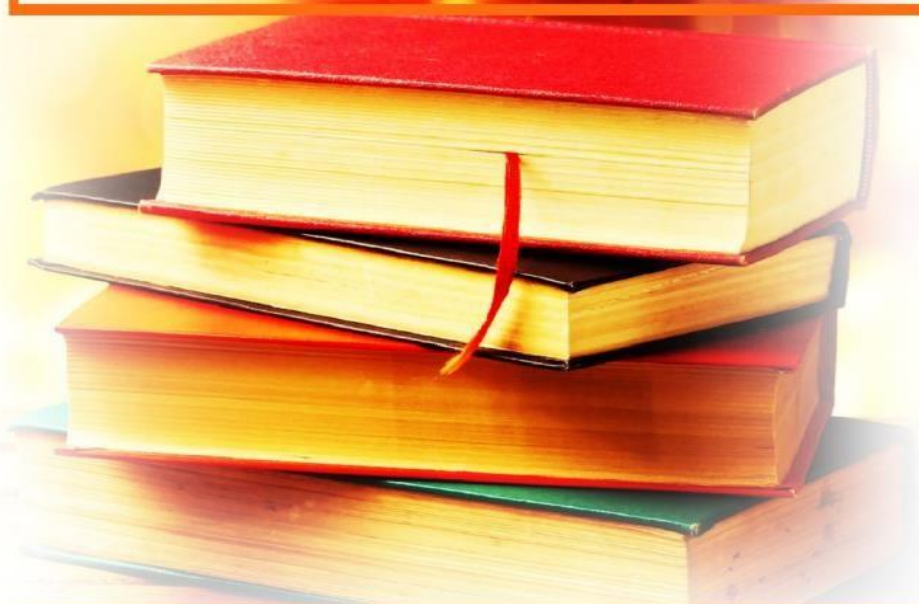


*Encounter
Through*

BOOKS



EMMANUEL BOSOMPRAH

ENCOUNTER THROUGH BOOKS

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All scripture quotations are from the King James
Version of the Bible except otherwise stated

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DEDICATION

This Book is dedicated to the Body of Christ worldwide

INTRODUCTION

1 Corinthians 12:1

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren I would not have you ignorant

The desire of God is clearly revealed in the verse of scripture above – he does not want his children to be ignorant. Amazing as this desire of God is, it's sad that many Christians are still ignorant of a lot of spiritual things.

The quality of your life is proof that God's desire for you and you walking in the experiential reality of that desire are two different things altogether. God desires above all else that you be prosperous and walk in divine health but are you experientially prosperous? Why is that so? Bishop David Oyedepo has the answer. He says "*That God says it does not make you have it*". You've got to settle down and engage the appropriate kingdom keys that deliver to you what God has said.

Getting wisdom, knowledge and understanding is thus of prime importance.

One primary way to access these is by the key of reading books. In this booklet I want to stimulate and bring to your attention the utmost importance of reading books and show you how much you are missing out if you are not an avid reader.

This material is made available to you for your development and benefit via Faithful Bookshop, the place where we transform lives through the agency of books.

I trust that as you take the time to go through this material, the Lord would quicken to your understanding the importance of reading books.

The material is written in article format so that you could assimilate the truths one after the other. God bless you.

Encounter 1

Joshua 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: **for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous**, and then thou shalt have good success.

Did you see that? **This book** (of the law) shall not depart from your mouth. **Meditate therein!**

Meditation is essential to and for the Christian. It's the key to making your way prosperous and enjoying good success but did you notice that the subject of meditation is in connection to a book? The entire Christian experience revolves around a book – THE BIBLE

If you truly want prosperity in your life, then align yourself with Gods programme. It starts with a book- the BIBLE. It's wisdom thus to get a spirit inspired book and begin reading. Your prosperity is connected to a book. Ask all the prosperous people in our world today, they are book lovers and avid readers. Getting a good book and reading is where it starts from.

Encounter 2

Daniel 9:2

In the first year of his reign **I Daniel understood by books** the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Daniel, according to the bible was a man in whom dwelt the Spirit of wisdom. God gave it to him. The testimony of this Spirit of wisdom functioning in the life of Daniel was that in all the kingdom of Babylon, he was 10 times better than the best scholars of his time. You could say that he was the elite of the elite – a man full of wisdom and understanding, having insights into the plans and purposes of God. A man that had the ability to interpret dreams and visions. A man the bible says had an excellent spirit. In the midst of all these virtues and accolades accompanying him, he pens down for us a secret which many have either not found or are too unconcerned to engage in their lives. **THE KEY OF READING BOOKS**

Daniel says of himself

I Daniel understood by books...

Encounter 3

Let's take a cue from a story as told by Dr. Myles Munroe (an authority on leadership and discovering your purpose in life) regarding himself. Dr. Munroe says that when he gained admission to Oral Roberts University, he was excited. Having paid his fees and being seated in the lecture hall, he anxiously awaited his first lecture expecting to learn a lot.

Well, it happened that when the lecturer entered the class, after the usual pleasantries, he instructed them to go to the Library, look out a certain book, read certain selected pages and that they (the class) would discuss it at the next lecture. Guess what happened next? The lecturer dismissed the class and walked out! This stunned Dr. Myles Munroe. Anyways, he got to the school Library and saw this expanse of books arranged in shelves. Then it occurred to him that he had paid thousands of dollars only for someone to tell him simply **GO AND READ A BOOK!**

Dr. Myles Munroe is today celebrated all over the world. Although he has departed this world, his influence and impact undeniably still lives on. He reminds us solemnly that we ought to make books our friends if we desire greatness in this life.

Encounter 4

Every great man today is a lover of books. How do you expect to lead when you are not a reader? Dr. Myles Munroe says that he has read over 300 books on male and female differences alone. Yes, you read right! If that's the case for male female differences alone, you can imagine the tones of books he has read.

Bishop David Oyedepo (President of Winners Chapel International and Chancellor of Covenant University - Nigeria) says that reading is to him what food is to others. In other words, his food is reading! In answering a question about what he spent his time doing, he responded by saying **“I read and I think”**. He also says that he believes his personal library is one of the largest in the land and that when he travels, he returns home with boxes full of books.

Pastor Mensah Otabil (Founder of International Central Gospel Church, ICGC, and recently rated as the most influential Pastor in Ghana now) says that he would be shocked if there were anybody in Ghana who has read more books on leadership than he had. He really would have read so many books to warrant such a statement. No wonder he is the founder of Central University.

Dr. Yonggi Cho, rated as pastor of the largest church in the world says that his wife pills up books that she thinks he should read by his bedside from time to time.

From all indications, reading is living and an avid reader today, a leader tomorrow.

Encounter 5

Daniel 9:2

In the first year of his reign **I Daniel understood by books** the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Daniel, a man of wisdom tells us his source of understanding with regards to the prophecy given by Prophet Jeremiah. Although a man of wisdom and knowledge, he received understanding into that prophesy by reading books!

Many people walk about with titles of big positions and yet lack understanding of simple matters. Instead of sitting down to read, many people would rather spend their time on vain, useless arguments and watching of TV.

Child of God, you've got to settle down and be a reader. The insight you need on that job assignment or project is hidden in a book sitting on a shelf close by. It's actually a manifestation of stupidity to dislike books and reading. A wise man of Daniels stature (prime minister to at least three different governments) says he understood by books and you are not a friend of books? Wise up and learn from the wise:

UNDERSTANDING COMES BY BOOKS

Encounter 6

Revelation 1:11

Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, **What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches** which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Jesus Christ stands up for books. It's clear! If you are not a lover of books, reading and writing, then Jesus is not your friend. Jesus Christ is a lover of books. He told John to write what he sees **in a book and to send it to the churches. Mm**

How many of us have missed out on what God has for us simply because we were too proud to read a book Jesus sent our way to help us. Jesus has given insights into issues and truths to certain men to be sent to you via the agency of books. Unfortunately, you detest books and reading. No wonder your life is the way it is. The answer to your question and predicament has been sent to you via a book sitting on the shelves of a bookstore and yet you are still struggling on the matter. If only you knew that Jesus sends answers to our predicaments through books written by inspired men of God, you would change your attitude to books and reading.

Jesus has his stamp on books. A wise thing would be to get a hold of books written by men of who are inspired by the spirit and that ends your long standing problem forever.

What you see, write it in a book and send...

Encounter 7

Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, **What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches** which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Have you considered that the entire Christian experience revolves around a book - THE BIBLE?

How did you know that Jesus was born of a virgin Mary and that he died on the cross for your sins, was buried and rose again from the dead for your justification?

How did you know that the world was created by God?

How did you know that there is a devil who fights against your success and progress?

You are nowhere near 6000 years old so how do you know about Adam and Eve?

How do you know that Jesus Christ ascended to heaven bodily and that he would return again for his church?

I could go on and on but you get the point.

The answer is simple – The BIBLE!! And what's the Bible? IT IS A BOOK given to man by God. God's gift to man is simply a book.

Encounter 9

Till I come, **give attendance to reading**, to exhortation, to doctrine

When the scriptures are explicitly clear on a matter, one does not have to try explaining. In church gatherings, there was a time for the reading of the scriptures to the hearing of all.

Acts 13:15

After the usual readings from the books of Moses and from the prophets, those in charge of the service sent them this message: “brothers , if you have any word of encouragement for us, come and give it!”

Reading was a normal practice for the early church. Are you an avid reader? Then pay heed to the Word of God and give attention to reading.

Encounter 10

John 21:25

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, **if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.** Amen.

Isn't it amazing that God wants us to write books concerning Jesus Christ? The entire life of Jesus before he appeared on the scene was written in a book. Sure!

Hebrews 10:7

Then said I, Lo, I come **(in the volume of the book it is written of me,)** to do thy will, O God.

And guess what? We have insight into his early life on account of books written – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

But that's not all. John tells us that the things documented for us were written so we by reading might believe on Jesus and have eternal life. The more striking part with regards to our subject is the fact that John says there is much more we don't know about the earthly life of Jesus simply because they were not written down. He mentioned that if they were to document every word and

action of Jesus, the world could not contain **the books** which would be written thereof.

Are you seeing what am seeing? What is the channel via which Apostle John says the life of Jesus would be communicated if they chose to?

– **BOOKS!!**

Encounter 11

Acts 19:19 (NLT)

A number of them who had been **practicing magic brought their incantation books** and burned them at a public bonfire. **The value of the books was several million dollars.**

Did you notice the highlighted portions from the verse of scripture? Two things:

1. Practicing magic and reciting incantations were connected to a book (demonic writings now)
2. 2. The value of those books was pretty high.

Well, what happened after the people of Ephesus renounced their allegiance to the devil and burnt the medium of contact with demons

Verse 20

So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect.

Books are valuables. If reading and activating spells from demonic books could have such a strong sway and effect on people, even a whole town, then you can imagine what having and reading plus activating the operations contained in spirit inspired books (the Bible being

foremost) would do. An encounter with a good book has the potential of changing your life forever.

The Bible (a book authored by God) has single handedly changed the entire course of history and continues to do so. If you don't have a Bible, get one and begin reading.

Encounter 12

Revelation 20:12

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; **and the books were opened**: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were **judged out of those things which were written in the books**, according to their works.

Amazing! The entire biography of your life on earth is captured in a book in heaven. When God sits on his throne to judge the world, he would do so according to the information written in books regarding humankind

Yes, there is a library in heaven! Heaven, the place where all Christians are yearning to be is filled with books and yet it's surprising that a number of Christians don't appreciate books and don't like to read. How then would you enjoy heaven? Reading is indeed living.

Encounter 13

Revelation 1:9-11

I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, **for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.** **10** I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, **11 Saying**, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, **What thou seest, write in a book, and send it** unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Am encouraged to

1. Write
2. Write more

On account of this scripture

On a personal level, Jesus Christ tells me to write down what I see/he shows me. Thus

1. I make myself available by functioning in the Spirit
2. Jesus opens my ears to hear and my eyes to see HIS WORD
3. My duty is to write down what Jesus reveals to me.
4. Having penned it down I now send it to the churches (general or specific)

That's one big motivation I have to write and teach the Word of God.

What thou seest, write in a book and send it...

One reason you may not have a message to your generation or why God is not using you to speak to people is simply because you have not written down what he showed/shows you. It's that simple.

Many people are not writers at all. No wonder they don't hear from God much. Why take time to talk to you if my words mean nothing to you?

You have visions, dreams, trances and spiritual experiences and yet won't document them. For now the revelations are yours but what if God has a bigger purpose

for them – to use them to affect the Body of Christ worldwide? What happens?

The reason you are not running with the vision God gave you is because you are not reading it over and over again and guess why you don't read it? It's not written down!

Habakkuk 2:2

And **the LORD** answered me, **and said, Write the vision**, and make *it* plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it

No vision, no writing

No writing, no reading

No reading, no fulfilling of the vision

That means you waste divine resources and set the kingdom of God backwards

Why?

The simple indiscipline of writing and reading!

Determine to be a reader today and be consistent in your reading

God Bless You.