

**“RIDING THE WINDS OF CHANGE” AUTHORED BY DANIEL AHIA-
ARMAH
BOOK REVIEW BY DEMAY ACKAH - YENSU**

Like the cover page of this great book, life comes with the winds and tides. It is imperative, that we watch with keenness and clarity as the surfer does, to seize our moments with every change of wind direction, to ensure that we are riding on top of the wind and not the wind riding us. Every change of direction of the wind is yet another opportunity for us to get to the next level with precision and courage. This is the crux of this book by reverend Daniel Ahia – Armah. Come with me, as we explore the pages of this book into the author’s mind. Let’s see if we can surmount his changing winds of words.

This book, like Goliath Can Fall, (by the same author is based) is yet another very simple but well known bible story, “the story of barren Hannah”.

Chapter one opens with the book title. Here the author uses a very high tensioned political situation to open our emotions and propel us into his world. On page three, he makes some significant statements **“anyone who is resistant to change has lost touch with reality and is likely to lose relevance soon if not already”** and **“notice that the stiffest tree is most easily cracked, while the bamboo or willow survives by bending with the wind”** these two statements summarize in a way what the whole book is about.

He uses the wind, waves, nature, especially, plants as metaphors so effectively, which makes the book practical and relevant. Examples are Willows, bamboo, waves, tree etc. If you ever were afraid of change, or afraid of storms and winds, by the time you finish reading this book, you would have fallen in love with change and in fact look forward to them, because the author does a good job at making you understand the purpose of the winds and in fact makes it so attractive with emboldened nugget statements like **“a wave is a wave and should be ridden, it is not the strongest of the species that survive nor the most intelligent, but the most responsive to change.”** He even gives you the scientific composition of the wind to help you understand his subject matter really well.

Let’s move to the story of Hannah in relation to the winds of change.

Chapter two is titled “Close, yet so far”. Here the book shows how close Hannah was to her miracle and yet was so far because she initially did not ride her waves effectively in the winds of change that blew in her life. The author makes a poignant statement on **page 13 paragraph 2**, and i quote **“it is possible to sit by wealth and yet remain poor”** this statement summarizes chapter two perfectly. He takes the opportunity of his subject matter to divert us into a little sermon on worship, which gives us a deeper understanding of Hannah’s commitment to God, which also reiterates the point he’s trying to make in this book, that no matter how much we know God, intellectually endowed or how good we are, our success and growth will only be seen when we learn

to ride the winds of change in order to surmount problems and grow. Don't be surprised. He is a pastor!

Chapter three and chapter four

He opens chapter three with yet another apt and well timed statement, **“most times it is the most unfortunate or very difficult circumstances that exerts pressure, challenges our personality and ends up mining out the hidden jewels in us.”** This is a highly motivational piece of writing and a life line of hope for us. Reverend Armah seems to be treading on the path of motivational style of writing, and has the ability to use simple biblical stories as parallels for real life situations and to make it relatable, simple and understandable. An example of his style of writing is how he uses something as simple and common as **sandwich** to explain life in totality,

* **Again strong use of a relatable metaphor.**

Just in case you think miracles are a fairytale, well reverend Armah gives a guided tour on realities of issues, and does not make light of the realities of Hanna's problems, by highlighting into detail, Hannah's rival, the **scorner**. Can you relate to that? Don't we all have scorners?

He does not make you forget the paradoxes of life in these chapters, again jolting you into reality, yet asking you to ride on your winds of change! As Hannah begins a life of misery, dejection, confusion and apathy and arrives at a life of joy, hope fulfillment as she surmounts problems via her winds of change. Such is the reality of our journey here on earth.

Is it the author's science background that allows for the writer to use basic scientific facts to drive home the realities of the harshness of life? You almost want to shout, “Enough is enough!!!” As he uses metaphysics to explain the grinding, friction and wear and tear that goes on in our own lives. In spite of the scientific illustrations, he vividly and unflinchingly fixes your eyes on the God factor, the spiritual aspects of accomplishing change and riding the winds of change. He has to do that since his subject matter is from the bible, but he does that without being overbearing with it.

The author gives us a balance between spirituality and reality, with chapters like

1. Catching the eyes of God
 2. God's agents of change
 3. Working out your salvation,
- In contrast with reality chapters like:
4. Acting your change
 5. Engaging the propeller of change
 6. The wind of change.

This is a book, not just for believers but it's a book that can be related to by non believers as well. This is a book not just for the old but also for the young, at every stage of our lives we have winds to ride for change.

1. Because we all face the storms and contrary winds of life, and in those times, we need the **propellers of change** to surmount them.
2. We all encounter **scorners and sympathizers** in life, and it is important to utilize them effectively
3. We all need to do things to **catch the eyes of God** if we are to encounter his divine presence.
4. The truth is that God has his **agents of change**, and it is imperative that we identify them, understand their role, and use them effectively to ride our winds of change.
4. We need to **act our change** when it happens and even when it has not yet happened, its called **faith!!!**
5. If you are a Christian, one stark reality is that we need to **work out our own salvation** with fear and trembling. We need to negotiate the curves and bends, and surmount every wave no matter how dangerous or difficult they may be.

This book is like a ray of sunshine, piercing through the clouds after the storm. You need it. I need it, everyone needs it.

*It is one hundred and fifty seven (157) page book.

*Language is simple and contemporary.

*Words are very colourful and the illustrations are practical and universal.

For the purpose and subject matter, the goal has been accomplished.

After going into so much step by step detail about the stark realities of Hannah's demise, he ends the book on a very vibrant and colourful note of joy, by reciting most of the famous songs of joy in the bible, thus giving the reader a ray of hope and a glimpse into a bright future..

I wish you all good and happy reading!!!!!!

Reverend Daniel Ahia - Armah, ayeekoooooooo!!!!!!!!!!

Reviewed by Demay Ackah - Yensu

