

# HOLDING ON

Sylvester Onyemalechi

Reading through Exodus chapter 5, one is touched with the pathetic situation the Israelites found themselves when Pharaoh increased their suffering by refusing to provide straw and yet demanding that they produce the same number of bricks as before when straw was provided for them. This happened simply because Moses asked Pharaoh to let Israel go to worship the LORD in the wilderness as he was commanded by God. Have you ever been in a situation when you get a word from God or you discovered a promise of God and decided to believe for its actualization in your life, but, instead of things getting better, they seemed to be getting worst. The journey of faith with God sometimes produces some hitches that put one on a cross road, not sure whether to give up or continue in faith until change comes.

It is the desire of God that His people hold on until the miracle we seek or promised happens. Every believer must come to terms with the truth that Satan will attempt to make us doubt God through any means available to him. Imagine how the Israelites and Moses in particular felt when Pharaoh acted the way he did. He felt confused, betrayed and angry. Yet, he heard correctly and God meant to truly deliver His people.

*Ex 5:22-23*

*22 Moses returned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people? Is this why you sent me? 23 Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble upon this people, and you have not rescued your people at all."*

*NIV*

I will like us to take a closer look at Exodus 5 and see what lessons we can learn from it.

1. Moses told Pharaoh what God said.
2. Pharaoh increased the burden of Israel as a response.
3. Instead of the expected deliverance as they were promised, they got more suffering and oppression in return.

## **Why does God allow this?**

1. To prove what is in us and purge us.
2. To train and perfect our trust in Him
3. To work out his will in our lives
4. To buy time, so that the actual time for fulfillment will come.

## **What is the enemy's intent?**

- To kill the dream/terminate or stop us.
- Bring discouragement
- Make God look like a liar
- Stir up rebellion against leadership and God in order to make God angry and abandon us.
- Quench the Spirit/spirit.

## **WHAT TO DO**

1. Keep your faith in God's word to you.
  2. Never allow discouragement into your mind.
  3. Fight to possess your blessing.
  4. Don't give up. Keep the dream alive. God will definitely show up.
  5. Bear the frustration and pain. It is only for a while. Deliverance is on the way.
- The road to accomplishment of promise is always full of troubles, pain, obstacles and discouragement. But we must pass through the road.

### EXAMPLES:

ABRAHAM was challenged by the devil through childlessness though God promised him a great nation.

The land promised him went through a famine that was so severe that he had to go to Egypt to stay for a while.

ISAAC was also resisted with childlessness for some years. His wife Rebecca only gave birth once after many years of marriage.

The land promised him went through a famine that was so severe that he wanted to run to Egypt like his father did, but God stopped him and asked him to plant his seeds in the land of Gerar.

JACOB was almost made a slave by his uncle and in-law Laban.

A great famine came upon the land of Canaan that made him to go to Egypt.

JOSEPH was promised greatness and leadership in his family. The devil resisted him by making his brothers to sell him into slavery, and later imprisoned by his master.

### JESUS CHRIST

- Jesus was also resisted. There was no hotel room or good living accommodation for him to be born except a manger. (What a place to be born or to put to bed a baby?)
- Herod wanted to kill him
- They despised and wouldn't believe in him - the one sent to them to save them.
- They abused him and insulted him.
- They accused him falsely.
- They tortured him and killed him.

### CONCLUSION

1. **The devil** opposes the plan of God for our lives.
2. The devil does not wish us well.
3. He wants to kill the dream through discouragement.
4. He wants to make God look like a liar.
5. He wants us to doubt God and eventually stop us.
6. **We must** fight to possess our possessions.
7. Never give up. Hold on to the promise.

8. Keep your eyes on God and his word, and wait patiently for the fulfillment of his promise. He will not fail.
9. Walk with him in righteousness while you wait for the promise.
10. Listen to his voice and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as he leads you to destiny and fulfillment of promise.