



Northern Star Ministries

Adding Value Through Leadership

by

Dr. Olatunde Adepaju

The Three Dimensions of a Complete Life



Introduction

- ❖ In Exodus 20, Moses was given the Ten commandments. Those commandment were broken down into 618 laws in Leviticus for the Parents. The book of Numbers was about the transition of the older Israelites to the Younger ones and the same laws were given to the younger ones in Deuteronomy. Jesus Christ came to improve on the law by simply reducing it to one law.





The Accounts of Jesus' Disciples of the ONE Law

Matthew 22:37

- Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God
- with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Mark 12:33

- And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding,
- and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his
- neighbor as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Luke 10:27

- And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy
- heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind;
- and thy neighbor as thyself.

John 13:35

- By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one
- to another



Disciple and Church Composition





In.....



- ❖ Judas was a 5% of the last 15- 20%
- ❖ John was the 5% of the first 15-20%

- ❖ Which one of these are you in this church





Revelation 21:9-16 KJV



- ❖ [9] And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. [10] And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, [11] Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; [12] And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: [13] On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. [14] And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. [15] And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. [16] **And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.**





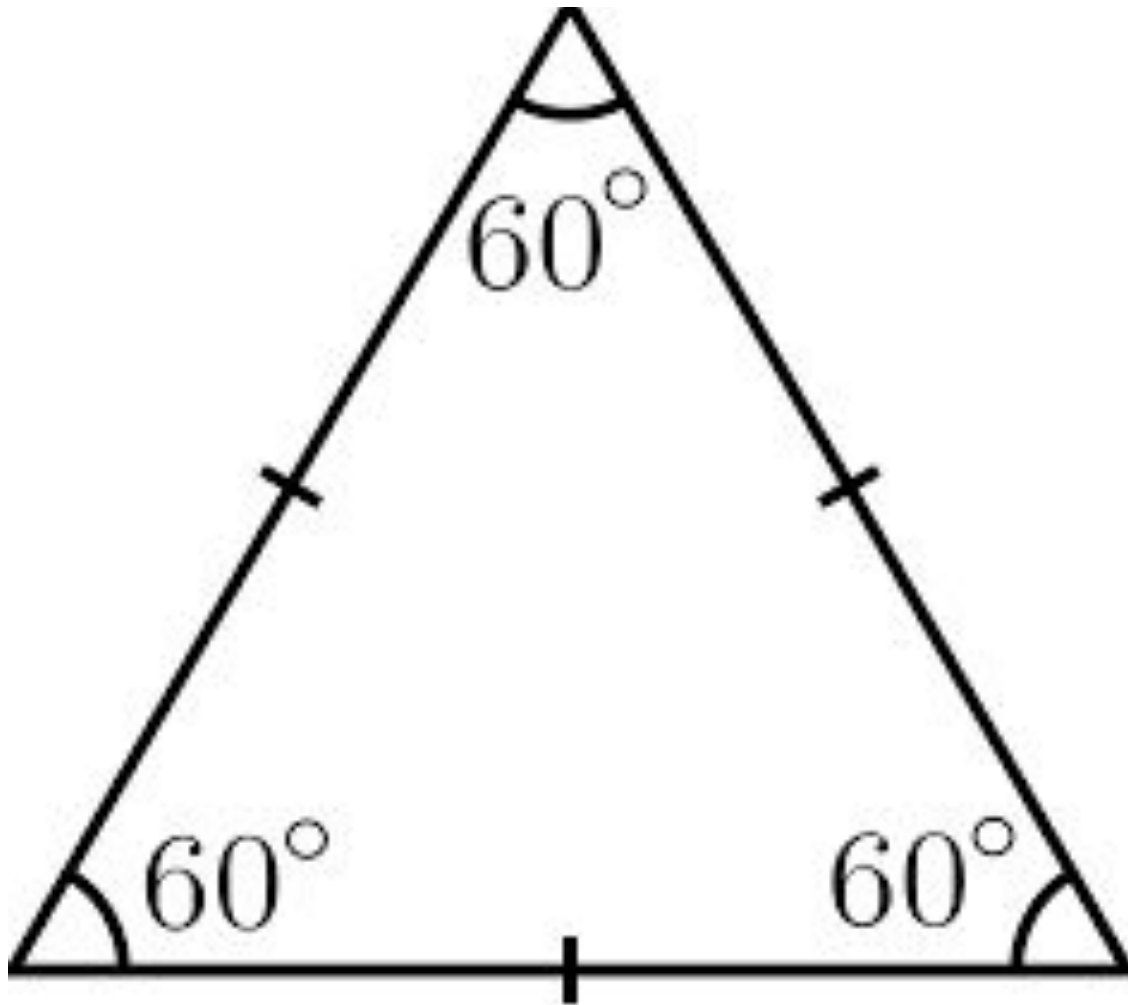
John's Revelation



- ❖ According to John in prison out of a lonely obscure Island called Patmos had a freedom to think, pray, reflect and meditate. He saw a vision of a New Heaven and New Earth coming from heaven. One of the greatest glories that John saw was its ***completeness***. It was complete in all the three dimensions. Just like this chapter, it is symbolic that all the three sides of life must be equal in proportion.



Equal Sides Triangle





Mandela's Statement on Incarceration



Mandela in his long way to freedom says, 'There is no prospect about prison which pleases except one. One has time to think and carefully consider all the ramifications of one's decisions.'



John Barrow's Testimony in Solitary Confinement for 28 days



Solitary is a weird place. It can play tricks on your mind if you let it. I have seen men just start screaming for no reason, saying and singing bizarre things, even wiping their feces on the walls of their cells as well as on themselves. Solitary is the last punitive resort man has to offer short of the electric chair or lethal injection. It houses three kinds of people: (1) those who are mentally unstable, (2) those who prefer to be in solitary because they fear they will be harmed, and (3) those who cannot and will not abide by the rules. I tended to fall under the latter category. I refused to play by the rules and I continued to feel the consequences of my choices.

💡 On this stay in solitary however, something in me snapped. Abraham Lincoln once said, "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go." Well, let me tell you that there is nowhere else to go when you find yourself in a prison inside of a prison. Solitary confinement is definitely at the bottom. That's why they call it "the hole." You've fallen as far as you can fall. Though sometimes landing at the bottom of a hole can be a good thing. It's like I tell the guys I work with now—the best part about hitting bottom is that you can finally get your footing. You finally have something to push off of to start climbing out.

I don't recall how, but this time I ended up with a Bible in my cell. I was 25 years old at the time and had not looked at a Bible much since I left Teen Challenge as a boy. Sure, there were occasions when I went to church with Lauren and Dorothy when I was married. But there is a big difference between "going to a church" and really digging into the Word of God. When you're in the hole with nothing else to occupy your time, you can truly begin to digest what you are reading. Especially if you are a prodigal and you know that what you have in your hands is the instruction manual to life; and that if you will just read it, your Father will tell you how to get back home. 💡 So for 28 solid days I read that Bible from cover to cover and for 28 days I cried and cried. I don't know how to explain exactly what took place at that time, but I do know that for the first time in my life I truly surrendered my will and got serious about my relationship with God. My heart was truly pierced by the Scripture and the Word finally became alive to me in the midst of all the pain.



John Barrows Rap Sheet



her if it was a waste of time. To my surprise she said, "Let me get to know you better before we decide that. Can we set up a time to meet?"

Adopting Noah

So Lindsey and I went to her office on Peachtree Street in Atlanta and filled out the paperwork to begin the process. We then went to the Fayette County Sheriff's Office to go get fingerprinted and get a copy of our criminal records, another day to remember. We walked up to the counter and addressed the clerk who was separated from us by a sheet of Plexiglas with two holes in it—one for communicating and the other for passing papers and such. The clerk was a really young girl who didn't appear to be a day over 18 and made us wonder if this was her first day on the job. We requested our records, paid the fee, filled out the paperwork, and then stood there and waited for our reports. From where we were standing we could see the machine that printed them out. We watched as the clerk went over and retrieved Lindsey's report first. She pulled it off the printer and came back to us and smiled as she handed us a blank piece of paper that was proof of Lindsey's squeaky clean past.

She then returned to the printer and waited on my report. After a rather lengthy wait, (I imagine that even the computer had problems compiling such a magnitude of horror), the printer finally began spitting it out. The young clerk's back was to us as she stood there waiting; she would glance over her shoulder and smile at us every so often as if to say that she was sorry for the slow computer. As my rap sheet began to come out, however, her cute little smile began to fade into something strained, as if she needed to pass gas but wasn't quite sure whether or not we could hear her through the Plexiglas. My record went all the way to the floor and began to fold back and forth, back and forth, like an accordion expanding and contracting, and every few minutes the young girl would glance over her shoulder with that new smile while Lindsey and I felt like crawling beneath the counter and hiding until it was over.

After what seemed like an eternity she stooped over, collected what looked like something from a paper drive, walked back over to us and fed it through the slot in the window as we just smiled that smile at each other. We thanked her and headed to the car thanking God that was

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Life or Death



I wish I could report that we were able to help Josh get his life together, but we were not. We tried everything we knew—from church, to affection, to tough love, to time-outs, to gifts, to ... everything. Nothing worked with Josh. He was kicked out of school shortly, put on probation, sentenced to juvenile, and ended up in the same YDC that I was in for five years. He got out when he was 18, went right back to making wrong choices, and was killed by the Fulton County Swat Team in a drug raid when he was 24 years old. Josh had gotten involved with the Russian Mafia and got mixed up with the wrong people. I will never forget the night they called me and informed me of his death. Nothing can prepare you for a call like that. It will be with me for the rest of my life. Josh is buried on our property near a chapel that I built when I first bought the place. His headstone has the scripture Genesis 50:20 on it: "What the enemy means for harm God means for good that many people's lives will be saved."

8. Falling Forward / 131

I sometimes stand new men in our ministry in front of his tombstone and allow them to look at his grave and at the chapel at the same time. I remind them that they have a choice to make. They can either choose life or they can choose death. The choice is theirs. My hope is that looking at Josh's grave will sober them so that God can use Josh's death to help the next man make a better choice. It's all about falling—or as some have put it: *failing*—forward and getting mileage out of the mess. We must strive to capitalize on every negative move the enemy makes so that God can take what he means for harm and use it for our good. I believe the best for Josh. I had seen him at the altar of the church on occasion when he first came to live with us weeping, confessing his sins, and asking God to come into his heart. I also led him to the water a multitude of times, and I am praying that he will be in heaven; that his conversion was real.

💡 This type of thing can really make a person ponder. *What part did I have to play in this? Would Josh be alive today had I been there as a father? I don't know. I know there are a lot of single moms and a lot of children with step-moms and step-dads who turn out great. Although his life ended in a very unlikely manner, I still find myself asking how his life might have been different if I had made different choices. King David also had to be different. He, too, lost his son Absalom who, like Josh,*



Amnesty Help



CHAPTER 10

TWO ASTONISHING MILESTONES

Pardon Me, Pastor...

Somewhere along this road of sanctification two milestones occurred in my life. The first occurred one day as I was sitting in my office. One of the girls who worked for me at the time walked up to my desk and said, "John, have you ever thought about asking for a pardon from the Department of Corrections for your crimes? You are a Chaplain for them, you do so much good for people, and it's been so long now that I bet they would give you one. What do you think?"

I just looked at her thinking how sweet she was and how much I appreciated her kind words and heartfelt emotion, but I also sat there thinking how naive and gullible she was as well. Then I responded with something like, "Sweetheart, are you OK? Did you forget to take your meds again this morning? It'll be all right, just go sit down a moment until it passes."

She said, "I'm serious, John. I believe they should give you a pardon."

I shrugged. "I used to believe in Super Man until I jumped out of a tree and broke my arm trying to fly. Have you ever seen my record? They don't just hand out pardons to repeat offenders. I appreciate your heart in this, but to answer your question: No, I haven't thought about it and I won't. It would be a complete waste of time."

She then told me, if I was OK with it, she would like to check in



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Complete Pardon



132 / A Bare Hip

To pacify her I told her to go ahead but not to waste much time on it because it wasn't possible. She agreed and walked off smiling. I just sat there thinking how kind the thought was and how her zeal inspired me even though I was truly concerned with her logic. Remember, she was my employee and I was paying her to think.

Well, I had kind of forgotten all about it until one day, many months later, I got home from work and checked the mail. To my surprise I found a letter from the Department of Corrections addressed to me. I will never forget opening it and reading it right there beside the mailbox.

STATE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES



PARDON

IN WISCONSIN, the Governor, under Article IV, Section 25, of the Constitution, has the honor to grant pardons and to commute sentences, and to grant paroles to prisoners in the State Prison, subject to the approval of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles.

NAME	DATE OF PARDON	REASON	REMARKS
Barrow, John Glenn	12/1/2004	Full Pardon	Full Pardon
Barrow, John Glenn	12/1/2004	Full Pardon	Full Pardon
Barrow, John Glenn	12/1/2004	Full Pardon	Full Pardon
Barrow, John Glenn	12/1/2004	Full Pardon	Full Pardon

APPROVED AND GRANTED BY: *John Glenn Barrow*
GOVERNOR OF WISCONSIN



Pardon from the Department of Corrections

petition and gone around soliciting letters from a multitude of people, including my pastor, the chief of police, lawyers, judges, and others. She

In the past anything that was sent to me with the words "Department of Corrections" on it usually caused my heart to skip a beat. I was afraid they might want to "correct" me some more...

But this time it was far from being anything negative. It was something that any man who had ever been to prison would love to see and something that very few have the honor of receiving. Well, remember how I told the sweet little gullible girl that a pardon was never going to happen? Well, guess what? *It did.* The letter was a pardon with a gold seal on it officially pardoning me of all my past crimes. The dear girl had drawn up a

10: The Amazing Affair / 133

then began building her case and went at it with a vengeance to show that I was no longer the same guy I used to be and that I truly had reformed.

Talk about being blown away. *I Was Blown Away* I had been so sure that a pardon was impossible, that it simply couldn't be done. But all it took was someone who believed in me enough to really go after it and prove to the state that I was a different man. I will always be grateful for what she did for me. She not only helped me get a pardon, but she helped me remember, once again, the size of the God we serve.

Atlanta City Church

Certificate of Ordination

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE SIGNATURE BEARING
ON THE ATTACHED CITY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CARD BELONGS TO

John Glenn Barrow

AS A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE COUNTY OF
DeKalb

Elder/Evangelist

WE GRANT HIM THE RIGHT TO PREACH THE WORD, ADMINISTER ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH, READING THE WRITING OF SCRIPTURE, BAPTISM, THE LORD'S SUPPER, AND TO PERFORM ALL THE DUTIES OF HIS OFFICE AS A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH, IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAWS AND ORDINANCES OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, WHICH HE RECEIVED. HE IS COMMANDED TO ALL MEN BY THE UNDERGOING ALL A TRUE MEMBERSHIP OF THIS CHURCH, PARTICULARLY TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD AND THE BRETHREN OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.



John Glenn Barrow *Apr 19th 2004*
MEMBER OF THE CHURCH PRESIDENT DATE

Certificate of Ordination

Another honor bestowed upon me came when I was chosen to be a fellow pastor and elder at my church. I had been attending Atlanta City Church, now known as New City Church, for some time when the pastor asked me if I would be interested in the position. After a very brief period of thinking and praying over it, I said, "Yes." I sensed deep in my heart that as the days ahead unfolded I would become more and more involved with ministry in one way or another, though I just didn't know how and where. Being chosen at that time to help shepherd God's flock was definitely in line with that goal. Shortly thereafter I was ordained by

Angle 1

- ❖ Length of life is the inward concerns of life. The inward concerns is what pushes people to push forward to achieve goals and ambitions. Loving yourself means you must accept yourself.
- ❖ God has given everyone something significant and we must pray to God asking Him to help us accept ourselves. After accepting ourselves, we must discover what we have been called to do in a way that the living, the dead and the unborn will not be able to do any better.

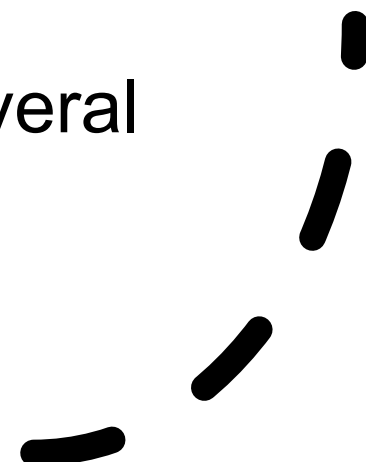


Angle 1 Continued

- ❖ Many people do not get any further in life than the length. They develop their inner powers and do their jobs well. They try to live as if no one else lives in the world but themselves. They use everyone as tools. They do not love anyone but themselves. The only kind of love they have is 'utilitarian Love.' They never get beyond the first dimension of life. They use other people as steps to climb up the ladder of life. These people do not work well in life. The law of gravitation catches up with them.



Angle 2

- ❖ The breadth of life is the outward concerns for the welfare of others. Any man that cannot rise above the narrow confines of the narrow concerns of their lives has not begun to live. The parable of the Good Samaritan brings several ideas in
- 
- A decorative graphic consisting of several thick, black, curved dashes arranged in a semi-circular pattern at the bottom right of the slide.



Angle 2 Continued The Priest and Levite

- ◆ They could have been running late to church.
- ◆ They were involved in priestly matters and one of the laws says to administer the sacrament, you could not touch human body 24 hours before.
- ◆ They could be going down to Jericho to organize a Jericho Road Improvement Association thinking that it was better to handle the causal problem than the individual victim.
- ◆ It could be that they passed by because they were simply afraid. The road is hilly, windy, dangerous, curving and meandering conducive for robbery. The road is 16 miles in distance. Jerusalem is 2200 ft above sea level and Jericho is 1200 ft below sea level. In Jesus days it became known as the bloody path. The Levites question was, “What will happen to me if I stop to help this man?” The Samaritan reversed the question and said, “What will happen to this man if I don't help him?”





Angle 2 Continued



- ❖ It could have just been they were passing judgement instead of showing mercy.
- ❖ God wants us to ask ourselves, “What will happen to humanity if I don't help?”
- ❖ In this church, God has brought me for a purpose. What will happen if I miss the purpose for which God has brought me to this church?
- ❖ In the final analysis, God's question to you will not be, how many awards, how popular were you, how many degrees, how beautiful was your house, how much money, stocks and bonds did you have, or what kind of car? It will be what did you do for others? There is nothing greater than doing something for others. Don't forget that you have what you have because of others. We are tied together in this world. You are able to live everyday because of what other people did. Forget about paying for anything. Consider what you needed to make it this morning from brushing your teeth.....



**Help
Someone
Else**



Angle 3

- ❖ The Height is the upward reach for God. Law of sowing and reaping catches up with them. We neglect the third dimension not knowing that we are neglecting it. Atheism is the theory that there is no God. One is a theoretical kind just sitting down and thinking it while the other is the practical kind living as if there is no God. Some affirm the existence of God with their lips and deny His existence with their lives.



Angle 3 Continued



- ❖ People think of technology and forget about the stars that bedeck the sky. They think about radar and TV and forget The Lord that created the seasons without each failing to appear at their God ordained times. We think about man's progress and forget about God's place in history. Man knows a great deal, but their knowledge does not eliminate God.





Angle 3 Continued

- ❖ God asked Moses to tell the Israelites I am that I am. The same first and last name. We are all who we are because of our parents, environmental conditions and education. God has not turned the rulership of the universe to anyone.





Angle 3 Continued

- ❖ You may not be able to define God in philosophical terms.
- ❖ Plato said He was Architectonic Good.
- ❖ Aristotle called Him Unmoved Mover.
- ❖ Hegel called Him Absolute Whole.
- ❖ Paul Tillich called Him Being Itself.





Karl Marx

- ❖ Karl Marx described God as: "The one Omnipresent God, self inclosed over against everything else, disclosed to Himself and everything else, enclosing Himself and everything else, His self enclosure is no less than His disclosure and enclosure of all things. His uniqueness and simplicity no less than His spatiality that is grounded in Himself, posited, maintained and executed by Himself."





To You and Me

- ❖ Those descriptions of God are all high sounding and we do not understand the languages, but we should be able to rise up and say I know Him, the Rose of Sharon, Maker of Heaven and Earth, The Lord of the Universe, the Battle Axe in the time of Babylon, the Lily of the Valley, the Deliverer...

That is our God.





Northern Star Ministries

Take Home Points

- ❖ Accept the Lord Jesus as your Savior.
- ❖ Submit yourself to the Holy Ghost.
- ❖ Discover yourself through the leading of the H.G.
- ❖ Develop your length.
- ❖ Reach out the breadth.
- ❖ Set your eyes to the on High.

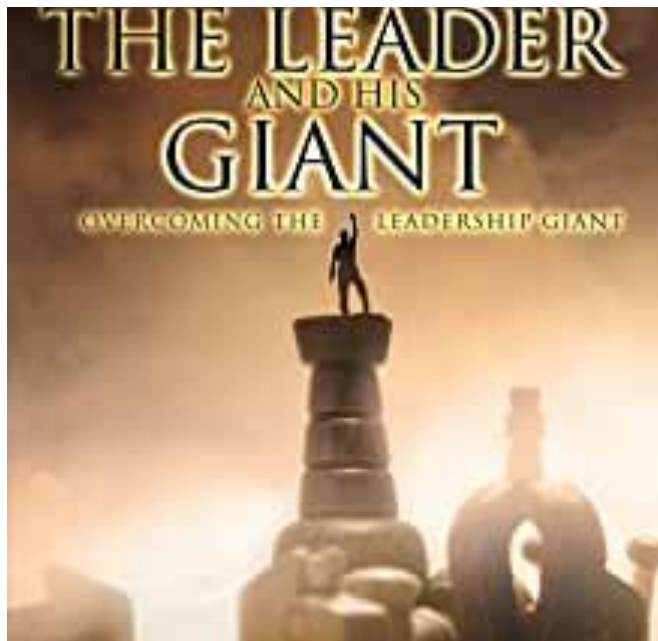
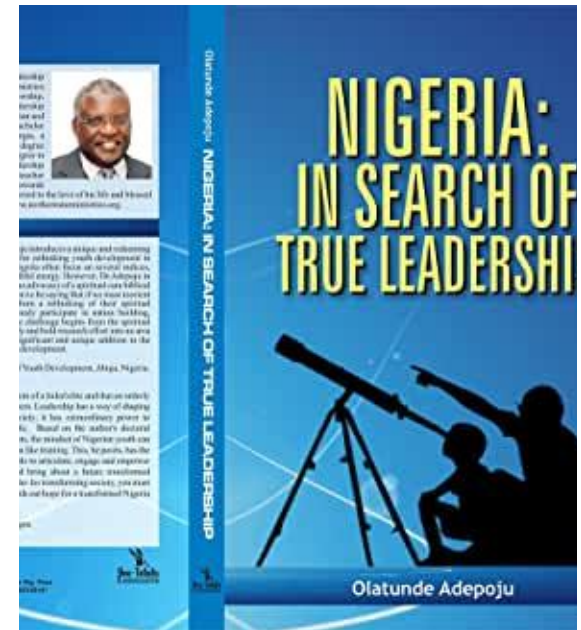
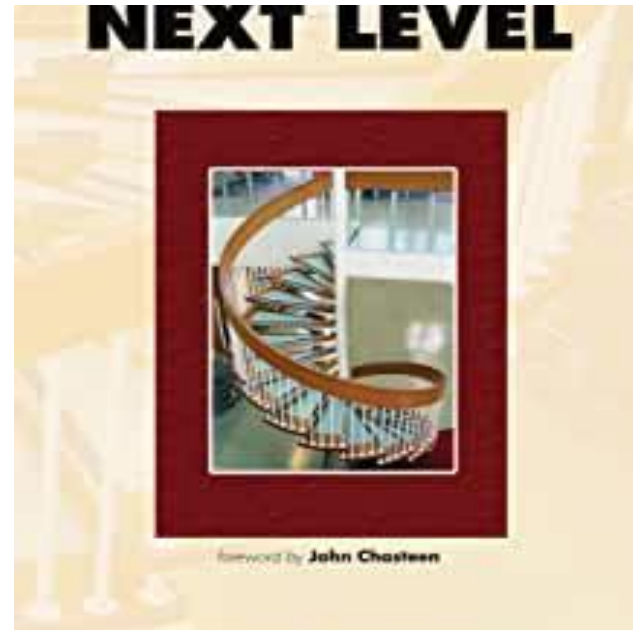
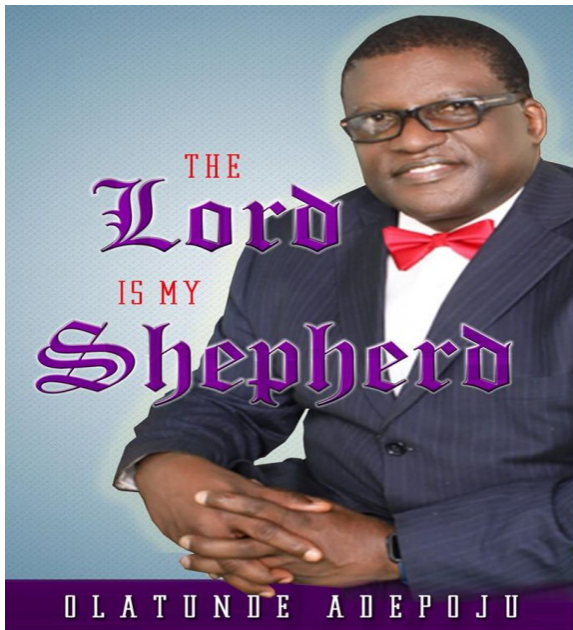


In Conclusion

Isaiah 62:6-7 KJV

I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth





Books



Thank You !

