



**PEACE
MONEY CAN'T
BUY**

NGOZI NWOKE

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NIGERIA

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I appreciate all who contributed in one way or the other to my life and to this book. God bless you.

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DEDICATION

To the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit who gave the inspiration

PREFACE

There was a big storm on this precious day: the wind was boisterous and was uprooting big trees. Roofs were blown off homes and office buildings, with everybody running hither and thither: some to underground shelters or basements. There was chaos everywhere. But a little old woman lay sleeping peacefully in her bed at home, oblivious of the storm and the havoc it was causing.

Long after the storm had stopped, she came out of her house to discover that there was a storm the night before, and saw debris littered everywhere. The old woman simply smiled to herself. She believed that even if she had walked through the valley of the shadow of death, that God would be with her and protect her from harm. She feared no evil, because of her trust and confidence in her God. No wonder He granted her **PEACE** and protection in the midst of the terrible storm.

Peace has become a scarce commodity in our world today. Everywhere you turn, you find trouble or chaos: country fighting against country, one religion against another, tribes or ethnic groups against one another, family against family, etc. Some people have reached a point where they are no longer sure of returning home in peace. Truly, many today have lost the hope of enjoying a peaceful life.

The valuable lessons contained in this book in your hands are guaranteed

to restore hope if you are feeling hopeless, and to direct you to the only source of eternal peace that is sure to transform your life.

Can the little old woman's kind of peace be duplicated in your life? Is it possible to enjoy such peace even though there is chaos and confusion all around you? Is it possible to be at peace even when things are not going the way you desire them to? Can you go through fire and not be burnt, or through a flood and not be swept away? What can this peace do and not do for you? What will you lose if you don't have this peace? How do you secure, increase and maintain this peace? What actually was the little old woman's secret? I plan on answering all these questions in this book.

This book will empower you to take charge of your life, and not allow circumstances and situations dictate your actions and determine things for you. Also, it is hoped that this book will put a smile on your face, cast off all fears and cause you to stand as a victor and not a victim. You will not only enjoy peace, but will also be transformed into a peacemaker.

INTRODUCTION

Let me start by painting a picture of what is happening around us today and why many desire peace, but are far from attaining it. Unfortunately in our world today, things that are meant to bring us peace and joy also have the ability to take from us whatever peace we have.

Take technology for example: it brought a lot of transformations, speed and efficiency to the world, but has also increased the factors afflicting our peace of mind. As a matter of fact, it has raised some concerns that were not there before.

For instance, as good and wonderful as the internet technology is, it has now reduced the effectiveness of parental controls. Children now have access to all manner of things without their parents' approval and knowledge. Even if parents are able to control their children at home, what happens outside the home?

Technology has robbed some people of their jobs. In some cases, like the use of the ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode), it has made it easy for some crooks to steal other peoples' identity and money.

Knowledge is another thing that has increased greatly in our society today, just as it has also stolen our peace from us. There are so many dos and don'ts about foods and gadgets, that it has generated more fear than

peace in some people. Where there is fear, you find all manner of evil. Fear brings torment and when your mind is tormented sickness and diseases are inevitable, no matter how cautious you are of what you eat, drink or use.

Many parents can no longer send their children to school without worrying about their safety, because of the atrocities in the society today. Even the once normal freedom to play outside the houses is now reduced because of the fear of split-second kidnappings.

The desire to be able to afford and enjoy more than the basic needs has taken away peace from many people too. People are forever calculating how else to increase their income that some have taken it to a negative level of anxiety.

Families are torn apart because of discontentment and a lack of adequate time spent together. Parents are so busy trying to make ends meet that they forget that money alone will not build a loving and happy home. They fail to make out time for their spouses and children, and the family bond is not built. The economic crunch is really hitting the world hard.

Furthermore, unhealthy competitions in the offices are sapping strength and peace from their victims. People will go to any length to outshine or eliminate their competitors. They engage a lot of lies and blackmailing, and some even go to the point of killing their competitors.

The list is endless. The truth, however, is that there are MANY in the world today, who are faced with the same challenges as others, but are still able to remain calm and are at peace. This is the kind of peace that money cannot buy. How can one get it?

If peace could be purchased with money, then the wealthy would have easy access to it. In other words, we would have a situation where wealth guarantees peace; which means the poor may not have or enjoy peace. But thank God, it is not so! We know that the wealthy are not necessarily peaceful, and many poor people enjoy peace.

My question is, “Where and how can we get this peace?”

CHAPTER ONE

THE BENEFITS OF THIS PEACE

What Peace Is This?

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

Peace is a state of being calm and quiet: a state of living in friendship with somebody without arguing or fighting (Oxford advanced learner's dictionary). It is also just like what one servant of God said in one of her teachings, a state of having hope, being at rest and having absolute trust in God

There is the peace that passes all understanding, the type that makes one to keep smiling even when everything around you is turning upside down. You remain calm regardless of the gravity of the challenges you are confronted with. Remember God's peace has the capacity to guard your heart and mind. Doesn't the word of God admonish us to guard our hearts?

This peace assures us of a better tomorrow,
and that gives hope and the strength not to
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uncertainties.

This peace assures us of a better tomorrow, and that gives hope and the strength not to quit when faced with challenges or uncertainties. I am talking of the kind of peace that when one possesses causes you to be the one encouraging and comforting those that may seem to be in better situations than yourself. You find yourself encouraging those that are physically speaking more prosperous or even healthier than you. A man who has this peace believes that all things work together for good for them that love God, thus fearing no evil from any place or person.

This peace is what we need in this unpredictable world. This peace cannot be bought with money; neither can it be manipulated by power or position. It cannot be hidden; rather, it is evident in the person who has it. It is a respecter of nobody, but desired by everybody. It is not the preserve of a particular race, gender, country, etc.

The good news is that all who desire it has equal access to it: the old, young, rich, poor, the literate and illiterate. Certainly you are not exempted from enjoying this peace. It is yours if you are ready to embrace the source of this peace, which you will get to know later in this book.

What Will This Peace Do For You?

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27

Before agreeing to commit to anything, humans always want to know what is in it for them; they want to know what their benefits or profits will be. The question that could be going on in someone's head right now is, "If I go for this peace you are talking about, will it solve all my problems? Which problem will it solve?" I have good news for you: there is definitely something in it for you if you are willing to embrace this peace.

Peace of mind will give you a rested soul and body. It will keep away worries, stress, depression, high blood pressure and heart-related diseases.

Below are some of the benefits embedded in this peace, bearing in mind that it is a state of having hope, being at rest and having absolute trust in

God.

GOOD HEALTH

Many covet good health, irrespective of who they are or what they have. However, many lack sound health; many are sick, and some are hospitalized because they lack peace of mind.

Peace of mind will give you a rested soul and body. It will keep away worries, stress, depression, high blood pressure and heart-related diseases. This reminds me of my mother who thought it was her duty to worry over everything. Unfortunately, she developed high blood pressure and died untimely. We really miss her.

It is our maker's perfect desire that we live in perpetual good health; hence one of Christ's missions on earth was to restore health to humanity (John 10:10; Acts 10:38; Matthew 8:16-17). Your access to peace gives you full access to this much-needed good health.

POSITIVE MINDSET

Every living being needs to possess a positive mindset to be able to fit in and succeed in this world. Possessing a positive mindset makes a great difference between the conqueror and the defeated, the winner and the loser.

People who enjoy peace are always positive-minded. They always

expect good and think positively of people and situations. They don't get unnecessarily worked up, imagining that things will certainly go wrong. They are generally optimistic, regardless of the prevailing situation. They tend to see beyond the here and now, to a brighter and glorious future.

Peace acts as a cushion for the mind and does not allow negativity to creep in in anyway. It helps you to make the right decisions and take the right steps towards a more profitable outcome.

HOPE

Hope is a needed ingredient for living a fulfilled lifestyle. It is said that a living dog is better than a dead lion, because when there is life, there is hope (Ecclesiastes 9:4). To be hopeless is to be as good as dead.

The peaceful are hopeful, and the hopeful are peaceful. When you are hopeless, you will become helpless. Life comes to a standstill for you, and opportunities might come and pass you by without you noticing them. The energy to forge ahead is drained from you, and you are most likely going to be moving around in circles.

The peace of God is a powerful tool for building hope. Hope gives you something to look forward to. Hope gives you an assurance that everything will work out for your good, and you will expect it to be so. You will look at that brewing storm you are confronted with and smile,

knowing that this too is just for a moment and will also pass.

BUILD AND FORTIFY RELATIONSHIPS

Peace within you will manifest in your response to issues and people. People will be drawn to you because they enjoy the peace that surrounds you; a peace devoid of tension. They will always be drawn to you because being with you is like “medicine” to their challenges. Possessing this peace will make you a peacemaker, and cause you to enjoy your relationship with others.

You will also enjoy a better working environment. Have you ever worked with someone who fights with everybody and over everything? Not a person to be with, right? Such a person does not have peace of mind, and is only venting it out on things and people instead of seeking for help.

But a peaceful person can help a troubled person, and has the capacity to influence change in the work place. Peace is contagious. However, you can't give what you don't have no matter how much you desire to do so. It is only when you have this peace I am talking about within you that you can affect the people and circumstances around you.

CREATIVITY

In a world full of competitions, creativity is what keeps you steps ahead

of others. The old ways of doing things is one of the reasons why people are stagnated. If you want to move forward then you need to be creative. But how can you when a troubled mind won't allow you to think?

Peace enables one to be creative. The mind is restful, not crowded with worries and negative thoughts. A peaceful mind is observant and very attentive; and ideas are quick to settle on a calm mind.

Peace of mind is the first step to creativity. King Solomon the wise king was able to build all he did and write those profound proverbs because he had peace. God gave him rest on every side (1 Kings 5:4).

SATISFACTION AND CONTENTMENT

This awesome virtue has eluded many because of a lack of peace. Many keep chasing after satisfaction and contentment, but it is ever beyond their reach. Ironically, the more they acquire things, the more dissatisfied they become.

While it is good to aim for a better life, note that only the peaceful can be satisfied and contented with every level of progress, giving glory to God. Greed and peace don't go together. A greedy person is never at rest, because he can never be satisfied.

Peace of mind helps you to celebrate every little thing you have or have achieved, and be contented as well. You see every stage of success as

the beginning of greater feats, because a full bucket of water is only a collection of drops of water. Embrace peace, and see satisfaction and contentment become your constant companions.

FAVOUR

A peaceful person is a highly favoured person. Everyone wants to be a blessing to that person who never gives or entertains troubles. As long as it is within my ability, I will always go out of my way to help any peaceful person, because helping such will give me joy and satisfaction.

Joseph, the dreamer boy, enjoyed the tremendous peace of God. When things were not going according to his dreams, he remained at peace, and God caused him to enjoy untold favour everywhere they put him: the pit, Potiphar's house, prison, and finally the palace (Genesis 39:4, 21).

Peace within you is like a magnet for favour both from God and man. I remember the testimony of one Christian brother. There was scarcity of fuel at one time in his country and this affected transportation: there were more people at the stations than the available cabs could carry. So, the people got pushing and shouting whenever a cab came.

When a particular driver stopped to help out, people rushed and were squeezing themselves anyhow into the car. The man got angry and ordered everybody out and drove off, only to stop right in front of this

brother who was not pushing and shouting. The cab driver asked him alone to enter the cab and drove him, not just to where he could get another cab home, but straight to his house! Peace attracts favour anytime.

What This Peace Will Not Do For You

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

Sometimes we wish everything would go the way we want them to, without any effort on our part. I wonder what the world would be like if it were so. I tell you, it won't be exciting! In the same way, as much as you stand to gain a lot by possessing this peace, it is still limited in what it can do for you.

So, having this peace will not stop the devil from attempting to carry out his work in your life; which is to kill, steal and to destroy (John 10:10). The good news, however, is that he will not succeed!

Someone asked Kenneth E. Hagin to pray that she would not have problems with the devil, and he immediately replied that it meant she would die and go to heaven. As long as you and I are on the earth, problems will always come. What we need do is to learn to be at peace even in the midst of the problems or challenges. So, having this peace will not stop the devil from attempting to carry out his work in your life; which is to kill, steal and to destroy (John 10:10). The good news, however, is that he will not succeed!

This peace will not do the following for you:

GIVE YOU LIFE WITHOUT TROUBLES

How will you know that you have this peace if troubles don't come to test it? As long as you are still in this world filled with wickedness, challenges will always come. Actually, you don't even need to do anything wrong before the enemy strikes. But this peace will keep you through the period of the challenge and bring you out as a victor and not a victim.

Jesus assures us of peace only in Him. Outside Christ, all you have is loads of challenges (John 16:33). Even Jesus Christ had His fair share of troubles when He was here on earth; but God's peace sustained Him through them all.

Isaac was a man of peace. He kept digging up new wells as his

neighbours were fighting him over them and filling them up (Genesis 26:18-22). The peace he enjoyed sustained him until his enemies had no choice but to give up. Your enemies will also give up on you as you embrace this peace.

CHANGE THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU

How we wish everyone around us will be nice, loving and very accommodating, leaving you to enjoy your peace. Well, not in this world governed by the enemy. Some people's only work is to look for other people's trouble. They are never happy when everyone is happy.

If some people are troubling you, having this peace won't change them; but it will change your attitude and response to their attitude, words and actions. Their desired negative effects on you will not be fulfilled. They may stop disturbing you after a while, but until they accept what you have, they will not change.

Joseph enjoyed this peace, but that didn't stop the people around him from oppressing him. For instance, his brothers kept planning on how to eliminate him until they finally sold him into slavery (Genesis 37:18-36), and Potiphar's wife never ceased molesting him until she got him thrown into prison (Genesis 39:7-20).

Joseph, however, never allowed their actions to rob him of his peace; instead, their actions indirectly took him to the throne. May this peace

get you to your throne despite your enemies!

DO WHAT YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO DO

Being a person of peace doesn't make you a lazy person, but a tireless worker instead. God is a hard worker, and His children should not be anything less. This peace will only help you to achieve all-round success when you do what you are supposed to do.

Surely, you won't acquire this peace and maintain it by doing nothing. This peace will not over-rule the laws of seed time and harvest, hard work and diligence. But it will empower you to deliver maximally and successfully.

Moses enjoyed this peace and consistently worked towards maintaining peace between God and the children of Israel (Exodus 32:11-14). He wouldn't have succeeded in bringing them out of Egypt if he hadn't obeyed all God's instructions. He was a man of both words and actions.

One thing is sure though, possessing this peace will help you to cheer up like Jesus commanded us to (John 16:33), and to enjoy a life and peace that money cannot buy.

CHAPTER TWO

THE SOURCE OF THIS PEACE

GET THE FULL BOOK