Spiritual

THE BELIEVERS' MAKE UP KIT

OKWARA LICHENNA HILLPRIESTON

Spiritual makeup

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By UCHENNA HILLPRIESTON OKWARA



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MEET THE AUTHOR

Okwara Uchenna Hillprieston is a man of the Word and Music. Having mastered the keyboard, he served as Music Director and keyboardist at Power World Ministries, Umuahia, Abia State, where he worked closely with the General Overseer for four years before proceeding to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) for his tertiary education.

During his stay in UNN, he served as the Music Elder and finally, Associate Pastor of The Abiding Word Gathering (TAWG), UNN, the Campus arm of the Abiding Word Ministries. During his one year National Youth Corps programme, he served as Music Director of the Praise Basket choir of NCCF, Benue state chapter.

Hillprieston is the pioneer and lead facilitator of the Sacred Secular League, a mentorship platform created to empower and encourage believers to take a stand for righteousness, particularly in their duties in the secular aspect of their lives.

He is a writer and teacher of God's word, a man of prayer driven by a passionate desire to see the church rise up in righteousness and power so that the adversary is muzzled and God's will is done on the earth. He does this through his job, where he holds an uncompromised stand for righteousness and through which men are drawn to repentance and godliness.

To helieve	ers who have	made un th	neir minds i	to consciously
	mit to the life			

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I acknowledge the Holy Spirit who led me into the wealth of truth exposed in this book.

Furthermore, I equally recognize the efforts of my Spiritual Leaders, friends and partners in ministry, who contributed to the success of this work. I do not take this for granted.

I also acknowledge my editor who stood by me and gave the book the best touch possible.

FOREWORD

No one on earth was created by God without a soul. It is the hub of humanity, the balance between the human spirit and the body. A lady is naturally beautiful, however, in the artistic hands of a great beautician, such beauty is enhanced and appreciated better, by all who see her. Because of the delicate pivotal role played by the soul, extreme care in the hands of the beautician of the soul, needs to be applied, hence, Okwara Uchenna Hillprieston, has painstakingly supplied vital information in this metaphorical beauty kit, pertaining to the handling and enhancement of the human soul.

This piece called "SPIRITUAL MAKE-UP; the believer's make-up Kit" is a step by step 'instructional manual', highlighting essentials for the soul's makeup enhancement. If you, like me, only use instructional manuals when the product is broken down, after which you have attempted to repair it without success, then you would agree with me that you would have saved valuable time, if only you read the manual in the first place. As a husband so delights in the cleanliness and wholistic good-looks of his wife; so, we as God's brides, make Him beam with smiles, with our good looks, especially in our mind – a classic description of Holiness.

In "the believer's beauty kit", Okwara Uchenna Hillprieston shatters myths surrounding holiness from the mind perspective, showing with Biblical examples and scriptural references, the 'how to's' and the 'what to's'. Most importantly, this piece teaches how to develop an attitude of cleanliness of the hub – the soul, which, ultimately, advances the cleanliness of the Spirit and the body.

I sincerely recommend this "instructional manual" to the library of anyone who wants to lead a holy life; all who earnestly are preparing and intently awaiting the second coming of Jesus Christ and a worthy gift to a friend you sincerely love.

Dr. Ihechiluru Ezeigbo.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	I
Foreword	II
Introduction	1
Identity	4
Makeup, Essence & Constituents	6
The Believer's Makeup kit	8
PART ONE: KICK-OFF STAGE	
Deal with your Mouth!	14
Exfoliate!	17
Dress Up!	21
The trend of "BODY REVEALS"	25
PART TWO: HALF-TIME	
Boss Up!	28
The concept of Freedom Square	28
Strides & Struts	31
The Drill always pays off!	34
NOW, BEHOLD	
My Makeup Master	37

"...but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

(Rom 12:1)

1 Peter 1:14:- "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance".



INTRODUCTION

From what I see in my generation, it seems to be that most Christians have actually given up on the idea of holiness.

Firstly, I need you to understand that I am not referring to the holiness of our spirit; Christ has been made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption (1 Corinthians 1:30). Our spirit is renewed and perfected by the finished work of Christ. Our righteousness is of God, given as a free gift (Romans 5:17) and that is the reason only Christians are called to holy living, not sinners. It is only the saved of the Lord that are called to 'be holy even as their Father is holy'.

As you may already know, man is a spirit that has a soul (which can be lost to the world by living in total disobedience to God's precepts) and lives in a body (1 Thessalonians 5:23). In Romans 12:1, the Bible beseeches us to present our BODIES (not spirit), holy unto God. So, there is a consecration of the body, which is our responsibility here on earth. Verse two further reveals that the way to ensure this bodily devotion is through the RENEWING of our minds. This process is a continuous one that will be explained with analogies from the

typical human lifestyle of keeping the body clean and germ-free. From years of observation, I realized that the reason most of us find it difficult to embrace the call to purity is primarily because we do not have the true picture of what it means, really. As a result, the importance of living likewise is not perceived by our hearts. This book intends to modify our perceptions to suit the accurate standards of holiness; the complete and accurate package of this 'all-so-vague concept'. It will be wise to reiterate, for emphasis, that unbelievers are not called to sanctity. This is because they, as a matter of fact, cannot express works of piety as this demand is laid on believers, those who have already obtained the free gift of righteousness in Christ Jesus, according to 1 Peter 1:15. On receiving this bequest, Christians can now boast of right standing with God, which, in actuality is the fundamental requirement for living a holy life. Holiness is God's exclusive walk-way and it should be considered an honour to share that path with the Father in our journey through life. It is not a burdensome obligation; it is a rare privilege.

Christians, the very elect, as called to that virtue, are expected to live thus. A believer is not trying to earn a "calling" by exemplifying the true essence of holiness. He has already

been named so, therefore, as hearkeners to this ever precious call, it is expected of us to fashion our existence in a manner, different from our former lusts (1 Peter 1:14) but in compliance with a spiritual civilization. Holiness is not the "life itself"; it is rather, the manner in which to live the life. This life has been given freely as God's righteousness and holiness is how you live the life here in the body; you live it holy. The idea behind explaining the two terms used in the preceding sentence is to make us fit in well, with particular respect to our new heavenly family, so as to inhibit any form of unfruitfulness in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:5-8).

God derives so much pleasure in seeing us live like Him. In his book, The Purpose Driven Life, Rick Warren asserted that "the smile of God is the goal of our lives". God is not going to love us because we made Him smile; He already loves us. Instead, our love for Him should move us towards bringing Him pleasure for that is what we were created for (Rev 4:11). Just like a husband pleasures in the good-looks of his wife, you make God smile when you look good in your mind. And that my friend, is holiness.

IDENTITY

At birth, a child is automatically human and need not do anything to qualify as such. In addition, its gender is not determined by its works whatsoever. Externalities control all of these. So the female child, for example, is born a woman. She doesn't take this form by any effort of hers. This equally applies to the believer. He is born again, righteous and does not need to do any works to become righteous. At new birth, all of that happened.

From the marital perspective, the believer has been married to Christ on account of His sacrifice. The bride-price was paid in full at the Cross of Calvary. Therefore, a believer is a spouse; married to Christ. So you see why we are referred to as the Royal Priesthood?

It is important to note that the fact that she (although, there is no gender in the realm of the spirit) is married into royalty inspires her to live up to the standards of who she has become by reason of nuptials. She does not need those standards to become royalty; she simply lives up to their provisions because she has become one with royalty. She now

has to walk worthy of her regal status. Paul urged the Ephesians to live a life worthy of the calling they had received (Ephesians 4:1). There is a difference between having the life and living the life. We all have eternal life as believers but that is not where it ends. We were given this life in order to live it. Although the life is an end on its own, with respect to our heavenly aspirations, it is a means as far as our lives here on earth are concerned. What God did was as simple as saying, "freely take the life of righteousness so that you can effortlessly live it; that is the whole idea. By assuming the status thereof, this bride is now expected to live like the true royalty she has become.

I will love you to retain the idea behind the identity in question because it will help you understand the rest of the teachings without undermining the foundations of grace. You are who you are, the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, by grace and that is a perfect foundation.

MAKEUP, ESSENCE & CONSTITUENTS

We do not need to go too far in the quest for the meaning of make-up. Just look all around you; everyone is made-up. Normally, we define this subject in the light of substances applied to the face for the purposes of enhancing facial appearance. But it actually goes beyond that. Make-up is a process that commences from the moment you wash your face in the morning, brush your teeth, take your bath, cream your body, wear your perfume, powder, clothes, and shoes, even up to your charisma, exemplified in speech and movement. All those activities are geared towards modifying the natural state of things, thereby constituting what is popularly known as 'make-up'.

Some people will assert time and time again that they do not use make-up because they have no need for it. However, from the above explanation, you will agree with me that every one of us has it on. At least, you shower and put on clothes. That's actually the least you can do as a sane person. Meanwhile, for a lady, looking good is important. She just has to do a few

touch-ups, here and there. No matter how natural she wants to look, she would still need to adorn the natural clothe with the artificial. Neglecting this necessity will result in a naked multitude, roaming the streets.

The reason for centring this analogy around the female sect is because it paints a great picture of our relationship with Christ, our groom. We can better comprehend it if we can just take the place of 'The Real Housewives of the Planet called Earth'. Another point of note is the reality that making-up requires a conscious effort. As a girl grows into maturity, her interest for enhanced looks increases and delivers a whole new package of responsibilities to grapple with. Oftentimes, the task becomes burdensome and downright demanding. She may miss out on the care-free life of the unadventurous little girl she used to be. But then, she still understands that being a responsible adult is far more honourable than the trivialities and pettiness of childhood. Then, she further discerns that the growth is an expedient reality for enjoyment and not a yoke to be whined about. With these discoveries, she puts in the effort to ensure she turns out neat at all times, no matter the cost.

THE BELIEVERS' MAKE-UP KIT

We have already explained that the believer is like a lady married into royalty with expected standards to live up to. These expectations can be likened to the task as outlined previously. It is not much of a burden as it is a privilege.

So, what is it that constitutes make-up for a believer? Romans 12:1-2 instructs that we should not conform to the world but be transformed by the renewal of our minds. We were also asked to let a certain mind be in us, which was also in Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:5). All these instructions have to do with augmenting the appearance of the spirit through the instrumentality of the mind. So, just like a lady, the believer also needs some form of upgrade (which the Bible calls transformation) in order to look good and live up to her spiritual standards. Her make-up kit comprises of the words of scrip ture while the make-up artist and coach is the Holy Spirit. From the truth of God's word and by the leading of the Spirit, the believer learns to administer make-up, suitable for her 'mind type'. Her thoughts become sanitized, her words,

seasoned with salt and these in turn, restrain her from speaking guile. In other words, bad breath is extinguished. She begins to speak hope, faith and life in every situation. Generally, her actions wheel to the positive and all these are soul-looks, resulting from a properly handled mind make-up session. Why do I call it make-up? The believer is righteous by receiving Christ as her Lord and saviour; it is completely free. Her deeds are not the reasons for this status. Just like a lady is female by physical nature, the believer is righteous by spiritual nature. However, just like a lady's bodily needs orchestrate a need for make-up, the nature of the believer's soul does likewise.

It is not as though Christ did not do a perfect job at redemption. It is just that the newborn spirit is living in an old flesh with an old mind and so, as mind and body stay in touch with the world, there is need for constant renewing. The fact that this old mind contends with the beauty of the recreated spirit is enough reason for continuous mind-makeup timeouts. I am not talking about 'self-righteousness' because that is a category of physical make-up that does not proceed from a sincere heart. Our focus here is on sincere conscious efforts to live in total submission to God's will by the grace which has

been made available, for it is by grace we stand in this world.

Some believers may assume that they do not need this makeup that has become our mainstay so far in this conversation. I mean, if they denied the necessity for physical adornment, we should at least expect a repeat in this case. These folks just believe that righteousness guarantees right living. In their opinion, they do not need to change a thing about their lives because JESUS DID IT ALL. In essence, mind renewal and resultant transformation do not matter. Let me engage your mind for a bit. Try visualizing a lady screaming "I am a woman, so it does not matter if I bathe, look neat or even put on clothes!!"Now, that there, is a believer screaming, "I am righteous so what I think, say or do is of no consequence!!!" I think they are both right. However, the implication is that the lady will smell, appear tattered, naked but still retain her femininity. She's a woman, albeit, one with shame. In like manner, the believer will have a soul that reeks, looks haggard, is bereft of apparel and therefore, disgraceful. It will be a case of Abused Royalty.

Follow me to Romans 7:18. It reads thus:

"For I know that in me (that is in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good, I find not".

The flesh- mind combo does not change at new birth and just as we deduced above, no good dwells therein. If you do not renew your mind, your body may never perform the good intentions of your spirit. Transformation is the resultant effect of mind-makeup. Your spirit has been born again but it still plays to the flesh. So if you do not subject that flesh, characterized by odd desires, to the dictates of a renewed mind, you will most likely make a Royal Mess of what Christ did.

As long as we remain in the body, we will need to curtail the excesses of the flesh through soul bathing, brushing, mannerisms and dieting. These make-up schedules keep the bride of God, prepped and pampered for her groom. In our prior consideration of the lady's physique, we stated that maturity delivers a whole new package of responsibility to her but she embraces it and lives up to its requirements happily. For a believer, spiritual maturity also comes with the duty of living up to the standards of spiritual grandeur. As a royal priesthood and holy nation, we are not to live like mere men (1 Corinthians 3:3-4 NIV). Divine nobility, characterized by holy living is a responsibility that can either be accepted with joy as

a privilege or grumbled upon as a burden.

Meanwhile, do not think that this is a call to some kind of bondage. It is time we viewed this as a call to live in the consciousness of the majesty that our affiliation with Christ has secured for us. However, if you have made up your mind to perceive it as an encumbrance, you're right once again because Jesus actually replaced your heavy laden with a lighter one (Matthew 11). So, it will do you a world of good if you add to that perception, an understanding that the rest does not afford you the luxury of irresponsible existence. There are still light burdens within the provided rest (Matthew 11:30) and those are the obligations that come with our kingly position in Christ. One of such light saddles is holiness; the outward expression of periodic mind-make-up.

We have outlined the composition and significance of mind renewal to the Christian. Subsequently, we will examine some of these components in details to expatiate on the need for sanctification in the life of a believer. Phase One:
KICK-OFF STAGE

DEAL WITH YOUR MOUTH!

It is common knowledge that proper and frequent brushing of the teeth prevents mouth odour and dental issues. It saves one the embarrassment that comes with bad breath. So, we all endeavour to wash our physical inlets.

When a believer speaks, you can tell whether he has been brushing or not. Our articulations are meant to be seasoned with salt that we may know how to answer every man (Colossians 4:6). We are to speak life and faith always. Anything short of that is a product of stinky breath. It would be unreasonable to believe that a believer who uses vulgar, nasty and vain language frequently has been brushing. Another indicator of spiritual foul breath is when a greater portion of all a man utters tends towards fear, defeat and other negativities. By mere utterance, the atmosphere becomes polluted. Is he born again? Yes, but he is down with halitosis. For more inquiry, consult a medical dictionary.

Another issue with this set of people is that they are normally unaware of this predicament. It usually takes

another sensitive fellow to detect this anomaly. Same goes for spiritual 'foul-breathedness'. Individuals under this category do not know what people have to put up with while listening to them because they have become accustomed to the odour of their mouths . But when their attention is drawn in that light and they begin to tackle the plight head-on, they start to notice freshness, different from what initially used to obtain in their buccal environs.

Brushing the mouth spiritually is achieved by minding what enters the heart. Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. If you do not make the former clean, the latter will smell. Therefore, the major component for spiritual clean-up is the Word of God. Even in normal studio sessions, the make-up artist first cleans the face with facial wipes before the application process. These wipes, for spiritual purposes, could come in the form of the Holy Bible, tape-recorded sermons, music with spiritual inclinations and the like. When you fill your heart with the truth of God's Word, your confessions will eventually change. When you open your mouth, every living thing will be at peace with the very breath that proceeds there from. So, one make-up activity is brushing and the tool is the word. Also remember that one cannot brush once and for all. It is a life-long process.

Think about this!

You call the Holy Spirit your lover. You want him close always. You crave for an intimate intercourse with Him. You are his lady and he is your man. And you want something as close as a kiss. But every time he comes close, he has to endure and put-up with the stench of your orals. He just can't relax and take rest around you. He cannot enjoy the best of you neither can you enjoy the best of him. And all these are just because of a deep-seated smell in your mouth that grieves Him whenever it is opened. Do you not think you grieve the Holy Spirit with some of your words?

Do you not think you are polluting the atmosphere of your life with negative words?

Do you not think you need to brush your teeth?

The time is now

EXFOLIATE!

In other words, I say to you, BATHE!

Do we really need to explain the importance of bathing? If you are reading this book, it means you are refined enough to know why one should engage in this habit. We bathe to wash away dirt from our bodies. However, its significance is not just that simple. Bathing prevents infections, body odour, itching and discomfort. You do not bathe because you roll yourself on the floor and get dirty like children; no, that's not the reason. The truth is that the fragments of dirt sure do find their way through to us. We take them on from direct contact with surfaces, handshakes, or even cluelessly, from the air around us. Consequently, bathing becomes ever continuous.

As a believer who lives in the world, the dusts and dirt of the system thereof, come in contact with you inevitably. The billboards on the streets, sensual adverts on radio & television and some other instalments all bring us in contact with immoral suggestions, ungodly thoughts, pictures, words and actions. There is freedom of speech in our generation and so your colleague may just be the type that uses those words that

compromise your internal system. So, in one way or the other, dirt penetrates our minds. These filths, if allowed, accumulate and negatively affect the Christian, over time. It can cause infection to the fruits that he is to bear, thereby imposing a discomfort to the body of Christ. In John 15:3, Jesus said "Now you are clean through the words which I have spoken unto you". A believer, who has not been hearing the word, by personal study or during the gathering of his fellows, is like one who has not been bathing. Is he still born again? Yes. But you will soon get a whiff of the breeding odour.

What are the infections one can incur by not bathing with the word? They are actually a lot but we will look into a few in details. The issue of false doctrines and seducing spirits top our list for discussion. If you do not know the truth of God's word, false doctrines can easily infect you. It will just stick to you like rashes. The wisdom and traditions of men are another form of infection (Colossians 2:8). The world has its own perception of truth. Let me give you five out of the millions the world quotes from:

- If you can't beat them, join them. (So what about contending for the faith?)
- Virginity is not a dignity; it's lack of opportunity. (So

fornication is now glorified?)

- It's all about the money. (So where is God on the priority list?)
- Love only those who love and value you. (Even the publicans do same)
- Cut off everyone who does not add value to your life. (Isn't that a selfish lifestyle? How about those lives we are designed to add value to?)

Feel free to add the ones you know. They actually include every saying that does not comply with God's word, irrespective of how moral, educating, scientifically correct, logical, sweet or reasonable they appear to be. The world's quotations and wisdom are always wise and logical from the standpoint of carnality. They all appeal to our selfishness and lusts and these are spiritual skin diseases believers can contract, if they do not constantly bathe in the cleansing word of God. You can actually affix some other infections in the air that God's word can cleanse and protect us from.

It is Christ's intention to have a clean bride. One that is well washed and presentable, in terms of a triumphant Christian life, here on earth.

Take a look at Ephesians 5:26-27.

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. KJV

He has already done it all by giving us himself; that is the Word. Just abide in the word because your spiritual refreshment (bathing) comes from it and without him, the world can weigh you down with its vileness.

Think about this!

Some marital relationships are frustrated because of partners who lack the habit of cleanliness. Although your partner is not in love with you because you are clean, however, being dirty can retard the relationship from reaching its full potential. So, bathing with the word is a very important spiritual make-up procedure. The world will definitely expose you to its nastiness but you can equally curtail this exposure, somewhat. One of your best defences is a regular bath with the word. In your relations with Christ, cleanliness will provide a better atmosphere for attaining the spiritual height of your dreams.

Ever heard of, 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness?'

DRESS UP!

Ephesians 4:24 says "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness".

Also, Romans 13:14 said "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof". See also, 1 Peter 3:3-4 for further understanding.

In the spiritual make-up sequence, it is assumed we have brushed, bathed with the word and even creamed our body with it as our Balm of Gilead. It is not enough to bathe off the grossness; the framework of the mind too needs to be healed of any rashes, eczema or other irritations that might have occurred. The above justifies the use of the mind ointment, AKA, the Balm which is also the Word of God.

The next step is to dress up. Trust me; you do not want to go out there unclad because the flesh will embarrass you. The believer is asked to put on the new man. We are to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh to fulfil its lusts through us. Just like it takes a conscious effort to

put on clothes in the physical realm of affairs, every believer needs to consciously do the same in the spirit. And that clothe is Christ. This is to say that the believer should live a Christ-like life. If a believer is not putting on Christ, that means he is moving around in bare flesh; that's moving around naked. In that case, he has made full provision for his flesh to be seen. How do we know that one is not putting on Christ? It shows in their lifestyle. Their lives will be characterized by markers such as adultery, fornication, lasciviousness, uncleanness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envying, murder, drunkenness, revelling and the like, according to Galatians 5:19-21.

"Are you a believer?" 'Yes', he affirms.

"What's with all these carnal displays?" He says it doesn't matter.

The reason we think it does not matter is because we often do not engage our spiritual sense of sight. Our optical eyes are usually focused on the physical knowledge of good and evil but shut to their spiritual underpinnings.

When man didn't have the physical knowledge of good and evil, he had no problem with the natural state he came in; his naked version. This was because he was completely

inclined to the realm of spiritual awareness. And because he was satisfied with his spiritual covering, he was very comfortable in the Garden of Eden. But when he disobeyed, he gained an earthly understanding at the expense of his spiritual sight. Consequently, he didn't feel ashamed moving around in spiritual nakedness. All that mattered to him was to cover the physical body.

However, when a man receives Christ, the spirit comes alive in reconciliation with God. That lost spiritual consciousness is restored and the man starts seeing the need for putting on Christ because of how naked he has been in the spirit. As a result of this, you see so many genuine new converts making a lot of changes in their lives and putting away so many things. That initial zeal to embrace a new lifestyle is because their eyes have been opened to their spiritual nudity. And the reverse of the Eden experience begins to play out in their daily lives. Just as Adam and Eve rushed the leaves, these converts rush the Word.

This is the point of putting on Christ, in order to tame the fleshly outbursts and bring them under subjection to the word. The sudden neglect of this zeal in the pursuit of a Christ-like life usually comes when we lose spiritual focus in the midst of civilian entanglements, as the Apostle Paul calls it. It is this loss of sight that makes us think some things do not matter.

The restoration of sight that comes with being born the fore, the exactitude that the again brings to aforementioned manifestations are signs of spiritual nakedness. It will set us on the course of mind renewal, which can only be achieved by the strength of the Father. When God sees your desire to be clad of Him, it becomes extremely easy to wear on Christ. In fact, you find that it becomes difficult to even take him off, no matter the odds you face. He empowers you by the Spirit behind His word, to drop those figments of human civilization that always try to uncover us during our mind renewal journey.

Now, how do we know when one is clothed in the spirit? It's quite easy. Instead of his exhibitions of carnality as stated in earlier paragraphs, we otherwise notice contrary virtues like love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance and all other qualities of love (Galatians 5:22-23). Left on his own, man does not possess such uncanny virtues; it is the putting on of Christ that grants him access to such graciousness. In other words, putting on Christ is an important spiritual make-up drill for the believer.

THE TREND OF 'BODY REVEALS'

Another case in the course of this exercise may be a partial covering as opposed to total nakedness. A believer may disregard the flesh but at the same time, make room for a certain level of its expressions in the bid to look fashionable and fit into the universally accepted standards of society. That is spiritual improper dressing.

The Bible tags it the act of being 'lukewarm'; this is a state of being neither cold nor hot. We actually want to be like Christ, we know how we should live, we have the grace to live up to the mark but we oftentimes, feel afraid that it is a little out of style. So, a couple of times, we find ourselves stuck in between eschewing carnality and yet, saving a few offshoots for the times when our trendiness would be tested.

If we really believe and understand the fact that we are the royal bride of Christ, then we should dress for the occasion. As I earlier mentioned, it is truly a life of pleasure and not some burdensome expedition. We should actually feel privileged to live it out, having received all the capacity to do so.

The English Royals deem it an honour to be arrayed thus. Their

dress sense has become so popularized that even their guests visit in apparels that depict British royalty and there is one reason for that; their pride and joy in flaunting the regalia in whatever place or circumstance they are found. If then, we be members of the royal family of Christ, we ought to, in all loftiness and without apologies, parade ourselves sufficiently clothed in the Lord Iesus Christ.

I am not referring to an outer covering; it is now a case of a good-looking spirit, a mind undergoing reconstruction and a repressed flesh, all consequences of being robed in Christ. Save us the shock of fleshly imperfections. The wrinkles of malice and the pot-belly of covetousness can all be put away. Simply wear on Christ, which is the anointing and its fruits and you're good to go. His glory will exude from you like the fragrance of designer perfumes.

Think about this!

Have you ever, for a second, imagined the Prince or Princess of Wales, roaming the streets of London, NAKED? I bet you that it never crossed your mind because it seems like one of those things in life that can never be. But should it occur, chaos will envelope the entirety of the United Kingdom, not just England. This is exactly the confusion that exists in the spiritual realm when KINGS AND PRIESTS of God are seen moving around naked, putting away Christ. Some unbelievers actually make a mockery of Christianity because of the double standard of believers. But come to think of it, even if you laugh at the Prince for nakedly wandering along the road, does it really affect his dynasty as royalty? No, it does not. However, it will still attract shame to his family. In the same vein, the believer is royalty by new birth and that position cannot be threatened by mere imperfect works. Yet, the new-born cannot remain a baby forever. He should grow by putting on Christ and save this Royal bond unnecessary embarrassments.

Phase Two: HALFTIME

BOSS UP!

Colossians 2:6, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him".

1 John 2:6, "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk even as he walked"

Remember that we are analyzing the believer from the perspective of a lady, whose royalty was attained on the basis of marriage and new birth, from the spiritual angle. On that note, she needs to walk and carry herself likewise. A vital part of the package is to live up to the standards.

THE CONCEPT OF FREEDOM SQUARE

Do you know that a woman of class will not pee at Freedom Square? For the purpose of those estranged from concept of the above-mentioned, it will make more sense to let you in on where that is. At the University of Nigeria Nsukka, UNN, for short, where I obtained my Bachelors, there was a large open field at the heart of the school environment called Freedom square. It is open and wide enough to house as many individuals at a time. As exposed at it is, it also, like other fields, has some hidden spots where some crude village girls usually

take a leak. It is important to note that no matter how pressed female undergraduates were, they dared not urinate there.

UNN girls were known to be quite polished, advanced and classy in all ramifications and that was enough restraint for them. It is not as though it would 'de-class' them or anything if they piddled there, it was more, an understanding that it would not just be befitting. So, for the sake of self-rating, the chic will either opt to continue keagal muscle excise or more conveniently, locate a nearby restroom.

In like manner, believers are to view ungodliness as a semblance of pissing in Freedom Square because on a serious note, if you share similar streaks with unbelievers, what then is the point in saying you are born again? Why profess royalty if you have chosen to enjoy life as a commoner? If one is very comfortable in sin, then there is the looming likelihood that there was really no encounter with the word in the first place. He probably just participated in lip service during the salvation prayer, maybe because a couple of friends answered the altar call or it was some kind of requirement for a job or some other reason. It is impossible to genuinely resurrect with Christ and be passionate about the old self. Anyways, like you just read, this cannot be the story of a child of God.

The spiritual evaluation of any act of sin is akin to shame and therefore, repulsive to God's sons. If you perceive stealing to an outward working of a battered mind, you will be quick to detect such as some form of peeing in Freedom Square. In fact, the thought of it as a urinal would cease to dwell in your mind. In essence, you will rather wait till you get to the restroom of honest income and God's supplication. The same goes for pre and extra marital sex, as you will wait your way to marriage and stick with that one partner, till death do you part. Other appearances of utilizing Freedom Square for waste removal are very much known to you and one thing is certain. YOU HAVE THE GRACE TO REPRESS THE URGE TO ENGAGE THEIR SERVICES!

Strides & Struts (THE 2'S)

There is a grace and charisma that behoves Royalty. For God has not given us the spirit of fear but the Spirit of power, love and sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). You have to carry yourself as one who has power. This power does not stem from your financial worth. Even earthly royalty is not attained on this premise and that is why Prince William is not so called because he happens to be the richest man in England. He does not even need material things to become who he is. Royalty, from time immemorial, gained ascendancy over wealth and this has not changed, even with the evolution of knowledge.

In the same way, your power is a major component of your spiritual make-up kit. You must, therefore, carry yourself as one who possesses wonder-working abilities. Be bold to rebuke evil so that darkness does not dominate your territory. Always stand-out and insist on shining the light, even with the rising pressures from your rival, the devil. With your authority in the name of Jesus, set the captives free, heal the broken hearted and carry out with joy, as many royal obligations as

you can in Christ. That was how Jesus walked and as our model, we are enjoined to fashion the entirety of our existence and functionality around how he lived while on earth. As a Royal Priesthood of the Holy Nation, you must remain confident as you maintain an immovable stand for the truth at all times and in all seasons. This is an important mannerism make-up tool.

The Drill always pays off!

Most ladies watch their diet and hit the gym in order to keep up with some form of regimen. But we know that there is an exercise that profits much more than these physical workouts and that is the drill of the spirit.

1 Tim 4:7-9

7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

9 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation. KJV

Spiritual exercise profits in all things. The bride of Christ should also watch her diet by fasting when necessary, in order to maintain a healthy level of spiritual sensitivity. This is one way of staying fit spiritually. There is also need for godly tasks like prayer, thanksgiving, financial support for the Kingdom Business, almsgiving, fellowship with the brethren, among others, so as to achieve the best spiritual outlook possible. All these add up to the countenance of our spirits.

Some have become so obese in the spirit because they held so tenaciously, things they should have given away.

They consumed too much and now, they are all fatted up and pride has set in. Some are fatigued from numerous complaints and grumbling since they have refused to appreciate God for the good they have experienced in their lives. The list is endless.

There are varying forms of spiritual exercise, all of which individually and collectively contribute to total wellness.

Think about this!

When a Prince sees his lady moving with grace and exhibiting all-round quintessence, he will want everyone to know that they are together. It's typical and goes both ways. If you deny Christ through your mannerisms, why then should He not deny you before the Father and Angels? Be the kind of bride that is worthy of being flaunted because there is pride in that. Make your groom proud for therein lies an esteem that even this world's riches cannot buy. Let your life show a clear affiliation with Christ, even among men and He will doubtless, identify with you before the Father and Angels in Heaven.

That will secure you a spot on the favourite band of Royals. You automatically become the beloved among disciples.

NOW BEHOLD

MY MAKEUP MASTER

I have said a lot about the make-up of the soul, leaving the rest to daily revelation as by God's Spirit. However, if one is not careful, these tools could be used to create a masquerade of a muse, all in the attempt to look good. What do I mean? My point is simply that in your pursuit for spiritual soundness, you should make sure to avoid that tilt that usually drifts one towards hypocrisy and/or self-righteousness.

For firsthand experience of what I mean in practical terms, visit your village during the festivities and take a quick look at the faces of some young ladies. Compare those to their counterparts in the city. That should do justice to my masquerade analogy.

Some of these ladies are not even aware of how much fear they instil in those they will to attract. This is how scary self-righteousness and hypocrisy are. They are so disastrous that they can wreck a sincere attempt at fellowship with the Holy Spirit. They can so easily forestall godly relationships and communion. Some are looking rather funny and their spiritual audience are amused rather than impressed with how they look

The Holy Spirit is the perfect make-up artist. He leads us into all truths. He tells us where, when and how to apply what. He understands the shades and the tones. He knows just when it is enough and how best to get you to stop, so that you do not make a mess. Rest assured, you would achieve the best finish if he is your coach. He will guide you outside the purview of hypocrisy or self-righteousness. With Him, you will be so disciplined that other than condemning or looking down on other believers, you will rather introduce His ministry to them. By this, you would have raised an unending stream of souls who will now look as good as you do. It's simple. Just pattern your artistry in the light of his leadings.

Think about this Finally!

What look do you hope to achieve in your spirit? I will like to emphasize that you cannot pull it off without God's word, the ever ready toolbox. I believe you have received insight from this book but it will NEVER be enough if you do not, as a matter of urgency and consistency put the contents of your Bible to work. In the light of living an enviable pleasing life in Christ, let us see how the Holy Bible explains it can be realized. In 2 Tim 3:16-17, we understand that 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. KJV

I pray that as you study to show yourself approved of God, He will unlock to you, the mysteries of His beauty so that you can fully comprehend this beauty that outlives all trends of life in Jesus Name, Amen.

Feedback

Dear Reader.

I believe you have been blessed through this book. It would gladden my heart to hear what the Holy Spirit is doing in your life by the instrumentality of the knowledge and power you just came in contact with.

My team and I also look forward to praying with and for you with regard to any area of your life that God may lay in your heart to reach out to us for.

Most importantly, I want to assert that Jesus is the only way, the truth and the life. So, just in case you are not yet saved, I would love you to say this prayer:

'Dear Father, I thank you for your love and the gift of your son, Jesus Christ. I believe that He died for my sins and was raised for my justification. I believe in my heart, the Lord Jesus and I confess with my mouth that He is Lord of my life and that in His name, I have received eternal life.

I am born again. Thank you Lord for I am now a child of God'.

Congratulations Child of God! Now that you are born again, I encourage you to find a Bible believing Church

around you and stay connected to the fellowship of the brethren.

Would you like to talk to someone or have us pray with you? Then, kindly reach us through our

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Thank you and remain blessed.

Makeup your mind, AND THEN, YOUR FACE!

With the grittiest of friend-to-friend conversations in this Mind Makeup book, Okwara Uchenna Hillprieston takes off his gloves of flattery to explain in details, the consequences of caring so much about our physiques as opposed to equipping the soul for the work ahead.

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Treasure this copy you've got because from it stems relatable real-time events which when gleaned from and appropriated carefully, can jumpstart and advance your course in life as quickly as possible and with much ease too.





OKWARA UCHENNA HILLPRIESTON is the pioneer and lead facilitator of the Sacred Secular League, a mentorship platform created to empower and encourage believers to take a stand for righteousness, particularly in their duties in the secular aspect of their lives.

He is a writer and teacher of God's word, a man of prayer driven by a passionate desire to see the church rise up in righteousness and power so that the adversary is muzzled and God's will is done on the earth. He does this through his job, where he holds an uncompromised stand for righteousness and through which men are drawn to repentance and godliness.

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