



*A TALE OF ONE
HELPED BY GOD*

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the Ever-Faithful Father, who has never caused His faithfulness to fail in my life!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and Foremost, I give God, the Creator of the Universe, my utmost gratitude for everything He has done in my life for the past 25 years. He is my Father, Lover and Care-r. Indeed, He has been faithful!

I want to appreciate my blessed parents whom the Lord has put me in their care. Thank you both for doing your best to see that I become a woman after God's heart. I heart you big time, my greatest cheer leaders!

My siblings- Dorcas, Delight, David- I couldn't have prayed for better siblings! My lovers and supporters, You guys rock my world!

My big sisters from another mother- Lizzy Oyebola Yakubu, Oluwadarasimi Popoola, OluwaDamilola Abe and OluwaDamilola Iyiola- Thank you for training me in the ways of the LORD in your own little ways.

OluwaDamilola Abe, I can't thank you enough! But, THANK YOU!!!

My big brothers- Shina Okanlawon, Segun Odupitan, Jerry Olatoyan, Fijabi Tobi- Thank you for encouraging me to do more!

My awe-mazing friends Joshua Ade, Seun Oyelude, GreenTouch, Oluwaseun, Temidayo, Blessing, Bobade, John Ifeoluwa, Hannah Olatunde, Oluwasekemi, Esther Oyekunle, AdeJumoke, Hannah Ishola, Tosyne and so many others.... I appreciate you for your immense impacts in my life. Thanks for keeping up with my excesses!

YOU reading this, I appreciate you for glorifying GOD with me!

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PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

To share the testimony of God's faithfulness in my life.

“So that all the people of the earth may know [without any doubt] and acknowledge that the hand of the Lord is mighty and extraordinarily powerful, so that you will fear the Lord your God [and obey and worship Him with profound awe and reverence] forever.” Joshua 4:24 AMP

After secondary school, I had a little delay before I gained admission into the University. I made a promise to God that if He will favor and grant my heart desire (gaining admission), I will share the testimony(ies) with all and sundry. I am fulfilling my promise to Him hence the reason for this book.

I pray that you will be blessed and glorify God with me as you read this book. Amen!

Chapter 1

MY NATURAL BIRTH

My mum often shared my birth story with me, and I can't help but thank God for His presence in my life right from my conception. I was given birth to on a Tuesday and the Yoruba transcription to this day is '***Ojo Isegun***' which means '***The day of victory***'. Indeed, my mum was victorious all through the process of delivery!

Mum was cajoled to another hospital by some church persons other than the one she had booked the pregnancy. In her naivety and being a young wife, she wanted to obey the elders. Unknown to her, it was one of the devil's plots to claim her life and that of her unborn child. She had been in labor for more than 24 hours, yet her cervix was not dilating over 6cm. My mum was getting exhausted and the way forward was undergoing a caesarean section. The elders said it was not possible and they started praying vehemently against undergoing a caesarean section.

All the while, in mum's weak state, she was praying that God should have His way. As God would intervene, a spiritual father to my mum got to know about the situation and ordered that my mum should be operated upon immediately. The procedure of the CS was not done properly leading to prolonged pain and healing time on the part of my mum. But today, my mum is strong, healthy and bouncing in God's grace.

To God be the glory!

I have come to the realization that God knows about me even before I was conceived and His will for my life cannot be truncated by any man. **If God be for me, who can be against me?!**



Chapter 2

SOME CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

Growing up was fun under the tutelage of my parents with divine help from God. My mum told me of several instances where I had convulsions(seizures) of unknown cause every 3 months of my early infancy. Convulsions of unknown cause might be as a result of brain disorders leading to decreased brain function at a point in time. Epilepsy might be the final diagnosis and in some cases, there is usually retardation in growth and development. But I thank the Almighty God, that was not my case! Mum said the episodes of seizures stopped miraculously and unexplainably.

I vividly remembered some cases where we were faced with getting involved in an accident.

My Siblings and I were in the car with my mum driving, on a very busy road in Ogbomoso (Takie road). Our car was behind a trailer in motion. As we got to a high place, the trailer couldn't move forward again hence it was reversing and the break couldn't hold it. My mum tried reversing the car but there were other cars behind her which made it difficult for her to reverse swiftly. Suddenly, we realized what was going on and we started crying out JESUS! JESUS! JESUS! Immediately, the trailer stopped! We knew back then that God used His "remote control" to stop that trailer for us to be safe!

One day in Primary 5, my dad couldn't come pick us from school, so we were told to follow my friend's (Lois Oladele- in diaspora) mom. When she came, we all hopped into the car and she drove off. While in the car, she told us that she's going to the mechanic workshop to fix the car's brake as she's noticing some dysfunctions. When we got on the main road (Takie), she was steadily driving. We

were amid other moving cars when the brake suddenly failed! Mrs. Oladele started praying and we joined her not knowing what had happened. How God cleared the road for us is incomprehensible by me till today! I can't seem to understand how the car stopped on its own at one corner of the road.

He never sleeps nor slumbers!

He watches over His own!

The devil was not ready to stop and was really after my "head". There are instances to prove that fact.

I was in church one day; we had just finished a program- Sunday Service I think- I was running and I bumped into a shoe (I don't know how it got there). Consequentially, I fell and hit my head against the edge of a wooden bench. Immediately, I had a bruise, blood loss was minimal, but I sustained a deep wound on my forehead. Thank God, the scar is off my face now!

Another instance was when there was an accident while my mum was a learner in driving. We were coming back from church in the night. I can remember my Dad trying to direct Mum, but it wasn't in a calm way. Mum miscalculated the drive and boom, she hit a coming vehicle! The resulting effect was that I hit my forehead against the head rest of the driver's seat. I had a cut on my face (eyebrow) but thank God the scar is not visible except you look at my face thoroughly.

Another fateful day, in the children section of the church where I worship, a large loudspeaker (those heavy black ones) was placed a slab close to the roof. As

children were playing around, I sat down calmly on the bench waiting for the next program to start. Suddenly, there was a bang on my head, a ringing sensation in my brain and ears occurred and immediately I was subconscious of what happened. Guess what! the speaker lost balance on the slab, fell and landed on my head. I didn't go unconscious, but I couldn't find my balance for few days.

In all, I am here today with my head intact and brain in excellent working condition.

God kept me!

His mercy kept me!

So, I wouldn't let go!



Chapter 3

MY SUPERNATURAL BIRTH

I was born into a Christian family and was raised in the ways of the LORD. My parents ensured that we knew God by ourselves right from our childhood. But all through those years, I had never had a personal encounter with God. I lied and stole money with the thought that it was for my mum and she won't do anything about it. I remember coming out for altar call several times during Children's day program held in church. In short, I was a moralist! At a time in secondary school, I was almost getting involved in sexual sins but for God's mercy!

In June 2013, on a fateful and blessed night, during one of the monthly programs in church, I met God! Oh! It was a glorious night! It was like my dirty life book opened in front of me and I realized that I needed God genuinely to have a beautiful life book. I was convicted of my moralist lifestyle. I felt a heavy load being taken off me. I deeply felt the need for God's supremacy in my life. I wept uncontrollably for forgiveness of my sins and afterwards I felt a calmness and I had an indescribable joy and peace in my soul. But along the line, I defaulted in my walk with God. He helped me realized this and I rededicated my life back to Him on October 12, 2014. Ever since then I have been enjoying God and my relationship with Him has been improving.

Dear friend, are you heavy laden with sin and you're looking for a way out?? Only in God can you find utmost peace. God loves you compassionately and calls out for you today to surrender your all to Him. No matter the volume of your sin, He is ever ready to forgive all and give you a brand-new life. Just take that bold step of FAITH of reconciliation today!



Chapter 4

MY EDUCATIONIONAL BACKGROUND

My educational journey started relatively fast. I started school at a very young age of 2½ years. I did not have any delay right from nursery school to secondary school. But the devil raised his ugly head when I finished secondary school in 2011. Behold! There was a deficit in my WAEC result. There was a default in Mathematics- one of the most important subjects as a prerequisite into the University! The same thing happened in NECO. I must say that in the course of my writing the examination in 2011, I participated in examination malpractice. I had thought it would help me and I would have a very excellent result. Alas, it was woeful! My parents said I must go back to secondary school to get a complete result!

In 2012, I went back to secondary school in Ibadan (Oyo state). I couldn't stay back in Ogbomoso (Oyo state) because of shame and the thought of "what will people say". I had to heed to my parent suggestions and go back to a secondary school in Ibadan (where I met wonderful friends- Esther Oyekunle, Udofia Glory, Adejumo John and Ezekiel Yinka). It is a secondary school with boarding facilities and automatically I became a boarder. For me, being in the boarding house was filled with mixed feelings but it was fun anyways. I am happy I lent a helping hand to those who needed it one way or the other back then. I am happy I made new friends too.

In any little way, within your capacity, help those who need help. In the long run, you will be glad you did!

When we go through some situations in life, most times, we do not seem to understand the 'why'. But God who knows the end from the beginning knows the

'why'. Now, I have realized that God was unhappy with me back then and He wouldn't want me to go through the stress of restituting my ways if I had a complete result from malpractice. I would have accorded the success to myself, but God is a jealous God. He wants all glory back unto Himself. Therefore, He allowed it for me to go through the right means and process. If not, I will not be bold to talk about His goodness in my life today! Indeed, GOD is a good God! **He is a MASTER PLANNER!!!**



J A Y D A T



Chapter 5

MY TESTIMONIES OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Heavenly Father, which of Your goodness will I deny???

At the center of it all...it is YOU that I see!

When there seemed to be no way, YOU made a way!

I can gallantly say 'TO GOD BE THE GLORY'!!!!!!

My WAEC result was not complete!

Please, do know that my going back to secondary school did not guarantee my success in both WAEC and NECO again! All this while, I was passing JAMB. But it was like wasted efforts because I couldn't use the results.

I was very hopeful about the WAEC results in that year 2012. But I don't know why I had to put in for WAEC/GCE that same year. I knew what I wrote in the exams and that it would yield an excellent result. Alas, I failed woefully! Okay, thank God, I had a backup (which I concluded was God-ordained). I went ahead to write the WAEC/GCE in August/September 2012. I had put hope in God and waited for the result. In December, that same year, I followed my maternal Uncle to Holy Ghost Convention and there I vehemently prayed to God that that was the last exam I was going to write. Like I was done already!

Guess what! God heard and answered my prayers. I was in the room in my Uncle's house when I got the news that the result was out. Believe me, my heart was literally racing as I was about checking the result on my phone using one code like

that. I screamed and jumped up in gratitude when I saw my result. It was complete!!! (I became teary as I wrote this). God came through for me!

Truly, God honored me in ways I never expected.

I gained admissions on merit!...

I remembered one day, during my waiting days for admission, a Pastor-family friend of ours came to visit and shared a passage of the Bible with me ***"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the tread-er of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt"***. Amos 9:13

"The Bible verse means that you shouldn't bother about those who are higher than you(me) now, but you should be assured that you will get there and surpass them" "Don't look at another person's time to run" "You will get admission and finish well" "God will do it" He said.

I believed those words and kept on trusting God for admission. I kept on praying and promised God that I will share the testimony with all and sundry if He grants my heart desires. All the while, I have been filling NURSING SCIENCE as course with OAU and LAUTECH as institutions in JAMB form. But in my 3rd time of writing JAMB, I just felt like trying UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN out even with the mindset of their strict ways of admitting students. At a point, my mum was like maybe we should approach some persons we know. But I said no because I knew God was involved already!

Prior this, I had gotten forms for SCHOOL OF NURSING (Osun state and U.C.H, Ibadan). I went for both examinations but was unsuccessful in Osun state. I was very happy when I gained admission into School of Nursing, U.C.H., Ibadan in 2013. I resumed in October 2013.

A 6-month strike action occurred in year 2013 and this delayed the admission process of many Universities. The strike was later called off and I was called upon to come write Post-UTME in the University of Ibadan. I didn't prepare very well for the exam, so I had a very low post-UTME score of 53. At least, I was happy I would be given any course of study since I scored above 50. I had doubted studying NURSING SCIENCE with that low score.

Need I say that the result of the WAEC/GCE I wrote was with credits in all the subjects. I had planned I would use a combined result (I passed WAEC 2012 with distinctions, only deficits in Mathematics and Chemistry). Forward to when the Post-UTME cut-off was released, I was scared when I wanted to check the cut-off for NURSING SCIENCE. **I was shocked when I saw the cut-off as 53, my exact post-UTME score!!** WHAT!!! I couldn't curtail my joy!

Right there, I knew it was God's will for me to study NURSING and become a nurse. As far as I know, in the history of University of Ibadan, post-UTME score for NURSING SCIENCE has never been that low, before and after my set. But God chose to defile all protocols for my sake! **Halleluyah!!!!**

Gradually, I started the registration process. Funnily enough, combination of results was not part of the requirements for Medical courses. How will I submit a result filled with Credits to the greatest Premier University??? Again, Economics

was part of the requirements, but I did not write Economics in WAEC/GCE. In faith, I submitted the complete result like that bearing in mind that God was in control.

Surely, **GOD was in total control** as I saw my name on the first list of admission into the UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN to study NURSING SCIENCE. I resumed on the 6th of June, 2014.

Prior resumption....

On the 21st of May, 2014, two days to my 19th birthday, my parents had some things to do in Ibadan so we embarked on a journey to Ibadan. It was also an opportunity to prepare for my resumption. About 20 minutes into the journey, we had an accident! We were hit from behind and our car was swiftly moved to a bridge. It took God's divine protection and *remote control* to stop the car from entering the bridge. For some minutes, we were unaware of what had happened. But God helped us to get out of the car by ourselves! We could not fathom how God kept us alive and we came out unscratched!

I finished University studies successfully- His unfailing faithfulness

First semester in 100 level, Femi Olapade, my secondary school colleague and a senior in the University said to me "***Favour brought you into this school, Favour will take you out***". And that was exactly what happened!

Sincerely, I entered the University with a serious and unserious mindset. My unserious mindset affected my 100I and 200I cumulative grades. I never liked calculative courses which were prerequisites in those levels. I tried my best to study them, but I guess my best was not enough as I didn't pass those courses very well and it really affected my cumulative grade points.

In 300I, I started trying harder to meet up with my cumulative grade points as I was in a second-class lower grade. One beautiful morning, during my quiet time, I had prayed to God concerning my grades, telling Him about my desire to graduate with a Second Class Upper as I was many inches farther away a First class. For me, graduating with a Second-class lower wasn't an option at all. I had also prayed for His will to be done. As I opened my Bible to read that morning, my eyes caught a verse in the book of Psalms, ***"Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail."*** Psalms 89:33. Right there, with emphasis on **"nor suffer my faithfulness to fail"** I knew my prayers were answered. All I needed to do was to keep on holding on to that word all through.

In 400 and 500levels, I did everything possible to get my grades up the ladder of cumulative grade points and God helped me. Up until 500I second semester, I still had my hopes up. By then, I was very close to Second Class Upper and I knew it was going to happen, but I did not know 'how'.

After everything, I saw my name as graduating with a Second Class Lower. I was sad and devastated! I cried my eyes out! My parents and friends encouraged me to see it as God's will and that God will bring out "something out of my nothing". In me, I was like God, **what happened to Your promise???** In my unhappiness, I

celebrated my 24th birthday and celebrated my Induction into the Nursing Profession. In all, I encouraged myself that that was His will.

Unknown to me, **He knew what He was doing!**

His ways are not our ways...

God favored my Set (colleagues) and we got One-year Internship placement almost immediately after graduation. Part of the requirements for recruitment was Statement of Result. This was not yet made ready by the University and we resulted to using our transcripts. My course rep and friend, Raji Adejumo, helped in requesting for our transcripts from the Department. When I got my transcript, I looked through and behold there laid a costly mistake! An extra course was added to my registered courses in 500level and this reduced my cumulative grade points. If this course should be deleted and the transcript rectified, I will be on Second Class Upper! What!!! I immediately notified my department and I underwent the necessary procedure of rectification even though it was not a funny experience, but it was worth it!

Thanks be unto God, that the issue was detected early. If not, it would have been more difficult to rectify if I had convocated and my certificate would have borne 'Second Class Lower'. It would have taken some time before it can be rectified.

To the glory of God, I finished school on the 27th of May, 2019.

Truly, favor took me into the University and favor brought me out!

In all, God came through for me!

He gave me beauty for my ashes! Glory!!!



IN Conclusion.....

I strive daily, to be who God wants me to be. I am convinced that He created me for His purpose and that is all I want to live for! I AM WHO GOD SAYS I AM!!

Dear friends, I want to encourage you to be rest assured that God knows you before you were born! He has created you for His glory alone and you are not a mistake! God wants you to bring glory to His name by walking in His purpose. He wants you to please Him in all areas of your life. All you must do is FEAR HIM and depart from every sinful way.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Proverbs 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD and depart from evil.

Friends, please know and be reassured that God works in mysterious ways!

His thoughts are higher than ours!

He honors His word more than His name!

His words are pure and infallible

A word from Him will not return unto Him void, it must surely be fulfilled

What is it that God has promised you??? Wait on Him, sooner or later, it shall come to pass whatsoever He has said unto you. He will give you beauty for your ashes! Don't lose faith, GOD IS NOT DONE WITH YOU!

May God speedily grant you your heart desires according to His will in Jesus name! Amen

Shalom!

ABOUT THE BOOK

This book was written as a way of fulfilling the promise I made to God some years back. Sharing the testimonies of God's goodness and faithfulness in the life of an individual is something that should be done without hesitation. It serves as a way of encouraging others.

I pray you shall be blessed and encouraged as you read this book.

Amen



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Deborah Tolulope Okanlawon, is the Daughter of the Most High, who strives daily to please Him in all her ways. A Graduate Nurse from the Prestigious Premier University, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State with a Bachelor's degree in Nursing Science. She is a registered nurse-midwife and a certified Family Planning Service Provider. She is an upcoming Reproductive health, Maternal and Child Health expert. She is a budding fashion designer and pastry chef.