born. Let it not be that on your deathbed, you will look back at the life you have lived with regret over so many things you left undone. By all means, step out!

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ONE

WATCHING THE WINDS?

“Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.” —Ecclesiastes 11:4, NIV

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I was in haste as I got ready for school. It was a few years ago; I was undertaking a postgraduate degree at the University of Ibadan. My phone began to ring that morning. It was my supervisor calling, and she said I had to see her in her office immediately. My enthusiasm waned. Worse still, it began to rain.

I took shelter under a shed as I prayed quietly. I desired so much that the torrents would cease. However, my prayer seemed to be hitting the shed and bouncing off right back to me. The more I prayed, the more it rained.

I could no longer wait, so I stepped out; but I couldn't stand the downpour either. I hid again under another shed. Right there, I saw a colleague walking in the rain. He was without an umbrella—despite the drenching rain. Encouraged by what I saw, I finally stepped out. I decided I wouldn't go back irrespective of what happened. The rain stopped barely a minute after I left the shed.

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As I walked toward my department, I heard the Lord speak to me almost audibly, “Until you act in faith, I won’t act in your favour. The obstacle will not move until you challenge it. Until you step out, the stumbling block will remain.”

A number of scriptures consistent with this truth began to flood my soul. I remembered that until the priests stepped into the Jordan, it never parted. As long as they stayed back, Jordan continued to flow. **Ecclesiastes 11:4 says, “Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap” (NIV).**

In other words, we will never do what we intend to do if we wait for perfect conditions. And conditions are never going to be wholly or perfectly favourable on this side of eternity. It is the gumption to follow our convictions that creates unique perfect conditions. Our situations come to suit our purposes by the force of our convictions.

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Life has a way of setting us up. When we postpone a decision, we soon realise that the later time has been filled with something else. Paul seemed to understand this when he said, “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16). This is the perfect season. This is the time to do it. You must step out into the dreams, visions, goals, ministries, businesses, ideas and convictions that God has given you. You must step out—irrespective of the atmospheric conditions.

My purpose is simply to push you out of the shed of your comfort zone. I want to get you going toward your purpose in life, despite the rain. Just as my colleague's courage helped me to step out of my own shed into the rain, I want to inspire you too. I can assure you: the rain will stop if you step out.

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TWO

**STOP “WAITING FOR THE
LORD”**

*“Therefore the Lord will wait, that He
may be gracious to you; and
therefore He will be exalted, that He
may have mercy on you...” —Isaiah*

30:18

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Most of the time when we claim to be waiting for the Lord, the Lord is actually waiting for us. This is why so many will waste while they wait. While they wait, time, resources, opportunities and lives they should have been a blessing to will be wasted. Why wait for God when God is waiting for you?

In reality, there is nothing like waiting for the Lord: the Lord has always been the One waiting for us—waiting for us to mature, to understand, to grow and to become strong enough to enter what He has already planned out for us. The so-called delay from God is a product of our own delay—our delay to develop the capacity required to receive God's promises.

Remember the story of the four lepers at the gates of Samaria in 2 Kings 7? The story actually began in chapter six. The Syrians besieged Samaria and famine ensued. It was so bad that food prices soared astronomically. "A donkey's head sold for fifty dollars and a pint of dove's dung brought

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three dollars!" (2 Kings 6:25, TLB). And the king was "waiting for the Lord".

Perhaps, he was expecting a bolt to come out of the blues. Maybe he was thinking that something "extraordinary" would just happen and the whole problem would be solved; maybe he was expecting a miracle to happen. Perhaps, the king was even waiting with fasting and prayers. But while he was waiting, things grew worse. His people became cannibals; they began to eat their own children.

It was in the course of one of the king's prayer walks, while waiting for the Lord that a woman cried out to him. "Help, Your Majesty!" she said. The king soon discovered that the woman had lost her child to another cannibal with whom she had agreed to eat their children.

While we wait, most of the time, things go awry. Don't get it wrong: it is not bad to wait on the Lord. The scriptures copiously command us to wait

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on Him, but unfortunately, most of us have a misconstrued understanding of what it means to wait. We equate waiting to idling. Waiting, essentially, is not standing still or idling away. Waiting doesn't mean taking no action. Waiting is taking control of what we can in order to control what we couldn't. When we take control of what we can, what we couldn't control soon comes under control. Waiting is doing our best and trusting God to do the rest. A correct "waiter" is asking, "What can I do while I wait?" He is upstanding and set for action.

On hearing the woman's news, the king tore his clothes and put ashes on his head. He exclaimed, "Surely this calamity is from the Lord; why should I wait for the Lord any longer?" Now he had been pushed to the wall. He had come to a point of desperation, and he was forced to take the same action that he had till then postponed.

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Elisha, who was God's representative, had been in the land from the first day of famine, yet the king refused to see or consult him until the situation went out of hand. And we often think God is wicked, watching and allowing us to suffer without helping us! "Where was God", we often ask, "When these things were happening to me?" The real question is, "Where were you when God was at hand to help?" If we want a reaction from God, we must act. We must do our part.

The pathetic thing was that Elisha never felt the pressure of the famine despite the pandemonium in town. In fact, he was holding a conference when the assassin from the king arrived. The same thing was seen with Elijah. While the whole land languished because of famine, God had an arrangement for His servant. Elijah and Elisha will eat in famine; it is the king and his people that will suffer. This is why we must not wait.

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When the king decided not to wait anymore, God acted and a series of reactions were set in motion. In the face of death, Elisha was forced to connect with the heavens and receive a word from God for the land. Under pressure, he found a way out. The question is where was this prophecy all the while? The answer is, the prophecy from the Lord was waiting while the king was waiting for the Lord. But when the king could no longer wait, the prophecy too could no longer wait; it had to be released.

So, it is time to act. Stop waiting for it because it is actually waiting for you. Move toward it and it will move toward you.

THREE

THERE WAS A PROPHECY

“...I am giving you a command that agrees with the prophecies that were given about you in the past. I tell you this so you can follow them and fight the good fight.” —1 Timothy 1:18,

NCV

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Most people refute the idea of overnight success. They will say, "Overnight success is a myth." Perhaps, this was why the officer assisting the king doubted Elisha's prophecy. "That couldn't happen if the Lord made windows in the sky!" (2 Kings 7:2 TLB) he said.

Well, in reality, life responds to dogged and diligent hard work over time, but I believe that God can give us a sudden boom after a prolonged season of doom. One day, life can be so bleak and boring, and you feel like you are getting nowhere fast, and then BOOM! God can shake things up and bless you with incredible power, authority, wealth or anointing.

This was the experience of the four lepers at the gates of Samaria. They had lived a considerable part of their lives as beggars and dependants. Adverse and unfavourable situations surrounded these men; yet, they became the richest men in

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Samaria overnight. Suddenly, there was a turnaround.

We too can have the same experience if we do what they did.

Don't forget; they were lepers.

Possibly, they had lost their fingers and toes to this debilitating disease. Consequently, they couldn't have a firm hold on anything. Their chances in life had become slim because of this disease. As a matter of fact, they were ostracised from society. They were banished from the city to the gates. They weren't allowed access to people.

We can all begin to point to things in our lives that can be regarded as leprosy—things that have slimmed down our opportunities in life and got our fingers amputated such that we cannot grab the chances that come our way.

Many of us have been banished from mingling with a higher class of people because of age,

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status, educational qualification, exposure, race and more.

Some of us have wished we were born in a more developed world. Some will say, “If I had parents” or “If I had another degree” or “If I could get some loan” or “If I were younger”. Others are saying, “If only I were more spiritual”.

We are encompassed by many “ifs”. There is always that “leprosy” that has conditioned us to our current predicaments. Leprosy is that limitation to fulfilling our dreams and purposes in life.

These men were not just limited by leprosy; there were also limited by the famine in Samaria.

They were experiencing recession in its severest form. Goods became extremely expensive. It was so bad that dove’s dung became a commodity and people began to eat their own babies. It invariably means that people who used to send

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food to the lepers at the gates could no longer do so.

There was a time when recession prevailed also in Nigeria. Some who were planning to get married, start business, go to school, and so on, stepped back because of the unfavourable economy.

But there was a prophecy.

Elisha spoke by the word of the Lord that the economy of Samaria was going to change overnight. In response to the threat of assassination, he said, "The Lord says that by this time tomorrow, two gallons of flour or four gallons of barley grain will be sold in the markets of Samaria for a dollar!" (2 Kings 7:1, TLB).

God had to fulfil His word through His servant. The pressure on the king put pressure on Elisha, and the pressure on Elisha was transferred to God. Elisha gave God a deadline—24 hours—and I imagine that angels were mobilized immediately.

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God also transferred the pressure to them. They were looking for agents on earth that would be used to carry out the divine mandate, and the only available hands were the lepers at the gates. God had to use those lepers to fulfil His counsel.

The lepers never knew that there was such a prophecy; they were just there at the gates. However, they suddenly became restless and began to ask questions that they never asked before then. The pressure had come on them too! They were perturbed and dissatisfied with their conditions. It seemed that they were being moved by the impulse of divine purpose.

Friend, there is a prophecy hanging over your life too. Remember God told Jeremiah, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations” (Jeremiah 1:5). This prophecy is not peculiar to Jeremiah only; God has a specific plan for your life! There is a volume

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of books written concerning you. You are not a statistical accident; God had a blueprint for your life before you were ever born.

I believe that the passion to start that business, the call to go into the ministry, that idea that won't leave you, those nudges at your heart, and the irritation you sense when you see how bad things have been, were instilled in you by God. God is transferring the pressure on Him to you. Something is at stake! A generation is waiting for you, and it is time to respond to that impulse. He is already calling you. All these are God's way of mobilizing you to step out into your destiny in line with the prophecy over your life. It is time to act in accordance "to the prophecies previously made concerning you" (1 Timothy 1:18).

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FOUR

**WHY SIT US HERE TILL WE
DIE?**

*“Most of us have two lives. The life we
live, and the unlive life within us.
Between the two stands Resistance.”*

—Steven Pressfield

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Why Sit Us Here Till We Die?

This was the question the lepers asked themselves; and that is the question you need to ask yourself. You need to challenge the status quo. Ask yourself, “Why sit I here—not achieving God’s vision for my life?”

Why will you stay at a point when you have a calling, an idea, a plan, a book, a song, and a solution locked up within you? Why do you want to die with the gifts and grace God has given you? Friend, your grace and gifts aren’t meant for the grave: the world needs them.

Don’t Add to the Wealth of the Graveyard.

Dr. Myles Munroe of blessed memory lived his life warning people all over the world of the dangers of adding to the wealth of the graveyard. He observed that “the wealthiest spot on this planet is not the oil fields of Iraq or Saudi Arabia. Neither is it the gold and diamond mines of South Africa, the

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uranium mines of the Soviet Union, or the silver mines of Africa.” “Though it may surprise you,” he said, “the richest deposits on our planet... rest in your local cemetery or graveyard. Buried beneath the soil within the walls of those sacred grounds are dreams that never came to pass, songs that were never sung, books that were never written, paintings that never filled a canvas, ideas that were never shared, visions that never became reality, inventions that were never designed, plans that never went beyond the drawing board of the mind, and purposes that were never fulfilled”.

I believe you don't want to add to the wealth of the graveyard. It is God's will that you die empty, having released all that you were meant to give to our world. Don't take to the graveyard what belongs to us!

So, why sit you there till you die? Why allow doubt, fear of the unknown, lack of resources, harsh economic situation and all your excuses to

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paralyse your vision? What's stopping you from starting? Why are you afraid of taking risks? The greatest risk in life is not to take risks—because life itself is a risk. You are putting your destiny at a risk if you fail to take the risk required to fulfil it.

Destroy that Seat!

People sit because there is a seat. A seat, in this case, may be a job that offers you some level of comfort but is choking up the time you ought to use to pursue your dreams. It may be a relationship that has become a distraction from your assignment or a habit that has become your Waterloo. Anything that makes you feel comfortable without your dreams has to be destroyed now. Don't wait until it is too late. Of course, we all will come to that moment when we will indeed destroy the seat. The night is coming when we will like to work but the time will be against us. Some will be ready to pursue their dreams after spending the active years of life in a distraction. Sometimes, what will force people into

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their dreams is a death sentence, an unexpected sack letter, economic recession, sickness, or storms of life as experienced by Jonah. You don't want to wait for that!

Steven Pressfield, in his book, *The War of Art*, told this story: "Woman learns she has cancer, six months to live. Within days she quits her job, resumes the dream of writing Tex-Mex songs she gave up to raise a family (or starts studying classical Greek, or moves to the inner city and devotes herself to tending babies with AIDS). Woman's friends think she's crazy; she herself has never been happier. There's a postscript. Woman's cancer goes into remission."

Friend, is that what it takes? Do we have to wait for a crisis before we stand up and act on our dreams? Could it be that the sicknesses and diseases we experience are consequences and vengeance exacted on us because we failed to

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live out our real lives? Can we cure ourselves by living out these lives?

One thing is certain: our extinction from this world is imminent. It is time to call our actions to question. It is time to respond to that still small voice piping up in your heart right now, telling you, as it has a million times before, the calling that is yours and yours alone.

So, why sit you there till you die?

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FIVE

TAKE ACTION!

“The impediment to action advances action. What stands in the way becomes the way.” —Marcus Aurelius

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A Clue from the Lepers' Analysis

"If we say, 'We will enter the city', the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die" (2 Kings 7:4).

In this analysis, there are three possibilities:

1. To go back into the city; they could have simply gone back to the city and joined the rest of the wailers.
2. To sit still at the gates
3. To go forward and face the Syrians

In the three possibilities, there is one constant—DEATH. Meanwhile, death in the first two options was certain. Take note of what they said: "We shall die there" and "We die also." There was no ray of hope. However, in moving forward, they might live. They said, "if they keep us alive". This

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was in reference to the Syrians. In other words, there was the probability of life if they went forward and faced their enemies.

Friend, death is a constant. We will all die! The only option that will give you life—even after you are dead—is to go ahead and fulfil your destiny. To go back or to stand still and do nothing about your dreams is also death. Going forward, facing your fears, is the only hope you have of having a life. The way is forward!

Do you remember that God told the Israelites to go forward despite the Red Sea? If they went back, it would be back into captivity. If they stayed on the spot, Pharaoh's army would catch up with them. But when they moved forward and faced the sea, it parted before them.

If you too will sit down and analyse your present condition, you will discover that the only hope you have is to move forward in the direction of God's will for your life. This is why you need to step out! Of

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course, you cannot go back to the past. You cannot undo what was done yesterday. Also, it is dangerous to sit still in depression, discouragement and hopelessness. Don't make your status your comfort zone. Step out!

“Deciding to produce a result causes events to be set in motion.”—Anthony Robbins

The lepers didn't just analyse the situation and then slip back into complacency. They didn't just plan; they took action.

The scripture says, “And they rose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians...”

They rose! They stood up! They took the first step and went on until they got to the camp of the Syrians.

We too must act! We must be proactive about our plans. We must do something about what was written on paper. Our thoughts must become tangible, and this is the time.

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What's more? I observed that these lepers rose at TWILIGHT. Twilight is that period of diffused light in the evening between sunset and full night. It is also called dusk. It was already getting late. The lepers could have said "We will go tomorrow morning", but they never procrastinated or postponed their decision. They rose at twilight.

It could be that you are also in your twilight and you are thinking it is too late to pursue your dreams or to fulfil the divine mandate. Maybe you are thinking you are too old to start the business or answer God's call or launch into the divine mandate. I have come to tell you that something great can happen in this your twilight.

Moses went back to deliver Israel at 80; God restored what he had lost forty years before. Caleb began to take new territories at 80. Buhari, Trump and Akufo-Addo became presidents of their countries in their seventies.

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God can give you back the years you've lost. He can redeem and compensate you for the opportunities you've missed. It's only late if you think it's late. Friend, do something with your dusk. Go back to your dreams and visions.

He Moves When We Move.

"Concerning all acts of initiative and creation, there is one elementary truth—that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves, too." —Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

The lepers summoned courage and moved to the camp of the Syrians, and to their greatest surprise, the camp was empty! No one was there.

What happened? *"The Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses—the noise of a great army... Therefore they arose and fled at twilight, and left the camp intact—their tents, their horses... and they fled for their lives" (2 Kings 7:6-7)*

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The death the lepers envisaged didn't happen. Most of the fears that hold us back from taking action don't usually come to pass; they are simply products of our own imaginations. And the Lord, like He did for the lepers, acts in favour of those who act in accordance with His purpose for their lives.

Did you observe that it was in the same twilight that the lepers rose up at the gates of Samaria that the Syrians also rose up and fled for their lives? The lepers rose at twilight; the Syrians fled at the same twilight.

I inferred that God actually made the sound of the tiny feet of the lepers into the noise of chariots and horses of a great army that the Syrians heard. When the lepers moved, God moved too. He mobilised the hosts of heaven to join the band of lepers. The leper's feet were all God needed to put the Syrians to flight!

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We often underestimate the impact of the little actions we take. Friend, the little efforts you make for the course of the Kingdom reverberate in the realm of the spirit.

The little song you wrote, the visit to that sick one, the inspiring write-up in the church magazine, and that sincere word of prayer goes a long way in putting the enemy to flight.

Those things may look insignificant, but they are generating eternal rhythms. And that is why you need to step out because God moves when you move. He needs your feet, your hands, your gifts and the grace in your life to displace the enemy. There is an army in you.

Who could have thought that a band of four hopeless, hungry and sick lepers would be used by God to put a whole nation to flight? This is why you should never underestimate yourself because God "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that

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works in us" (Ephesians 3:20). "He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the beggar from the ash heap, to set them among princes and make them inherit the throne of glory. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and He has set the world upon them" (1 Samuel 2:8).

So, step out of your fears! Step out!

STEP OUT

SIX

BE A WATER WALKER

“...So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water...” (Matthew 14:29 GOD'S WORD)

STEP OUT

Keep Stepping Out

About five thousand men had just been miraculously fed by Jesus from five loaves of bread and two fishes. Women and children were not counted. This implies that far more than five thousand were fed. Jesus could have continued to roister and revel in the glory of this massive breakthrough. He could have built a monument there. He could have made the place the headquarters of His ministry.

Jesus, however, stepped out of that seemingly huge success. We were told that "Jesus quickly made his disciples get into a boat and cross to the other side ahead of him while he sent the people away. After sending the people away, he went up a mountain to pray by himself. When evening came, he was there alone" (Matthew 14:22-23 God's Word).

First, He compelled His disciples to leave then He also left. Sometimes, the greatest hindrance to

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success is success. We would normally do everything to get out of failure and achieve success. But what happens after we have had a huge success? The temptation is to plateau, to rest on our oars and celebrate.

We must learn to quickly leave the scene of the success of today else we hinder the successes ahead of us. There is the other side of this current success that we must cross over to. Joshua thought he had done great exploits for the Lord but God came to him and said, "You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed" (Joshua 13:1-2).

When we dwell too long on temporal breakthroughs, our vision of the future becomes blurred. It is not enough to step out right now into God's purpose for your life; you must possess the kind of spirit that keeps stepping out to take on new challenges, new territories and projects for God.

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Let God Take the Lead

It was the Lord that initiated the disciples' journey to the other side. It was not an irrational decision. Jesus made them get into the boat. This is crucial. We must never become presumptuous. Many things will appeal to us but we must be careful to discern what God will have us to do. God is committed to only His projects. He will be the Omega if He is the Alpha. We can also count on Him as our Emmanuel when challenges come for they will surely come.

Waves Are Normal on the Sea

Even though it was the Lord who commanded the apostles to travel, they were not spared of challenges. The wind was contrary and the boat was tossed by the waves. The fact that our projects are initiated by God is not an insurance against challenges. On the contrary, God-initiated journeys are prone to receive the greatest threat from the enemy because he knows it would

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impact his kingdom negatively. A demoniac will soon be delivered on the other side. Waves and storms are also normal on the sea of life. Contrary winds are sometimes proofs that we are on the right course.

In The Middle Of the Sea

“But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary” (Matthew 14:24).

In other words, it was too late to turn back. They were already in the middle. If the storm came just before they started, they would probably have delayed the trip but now they were in the middle tossed by the waves. There was no going back. They just had to keep moving. Are you in the middle of the sea? Are you tossed by the waves? Has the wind gone contrary to your dreams and goals? Friend, you have to keep going! You cannot turn back or you stay in the midst of this storm. Remember, the way is forward. That was

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the option of the lepers at the gate of Samaria. It was the option of the Israelites by the sea. Keep moving!

He Will Show Up

At the height of their frustrations, Jesus showed up. God will also show up at the most critical moments of our lives especially if He is involved in our journeys. He will come to calm the storms. He will not just ask us to do a thing and leave us to grapple with the challenges; He will join us in it and do it with us. You can count on Him in your seasons of crisis.

It was the fourth watch, the darkest hour of the night and that was when Jesus showed up. You need to realize that the crisis situations that we experience provide the greatest opportunities for God to reveal Himself on our behalf. Anytime you are in a storm, rejoice because God just got another opportunity to take the glory! Lazarus died and was stinking in the grave but that was the

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opportunity for the Resurrection and the Life to show Himself. When the wine ran out at the wedding in Cana, it was the opportunity for Jesus to perform His first miracle. Are you in a crisis? Take it back to God and say, "Lord, here is another opportunity for You reveal Yourself."

Sometimes, He Works In Weird Ways

However when Jesus showed up, they thought He was a ghost. They became terrified and cried out in fear. Sometimes, God will appear to you in weird ways. He will ask you to do things that are out of this world. You may get an idea that doesn't make sense at the moment. You may begin to see Him as a ghost just like the disciples. The Lord however assured them, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid" (Matthew 14:27).

Test "The Ghost"

Instead of sitting in fear of the ghost, Peter decided to test it out. He decided to work on the

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idea. The Scripture says, "And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water" (Matthew 14:28). At least twelve of them were in the boat but only Peter answered. Everyone was afraid. Everyone saw the ghost. Everyone was tossed by the waves but only Peter asked a question. Only Peter took a step. Only Peter was bold enough to conduct a research on the ghost. Only Peter tested the idea. Only Peter defied all odds and did something.

Everyone is also subjected to the same economic conditions. Others go through marital or health challenges. The lack, debt, unemployment, and delay that you experience are not peculiar to you. Everyone is tossed by the waves of the sea but very few like Peter will recognize the Lord in the crisis and do something different.

Perhaps, that ghost in the form of an idea, inspiration, and nudges on your heart are from God. Why don't you like Peter test it out? Ask

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questions. Conduct a survey. Do a market research.

Water walkers think, see, and act differently. They don't follow the majority. Thomas must have thought in his heart, "Peter, are you crazy? What kind of question are you asking the ghost? What are you trying to do? Walk on the water? You will sink!" Perhaps Andrew, his brother, tried to pull him back to the boat. But Peter's mind was made up. He was ready to step out if he was commanded. He had seen the Lord. He could no longer stay in the boat with impossibility thinkers.

Get Out Of the Boat!

At the Lord's command, Peter stepped out. He came out of the boat and began to walk on the water. What boat do you need to walk out of today? What boat has confined you for a long time? Limiting believe system? Your background, health, conditions around you, a relationship or a job? You can decide to walk out of the boat

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today and make history like Peter. He remains the only man apart from Jesus who walked on the water.

You can also make a difference. You can stand out and do something that was never done. You can break the existing records and set new ones. All you need do is step out of the boat. Why sit in a boat when you can walk on the water. The sea is yours.

Peter didn't wait for people's opinion. He wasn't waiting for a company or someone to join him. He was ready to stand alone. Others looked at him in amazement. They stood in awe. Peter had come on stage. He was now a god who walks on the water.

Peter began to sink when he got distracted but as long as he was focused, he was walking on the water. Water walkers are focused; those who step out must fix their gaze on the goal else they will

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begin to sink. Even when we sink, we can cry out like Peter and we will be saved.

Get out of the boat. Be a water walker! Step out!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Olufemi Babalola is an enthusiastic writer and inspirational speaker who is passionate about helping people develop sound spiritual lives, and discover and fulfil their God-given purpose while maintaining wholesome relationships.

He is committed to spreading the knowledge of the Truth as the critical solution to personal, family, corporate and societal ruin. He believes that the lack in our lives is not the lack of resources but the lack of information required to obtain the resources. People are destroyed for the lack of knowledge, and Olufemi writes and speaks with the hope that people will find this knowledge and gain access to all the resources that are already theirs.

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He is the editor-in-chief of *Fresh Bread*, a top-notch inspirational magazine that is focused on helping people experience God's life in the Word. He also publishes a monthly prophetic e-bulletin, *The Working Word*, which is designed to help people keep hope alive in the face of daunting life challenges.

Femi has written so many articles, manuscripts, studies, and tracts, and his writings continue to inspire several lives. He is a guest writer for a number of print and electronic media, and he also speaks in churches and conferences as opportunities unfold. This is his first book.

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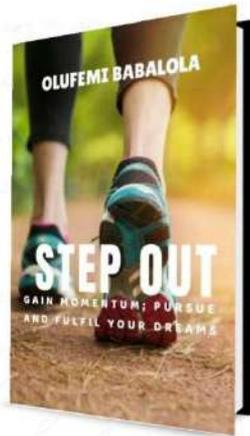
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