

In the Tomb of Death!

Bishop Dr. Douglas Muchiri

Beloved,

In my previous letter I believe I gave you some contacts for upcoming ASCA Conventions so now very quickly -let me bring your attention to the **DUNAMIS! [Impact of Spiritual Power & Resource]** that God has bestowed on you --at the same time encourage you to begin using that Dunamis to effect resurrection of self and all others in the Tomb of Death!

Beloved, do you recall a time in your life when everything looked fine and life was going great for you? Do you also recall the joy and the celebration in your life then? Yes you may not have had everything you wanted or needed in life but at least you were so blessed with fulfillment, joy and satisfaction of life. And as time went on, you became so zealous for God and all that consumed you was the desire to give unto God or to serve God faithfully. Infact then you had something to live for and everything was rewarding to your life to the point that you became a good influence to the life of others.

And as you continued to serve God, do you remember how your faith grew stronger and stronger in your faith to the point that you would believe God for almost everything. Needless to say, that is how you attained the faith and persuasion to come to the US. Yes, even when everything seemed to work against you, you somehow had greater faith than your pastor, parents, spouses, friends etc and honestly, God rewarded your faith and supplied for you finances, visa and all -so that now you are here.

Friends, what happened to you then is very much similar to what was going on in the life of a well to do woman in **2 Kings 4:8-36**. Now this woman had everything going well for her; and although she was not Jewish, yet she was spiritual enough to recognize that Elisha was a man of God to the effect that she decided to serve Elisha by building him a room over her roof.

So moved by the act of this woman, Elisha blessed this woman with a child for her husband was old and so they could not get a child. Now let's pause here for a moment. In many other stories we always encounter woman unable to get a child/ren because of their "situation" which in most cases was barrenness or age. However for this woman, it was her husband who had a "situation".

Saints, may this story right here serve as an encouragement to many who continue to hit blame hard on themselves cause of a barren "unproductivity" in their lives. Beloved, do you recognize that like this woman, it could well be that you are not the problem but another is? And if so, then please do yourself a favor and STOP blaming yourself! Back to the story, finally the Shunamite woman gets a son but then one day this boy dies and that is where we begin.

When the woman reached the man of God, her words were deadly, focused bitter and painful "**Did, I ask you for a son.... Didn't I tell you not to raise my hopes?**" **[2Kings 4:28]**

Ohh I hear many a saints asking similar questions to the fact "why do I deserve....?" It is a very painful experience for indeed the very thing that God supernaturally gave you, has now become that which rips you apart completely! Yes you had initially wanted the blessing BUT then down the line you asked God that "God if this is not your will, then please please do not bless me with it but if it is your will then God GIVE IT TO ME" and He did – BUT only for God to turn around and cause "the blessing" to give you so much pain, sorrow, depression and frustration! No one can understand you for it is really eaten you up so badly and deeply! That was the case with this woman such that she could neither be consoled by her husband, the servant of Elisha nor even Elisha himself! For **all she needed was her child back PERIOD!**

So Elisha sent his servant to go minister to the boy via his "prophetic stick" lakini that could not work. Finally Elisha went in to pray for the boy but let's not read these verses so fast lest we miss it. See what happens, -Elisha locked himself in the room **[verse 32]**, a place of confinement with God where YOU

CONFINE GOD WITH THE IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION – where you just lock yourself with God so as to POUR YOURSELF OUT without ever planning to leave till your RESURRECTION comes through!

Then Elisha lay on the boy! Now wait a minute supposing I as a pastor was to lay on your dead four year old or lets muddy the waters a bit, supposing I was featured on TV doing what Elisha was doing??? Would you believe in me anymore? But friends this was not just another situation, but this was a Most Desperate Situation and God had to just come Down!

Saints, I believe that you and I have great Lessons to Learn from Elisha's persistence in Prayer, intercession, and aggressiveness in prayer, travelling and Praying through desperately for a desperate situation. Let me show you what I mean by listing at least ten things that happen in this prayer session:

1. Elisha locked the door
2. Elisha got on the bed
3. Elisha lay upon the boy – mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hand
4. Elisha lay there till the Boy's body grew warm

This is where many believers give up – after they sense the first “sign” of their resurrection –that is once they start sensing some warmth. Notice too that Elisha also walked away... but then begun to pace back and forth the room. Now friends what do you think was going through Elisha's mind as he paced around the room before returning into more prayer ?????

5. THEN Elisha turned away [
6. Elisha walked back and forth in the room
7. Then Elisha got onto the bed AGAIN
8. Elisha stretched out upon him ONCE MORE
9. Then the BOY Sneezed seven times

Friends, this is the second sign observed on the boy BUT just seeing the sign does not mean that the boy is completely Resurrected! And this time Elisha still presses on till he observes the third sign!

10. Then the boy Opened his eyes!

Only after the boy is on his two -does Elisha call the Shunamite woman.

Friends, what a great challenge on prayer we have here ... doesn't it make you want to continue PRAYING???? Yes Yes Yes! I tell you -- if we as Saints learnt persistence and aggressiveness in Prayer, we would witness many a dead coming out of the tombs of death! What do I mean?

Friends, to be in a “tomb of death” means that all that surrounds you is death... a gloomy, weird situation where there is no longer life whatsoever! The smell is just awful and this is not a pleasant place to be in by all means. Use your imagination for a second and just imagine yourself with Elisha in the room of death trusting God for the death to resurrect! Or like Jesus standing in front of the “tomb of death” where Lazarus lays stinking dead for three days! **[John 11:1-44]**. What would you do?

Wapendwa in many respects, this is the very situation that we find ourselves today. For when you look around you smell and see many Christians wrapped up in garments of death. Ohh yes, there is death all around you --if you just turned around ... all that can be heard around you is mourning and wailing as people mourn “their” dead! Ohh there is no longer any fellowship going on apart from talk of bitterness and how this happened or that happened and things are just so worse-off cause of the departure of so and so or a “certain blessing”. And what about the stench ... ohh the stench is just deadening for by now there such a contagious smell in the air such that anyone who comes into contact with the air -gets his or her life ZAPPED OFF!

Let me touch base with you, when do you worship? What words fill the air when you open your mouth? Are they words of life or of death? Are you forever complaining about this or that or just how everything has just gotten so bad and things are not just the same anymore? Indeed deep deep down in you, you just wished that Christ would have been around to restore things back lakini He is not here and HE hasn't showed up since the last time you called on him!!! Sound familiar to Martha's story?

Saints, no wonder that even our worship and church services are no longer celebrative but another mourning session. No wonder too that no one encourages the other anymore for all that surrounds you is death. Indeed you are dinning at the very tomb of death and for some reason; demons, evil spirits and the devil have become much more visible to you than Christ. This therefore explains why you always see bad things and evil all around to the point that you do not sense Christ at all in your very presence no matter how much He continues to reassure you that He is Immanuel [**Matthew 1:23**] or that He will never leave you nor forsake you [**Hebrews 13:5**] and what about when He reassures you that He changes not [**Hebrews 13:8**] ... and should I go on what happened to **Jeremiah 29:11** "Behold I have good plans for you.. plans of welfare and not of evil, to give you a future and a home" do you still believe Christ or you just envision the death all around you.

Beloved, you need be party-ing rather than mourning... if only you can realize that God has already empowered you with the Power to Resurrect the dead from the "tomb of death". But allow me to suggest that this process has to begin with you coming out of the death first before you can begin to resurrect others! Lets suggest how this can happen...

Now friends, there is only one way to do this, vis a vis to COMMAND the dead to come OUT from the tomb of death! What do I mean, well exactly that! Allow Christ to use you to become an instrument of "NEW LIFE" Because God is looking for someone who can speak for Him, yes someone who can go for God and CALL FORTH THE THINGS THAT ARE NOT AS THOUGH THEY ARE Ohh yes, Saints we need realize that elevating death to be the subject of our fellowship and discussion does not help if that is all we do. We also need to come to the realization that the intensity, altitude or volume of our wailing and mourning will never ever resurrect Lazarus! Instead what we need to do is to SPEAK FORTH THE WORD and COMMAND "LAZARUS" TO COME FORTH!

So beloved, what is the death situation you are dealing with? Is it the loss of your loved one? Is it a divorce, or separation or that God doesn't seem to bless you with a husband or wife? Or is it the loss of a child, a job, or financial security. Or is it just plain death --which now means that you cannot even enjoy the whole joy, happiness, friendship or just the fun or enjoying ice cream with friends??

Asked differently, WHAT IS SAPPING OUT YOUR LIFE IN YOU?? Exactly, what is KILLING you??? And why allow yourself death anyway while you have the DUNAMIS IN CHRIST to command forth LIFE in your life. Jesus said "I came that you may have life and have it more abundantly". So NOW show me this life??

Beloved, how is it that you have no life anymore, how come you take offense so quickly and how come everyone around you is nowadays wrong and you are always "right"? Beloved, where is your Christ Given Life characterized by Worship --when you cannot even lift up holy hands and worship God? How come you can't sing and dance for the Lord anymore in joy?? And what about prayer? What is happening to your zeal for prayer?? Na je Fellowship with the saints? Or are you going through a "slow motion suicide" Honestly, what's going on?? And how come that you can't minister life anymore to those surrounding you in death but instead you always seek to be ministered unto? Could it be that you have laid camp in the very tomb of death???

Ohh COME OUT SAINT! COME OUT AND BE FREE! Ohh yes, get rid of those sorrowful, "poor me" depressive garments of death and instead PUT ON THE GARMENTS OF LIFE & PRAISE In the name of Jesus Christ and you shall be free and free indeed! Amen and Amen.

And for you who is not at the tomb of death, When will you begin setting others free! Mhhh when will begin doing the works of Christ in your life?? Ohh let us ARISE saints and change the atmosphere from mourning to dancing Mhhhh let us indeed choose to celebrate life and set the Captives Free from the Tombs of Death right here in the US for with God nothing is impossible! Amen and Amen.

Love ya Saints!

Bishop Dagi