

- JULY 2024 -

COMPASS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



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Temiloluwa Ola

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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Introduction

Welcome to July 2024.

We thank God for the first six months of the year. We are right in the middle of the year. I know how it can be at times when you look at the year and wonder whether the goals are still achievable or whether the prophecies will still come to pass.

In the middle, some lose motivation and passion. The drive you started with seems to be lost. There is a need for revival.

O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, In the midst of the years make known; In wrath remember mercy. Habakkuk 3:2 KJV

Like Prophet Habakkuk said, may the Lord revive His work in you in the midst of the years. May you encounter His mercy.

Beloved, we have compiled 30 things that you can not joke with this season. If you patiently go through the devotional this month and trust the Lord for grace and discipline to apply, your life will not remain the same again.

I pray for you: Your soul is revived. Your vision is revived. Your drive is restored.

God bless you greatly.

temilOluwa Ola

Feedback

God bless the day(March 10th 2023) I stumbled on your tweet on - "THOSE YOU DROP THE STANDARD FOR". Thank You Sir for giving out value for FREE. I was so blessed that I quickly followed, screenshotted the tweets and clicked the link to join the WhatsApp group.

When I noticed you drop the daily devotional, I was so happy that I began sharing on my status, and to my siblings group.

People would read and enter my DM, thanking me for posting, sharing lessons gleaned and how blessed they are.

Even my class representative, when I was in school, had to add me to his group and asked that I share the daily devotional with them. God is using you Sir to bless lives. Keep up the good work.

How you begin each devotional with captivating stories with spiritual instructions, especially the ones about you and your Beloved "Irewamiri" - I love Godly marriages and homes. God Bless you, Sir. When I saw the link to download COMPASS, my joy knew no bounds. Every morning, I look forward to what God has to say to me through you. Keeps me wondering how Lawyers become great Ministers of God. Thank you for answering and honouring the CALL OF GOD on your life.

More Grace, fresh anointing and fresh fire upon you Sir! God bless you for me.

- CHISOMAGA, ABUJA

I look forward to the devotional every morning because each message has been refreshing and instructive. The first time I shared it on my WhatsApp status, someone pleaded that I keep sharing it. Just last week, someone else chatted me up and told me the devotional I share has been a great blessing to her. Well done, sir. The Lord bless you and the ministry. His grace abounds towards you. You will not run dry. I pray Kingdom financiers (including me) arise to support this.

- JUSTINA OYEDEJI, ILE-IFE, OSUN STATE

To the glory of God, the devotional is relatable and very practical. It has really kept me in check. Especially the one entitled " Why do you have to check it? It's a blessing.

TGod bless you, Pastor.

- MICHAEL, GHANA

Thank you so much sir for what God has blessed us with through you. It has been an amazing journey. I started reading from someone's status, got your link, and started posting on my status as well for others to see I posted late one day and someone noticed.

It's been a good journey for me, with so much wisdom and depth. God bless you, sir! They come with relatable stories and lessons from each day. I can't get enough of them. God bless and increase you, sir!

- TOLULOPE, IBADAN

I usually read the devotional on my friend's WhatsApp status, and then as I was reading one day, I saw a link to join the WhatsApp group on the flier. I have been so blessed by the devotional and nuggets too. One of your posts came timely last week, I was in a very bad place and didn't know what to do, your write-up was the answer I needed. Thank you Pastor for writing these devotionals in a way that I could relate with. Thanks for the graphic titles and stories too. God bless and strengthen you sir. Thank you for yielding to God sir.

- ESTHER AMOS, ENUGU

I got to know you from Twitter just a few months ago. The devotionals on marriage have made me get a different perspective on marriage and my roles therein. Not yet married, but believing to be soon, and I'm going to be the best wife to my husband.

- DESIRE, UGANDA

I've been following you for a while now and your content captivated me. My walk with God improved when I started reading them. I always look forward to reading them as it has become part of my bible study. God has really really helped me and I'm blessed. A close friend of mine also testify to knowing you from his days in Eruwa(poly) and he testified that you are a child of God and he also loves your content. I have been posting since day one and my contacts have been greatly blessed. God bless you, sir. More grace and unction to function in Jesus' mighty name. May you continue to be on fire for the Lord. May your marriage continue to be sweeter and sweeter in Jesus' name

- INIOLUWA, OGBOMOSHO, OYO STATE

Feedback

After my morning prayers, this devotional is my next activity and I always share the image version of it on my WhatsApp status and it has been blessing lives.

One of the days, I just felt like not sharing it, after some hours that morning, some persons on my contact list messaged me asking for the devotional of the day. In their words, it has been blessing them too. I felt so fulfilled that day and I also shared the group link to some of them.

Most times the devotional speaks directly to what I am going through personally and as a family with my wife. Sometimes I and my wife always end up our morning conversations with the message of the day from ATOM devotional.

May God continue to bless and enrich you and your wife and also grant you all your heart desires for the family and your ministry in Jesus' Name, Amen.

- JEREMIAH UGWULEBO, PORTHARCOURT

Your messages have blessed me in no small way sir, I'm someone that has battled with unforgiveness/anger for a long time, although the Holy Spirit to a good extent, has curbed me and cut out the excesses over time. I read a particular devotional where you addressed unforgiveness, saying the devil always come around those who have his package. I made a resolution from that instant, and it has become my favorite daily quote - (offences will always come, but I choose not to be offended, I don't keep the package of the devil). Since then, I let go of hurt easily.

Not just the forgiveness aspect, I have gotten encouragement countless times from the devotional, that sometimes I just keep scrolling through to re-read them. I also post on my WhatsApp status some times, and I get amazing replies from my viewers.

Thank you so much sir. You're a blessing!

- REBECCA OSEYI, EDO STATE

I am Marie Laurel from cameroon. I love and appreciate the way God used you to speak especially to me everyday. It has been doing much good to me at all times and making my crooked really straight. More grace to you sir.

- MARIE LAUREL, CAMEROON

This devotional has really been a blessing. After my quiet time, the next thing I check out for on my phone, is the devotional. I have also been sharing and my sisters and a lot of my contact list are part of the devotional community.

Every devotional always comes with power and as though they are written to address every season in my walk with the Lord.

Thank you Pastor and Mummy for this impact. The Lord keep you and may His anointing over your life keep increasing. Amen!

- NANCY GABRIEL, NASARAWA

The content from the devotional goes beyond here, I share and post on my status as a way of spreading the gospel. I enjoy the relatable stories and it is very relevant to present days as well as historical and biblical, honestly holistic.

Thank you so much Sir

- OPE POPOOLA, UNITED KINGDOM

Thank you for the wonderful devotionals that you do send to us every morning. Sincerely speaking, each devotional relates to my life in one way, and I am happy because I get answers from the devotionals and also directions. I thank God for bringing you my way. And I pray that God will continue to anoint you and your oil shall never run dry. God bless you and the ministry tremendously, sir. Thank you very much.

- OLUWABUSOLAMI, LAGOS

Pastor Temiloluwa and everyone working with you, thank you for your consistency in delivering the word through this devotional. I came across your tweets and everytime I read, I would be encouraged. I am encouraged to also start sharing the image version of the devotionals with my contacts.

- DUDLEY CHIDZIVA, ZIMBABWE

This devotional has been a great blessing to me and those around me. It is like my daily manna. Thank you for yielding to God, thank you, sir; for sharing your life experiences and how you react to them by the help of the holy Spirit to instruct us. More of God's insight and grace.

- PATRICIA, ABUJA



THE “C”s THAT WILL HELP YOU

(1) - CHARACTER

Text: Genesis 18:19 KJV

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment...

A beloved one reached out to me. Someone called him to request that he carry out a business task. The person had introduced himself as someone who had a relationship with me. He wanted to seek my opinion.

I did not hesitate to caution him to deal with restraint. Why? I knew another businessman who had complained that he owed him money. He carried on without thinking about paying.

I have heard testimonies of men entrusted with millions of naira without any formality. They could be trusted.

Beloved one, testimonies about character travel real fast. There is a popular saying that “Character is like the smoke of a fire; it will always find its way out.”

What is the testimony of God and people about you? Do you know that God testifies about people?

He raised for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will. Acts 13:22 NKJV

Do you know God introduces people? God introduced Father Abraham as a prophet: ...for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live... Genesis 20:7 NKJV

When you have a great testimony of character and enjoy God as your introducer, you are indeed blessed.

When Prophet Samuel would have anointed Eliab as King, God stepped in and told Prophet Samuel that what Eliab had was the packaging, the content was not satisfactory. God sees more than you can imagine. He sees all.

But God told Samuel, “Looks aren’t everything. Don’t be impressed with his looks and stature. I’ve already eliminated him. God judges persons differently than humans do. Men and women look at the face; God looks into the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7 MSG

Some people fell for looks and have been

hooked in terrible traps. Character counts. Do a character appraisal for yourself, beloved one:

They (the wicked) break their promises, borrowing money but never paying it back. The good man returns what he owes with some extra besides. Psalms 37:21 TPT

Do your words and promises mean something or nothing? There are nephews and nieces who know uncles that will never keep their word. There are business people caught in this web.

Do an appraisal of your character. Some doors have been shut because you have a bad testimony. If you have lost trust, you will soon lose everything else. Trust is key.

How do you manage other people’s resources?

Are you a sweet talker but a zero-doer?

Are you a trustworthy artisan? Do you quote prices for a thing and then buy another because you must maximize profit?

Are you known to keep your word?

Has more money turned you into an adulterer?

Has gambling taken a slide into the DM of your soul?

Are you respectful towards older people?

Do you take a vacation while you owe your staff?

Who are you when all the glamour, glitz and colours are gone?

Can God introduce you? What will his introduction sound like?

CONFESS I O N

I have strength of character. The valuable asset of Trust is found in me. I stay clear of character defects that can harm my destiny. I am a (wo)man of solid character.

DAY 02

THE “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (2)- CONSISTENCY

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:58 NIV

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

I have been writing and sending out messages for the past eight years. It was a simple practice of journaling that became a ministry to bless lives through writing. Today, this writing ministry is a blessing to many globally, with many streams flowing from it.

One quality that you cannot joke about is consistency. You must be consistent. Consistency is the commitment to a cause. Commitment means staying the course. It means running the race.

Consistency means you are not joking with life. If you joke with life, you will end up a joke in life. You are schooled into greatness. Schools have a pattern they stick to. Build a structure of consistency.

The problem is that you have not stayed long enough on one assignment to see it produce results. You change paths and patterns so often that it is difficult to know what to call you for. Today, you are into branding. In a matter of months, you are into building. Before we know it, you are now a baker. Fight inconsistency. Inconsistency is the forerunner of failure.

Great men are consistent men. There is a routine to which greatness is brutally committed. Some patterns must never be offended.

Let's learn from Jesus Christ our Lord about patterns we should not offend:

So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: Luke 4:16-17 NKJV

1. Have a custom of finding the will of God from the Word of God. Live out the will of God and not just your wishes.

2. Have a custom of fellowshiping with other believers in a local assembly.

3. Have a custom of service in the local assembly. Jesus took scripture reading, and he taught.

Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. Luke 22:39 NKJV

4. Have a pattern of prayer.

Did you notice “his disciples also followed him”? You cannot be followed until consistency takes over confusion.

Other great men had patterns that they were committed to:

Daniel had patterns since his early days.

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt on his knees three times that day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

Daniel 6:10 NKJV

Apostle Paul had his patterns also:

Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, Acts 17:2 NKJV

What custom have you built? What is your culture of hard work? What is your culture of honour? What is your culture of service? What culture have you developed?

Do not be consistent with being inconsistent. It will give you a bad name.

My spiritual father taught us that: Fun is good, but you become funny to your world if all you do is fun. There is “agba-ya” (an irresponsible adult). There is no “omode-ya” (irresponsible baby).

Growth comes with responsibility. One of them is consistency. Be consistent.

CONFESS I O N

I am a man/woman of patterns. I stay on course for destiny fulfilment. I receive grace for consistency.

DAY 03

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (3)- CONTENTMENT

Text: Hebrews 13:5 NIV

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

I wanted to visit a dear one who has done well with himself. He lives in a high-brow area and drives ‘powerful cars.’ He is still quite young. I always desired to be in his space to challenge him about his faith- he was more into making money than he was about his spiritual journey.

Before I left the house, my mind wanted to play a fast one on me- “Do you know if you mention some things you need, he may just be able to sort it out?” I rebuked my mind immediately.

We had a great time. I was glad I challenged his faith. As I was leaving, he said, “Pastor T, you cannot come to my house, and I give you nothing.” What an opportunity but also a trap. I looked at him and said, “I am grateful for your large heart, but I want nothing. I want to stay in your space so I can always tell you the truth. I appreciate your heart”. It was tough, but I said it.

At the time, I had major car issues. I had things I needed money for, but without contentment, a man will never go far.

Contentment is an anchor that makes you put your trust in God. The Bible tells us it is great gain when a godly man is also contented.

Contentment delivers you from comparison.

Contentment is internal security about your season and process. Contentment is a pure appreciation of what God is doing. Contentment is not about the volumes you have; it is about the depth of values placed on what is available – whether in abundance or less.

Some people have lost great opportunities to greed. If you are in the “entitlement sector” of life, you need to deal with it. You cannot ignore things in your Uncle and Aunt’s houses. Your eyes always look for what to take, and your mind programs and splits schemes to get it. Deal with that spirit.

The pressure is higher when you begin to take stock for the year. In the middle of it all, find

something to be grateful for. You had no car, but you could afford to pay for transport. Be grateful.

Lack of contentment always belittles the seed in your hands. Whatever you belittle will never grow. Stop feeding insecurity. Stop stoking the flames of greed. The root of most sins is greed:

Stealing is greed for the property of another.

Fornication is greed for another’s body.

Adultery is greed for another’s spouse.

Pride is greed for more attention than you deserve.

A man who can caution his appetite will go far in life. There are strange appetites that can wreck a man.

Note that contentment is not complacency. We are grateful for where we are, but we have equally not lost sight of where we are heading.

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. I Timothy 6:6-10 NKJV

Be content. Be careful. Be conscious. Do not eat the future today. Do not let a double portion become a leprous portion.

CONFESS I O N

I am not given to greed. I am not governed by an entitlement mentality. I have contentment in Christ Jesus. I increase in all things.

DAY 04

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (4)- CLARITY

Text: 1 Chronicles 12:32 NLT

From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.

Before I left service year, I had written a full document titled “My Life After Service: Pursuing the Call and Embracing Purpose”. I documented my dealings with the Lord from 2006 to 2011. I sent this document to my mentors and my pastor during my service year.

Just before I left service year, I had the opportunity to see my pastor, and the prayer he prayed for me still sticks with me to date. He said, “Lord, a lot of us started confused. Lord, bless him with clarity”.

Beloved, a confused man cannot do mighty things. God is not an author of confusion.

For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace...
1 Corinthians 14:33 KJV

When He spoke with Habbakuk, He told us that the vision must be so plain that those who run can still read it and those who read it can still run with it.

And the Lord answered me and said, Write the vision and engrave it so plainly upon tablets that everyone who passes may [be able to] read [it easily and quickly] as he hastens by.
Habakkuk 2:2 AMPC

I was almost caught in the trap of confusion in the early days of the calling. I was trying to do so many things at the same time. It was my pastor who also asked me, “Temi, do you want to pastor a church or do you want to run an NGO? Choose one”. That was the reset question that I needed.

You cannot vary God’s call yourself. Some men have turned the calling into NGOs. They are scared of going all the way and decide to meet God somewhere in the middle. They lack clarity.

Some men are doing so many things at the same time. That is why many remain small. Any tree that begins to grow branches while it is small will never grow tall. A baby vision should not start having babies. Even in business, some opportunities can kill your primary business. Do not fall into the trap. Even nature teaches us that it takes growth and maturity to birth another. When a tree grows, it has the strength to carry the branches.

When the vision of a thing is clear, it becomes the screening filter of opportunities. For instance, Jesus had the opportunity to be an earthly king but ran from it because he had clarity.

Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.
John 6:15 NKJV

A confused man would have accepted the kingship. He would return to say, “I did not want it, but I accepted it because they all wanted me to be their king”.

Do you want clarity? Spend time in the Word to know God. Let God reveal “you” to you. Begin to take divinely led initiative. Document your journey. Keep a journal of instructions. Listen with the filter of vision on your heart. Retreat if need be. Not all opportunities are yours. Not all open doors can be accessed. Some are graveyards.

CONFESSION

I am not a confused believer. Light and understanding from the Lord are available to me. The Holy Spirit teaches me what to do at all times.



The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (5)– CAPACITY

Text: Philippians 4:13 NKJV

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Many years ago, a beloved one handed over one of his cars to someone else to use. It was still in great shape. However, some months down the line, the car was already grounded. He discovered that the one to whom he gave the gift could not manage the gift. He ruined it.

A dear teacher told us the story of how a church of about two hundred and fifty members was handed over to a young pastor. In less than a year, the membership shrank to thirty-five people.

One of the things you cannot joke with on your journey in life is the place of building capacity. Stop crying for what you have not grown capacity for. Most of the time, people cry for things and opportunities that they have not developed the capacity for.

Capacity is the structure you put in place for any new level you desire. For instance, if I tell you I am moving to a new house, you expect to see a house, not just a bush or plain ground. There must be a structure on the ground there.

If you desire a promotion at work, have you built capacity for that new level? You do not get promoted for doing what everyone on your level can do. No! You get promoted for doing more. You can now solve problems of levels higher than where you are.

You cannot stay a prisoner when you can solve palace-grade problems. The palace will call for you and keep you. That is the testimony of Joseph.

You cannot remain in the backside of the wilderness taking care of sheep when you can solve national issues. Your capacity travels faster than you. It will put structures in place that will get you to the desired

future.

Many businesses die in the hands of successors. A lot of legacies and wealth get lost in the hands of those who inherit it. Why? The lack of capacity.

Whether in business or ministry or life generally, you don't hand over a business, a ministry, or wealth; you hand over capacity.

If you are praying for promotion, then begin to put structures in place. Acquire problem-solving skills. Build relevant skills in the direction of your work. Kill the bear and the lion if you are expecting an invitation to kill a giant. Interpret dreams in the prison if you are expecting to interpret dreams on a national scale. Build capacity.

Joseph built capacity.

He learnt the culture of Egypt. He did not appear before Pharaoh with a beard. That would have irritated the king.

He learnt the place of humility. He was not pompous about his skill. He spoke with honour.

He did not just interpret the dream. He moved from giftedness to problem-solving. He advised on how the nation could navigate the coming famine. He saw famine but also had answers to manage the crisis.

Are you building capacity, or do you just have a mouth full of wishes?

CONFESSION

I am a (wo)man of capacity. I built capacity for the next breakthroughs of my life. My opportunities will meet me in incapacity.

DAY 06

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (6)- COMPETENCE

Text: Psalm 78:72 NIV

And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.

We were in a friendly discussion recently when the conversation went in the direction of a young man who had worked in an organization some years back. It struck me heavily when the boss said, “There was great transformation during the short moment he was with us. I just could not keep him for that long because I desired that he make huge progress also in his career. He is very effective”. Another person added, “The institution he went to after he left also felt his impact.”

Beloved, people see you. People talk about you. People weigh your competence or incompetence.

Capacity means I can do it. Competence means I can do it well. Capacity can bring you into the King’s Palace, but competence keeps you there. Capacity can get you an invitation to hear about the challenges; competence will keep you relevant while other advisers are being sacked or killed in Babylon. It makes you relevant no matter who is in power.

One of the things a believer must strive for is competence. Be so competent that those who need you would have to accept you and all your values. It would not matter anymore if Daniel prayed as long as he could solve the problem of the King. When detractors gang up against you, be so effective that they should not find an answer to the question, “If we get rid of him, who can do it as he does it?”

Competence makes you relevant no matter the season. Do not cry for wealth transfer if you are not building cutting-edge competence. What vehicle will wealth ride to come to you? Competence makes you indispensable. Competence keeps you relevant and “un-putdown-able.” Build competence.

King Solomon crossed the borders to look for competence: King Solomon then asked for a man named Hiram to come from Tyre. He was half Israelite, since his mother was a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father had been a craftsman in bronze from Tyre. Hiram was extremely skilful and talented in any work in bronze, and he came to do all the metal work for King Solomon.

1 Kings 7:13-14 NLT

See the royal request that brought David to the Palace: “All right,” Saul said. “Find me someone who plays well, and bring him here.”

1 Samuel 16:17 NLT

He was not looking for just anyone. He looked for someone who could play (not just that) but who could ‘play well.’

What kept him indispensable to King Saul? Whatever David was asked to do, he did it successfully. That is competence.

Whatever Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully. So Saul made him a commander over the men of war, an appointment that was welcomed by the people and Saul’s officers alike. 1 Samuel 18:5 NLT

If you have a prophecy for global impact hanging around your head, but you also have a pattern of incompetence, you have the car but lack the fuel. You will keep admiring the beautiful car but you are going nowhere.

CONFESS I O N

I grow in competence in destiny assignments. I stay relevant. I am hard to replace. I am distinguished through competence.

DAY
07

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (7)- CONFIDENCE

Text: Joshua 1:9 AMP

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified or dismayed (intimidated), for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

About six years ago, we were privileged to be at dinner with our spiritual parents. We were just still hanging around them then as once-in-a-while “time and chance” seekers. We were not even students like that, but thank God for a large heart.

At the dinner table, Irewamiri had questions to ask Mummy. As she asked one question after the other, Mummy had to ask her, “Pastor Ronke, who is your mentor?” That was the moment.

Irewamiri went on her knees and mentioned how she had known for about a year that she needed to ask Mummy for mentoring, but fear kept her away from asking. That night, after a year, she summoned the courage to ask Mummy to mentor her after waiting for about a year.

That was the beginning of a reshaping of our lives. It brought us into greater seasons in life, ministry, and marriage. Our alignment to sonship began at that table.

You need to build confidence. No matter how competent you are or your capacity, a lack of confidence can bury all your potential. Timidity will bury all possibilities before it becomes anything at all.

People will believe in you and hand over opportunities to you, but fear will keep you grounded. They will become disappointed in you even though they know the potential you carry.

Build confidence. The world makes way for the confident. David came from the wilderness to the battleground. The army ranks made way for him since he was the only one who sounded confident.

Confidence brings you face-to-face with greatness. David’s words travelled to the king before he did. He stood before King Saul, and he stood before Goliath.

Great confidence flows from knowing who God is to you, who you are to God, and what God can do. The ignorant stumbles when trouble roars. The righteous should be as bold

as a lion and roar at storms and giants.

Ask yourself, if fear was not the issue, what would I have done with my life? If fear was not a problem, what request would I have made? If fear was not a problem, if I was not afraid, where would I be by now?

Some believers are not bold about their abilities. Stop winking in the dark. Let your gift bless the world.

Do you remember these words?

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

Your playing small does not serve the world.

There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so others won’t feel insecure around you.

We are all meant to shine, as children do.

We were born to manifest the glory of God within us.

It’s not just in some of us; it’s in everyone.

And as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

Come alive! Do not deny us your light. Light your spirit. Please, come alive! Push back the darkness of fear. Pierce it with the sword of courage. There is MORE! Go for it!

CONFESS I O N

I am not limited by timidity. I do not slack in the days of my opportunities. I have the confidence to approach all situations. I am full of courage.

DAY
08

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (8)- COUNSEL

Text: Proverbs 15:22 AMP

*Without consultation and wise advice, plans are frustrated,
But with many counsellors, they are established and succeed.*

Sometimes, in 2019, we perceived it was time to make a major move regarding our life and ministry. It was to bring a huge shift, and we began to take steps towards it. We believed that it was what the Lord would have us do.

I had the opportunity to share with my spiritual father, and he told us two things that should be on the ground before we make such a move. It became the unconscious “prophetic” countdown for that decision.

Four years later, we were returning from a trip right after that major move; we were so grateful to God for the counsel and guidance we received that season. We told ourselves that if we had made the move four years earlier, it would have been unwise and chaotic.

Listen! Please listen, even if an angel comes to tell you that you will do something that looks really impossible and huge, be patient enough to listen through as he refers you to a human reference of that journey.

Think about Mary- Mary is to give birth to Jesus supernaturally, but the angel made a reference to her cousin Elizabeth, who was called barren, that is now pregnant in old age. Mary did not just say ‘wow’. She went to connect with Elizabeth.

Why? There will always be counsel that will flow if you listen to those who have walked the path. Many people genuinely caught a supernatural vision but were not patient enough or too proud to listen or receive counsel from men.

You should claim the prophecy in Job 8:7 but do not neglect the counsel that follows immediately afterwards.

And though you started with little, you will end with much.
Job 8:7 NLT

Right after you say amen to the prophetic, trust God for alignment with men of counsel:

Just ask the previous generation. Pay attention to the experience of our ancestors.
Job 8:8 NLT.

Why is that important?

First, you are new, innocent or sincerely ignorant. Be humble to ask for counsel.

For we were born but yesterday and know nothing. Our days on earth are as fleeting as a shadow.
Job 8:9 NLT

Second, the wisdom you will need as you navigate the stages of the vision will flow to you also.

But those who came before us will teach you. They will teach you the wisdom of old.
Job 8:10 NLT

The height you are is dependent on the depth of counsel you receive. Great exploits move on the hinges of wise counsel.

Counsel will keep you from crisis.

Counsel will show you how to maximize seasons.

Counsel will reveal how resources can be harnessed.

Counsel will show you the pitfalls you avoid.

Counsel changes your stature.

Never joke with counsel!

CONFESSIO N

I do not joke with counsel. I am blessed with the gift of God-ordained counsellors. I will not lose track of my journey in destiny.



The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (9)- CAUTION

Text: 1 Corinthians 10:12 NIV

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

I was returning to catch up with a meeting in Eruwa. I was speeding a bit but praying in the Spirit at the same time. I heard the warning voice of the Holy Spirit, “Son, slow down.”

At that moment, I was ascending. As I got to the peak and was to make a descent, I saw a herd of cattle crossing the road. My God! I would have found it hard to apply brakes if I was speeding. It would have been a terrible accident. The voice of caution helped me.

Never elevate the voice of your flesh or the voice of pleasure above the voice of divine caution. Saul, the king, elevated his flesh above the voice of caution. He had his first meal as a king in the house of a national prophet, and he had his last dinner as a king in the home of a medium. What was he looking for? Guidance. The voice of advice and caution had gone silent in his life. The silence of the Holy Spirit can be like torture. Never take the Holy Spirit for granted.

Caution is a major part of life. There is a reason why cars have a braking system. Airplanes will not fly forever. Can you imagine your best friend offers you a brand new Mercedes Benz as a birthday gift, but he then tells you that it has no brakes because you love speed? That is not a gift. It is a waiting coffin. Why! Caution is key.

Do not ignore your body's warning signs. Never take health signals for granted. There is a way your body also signals you. Do not make unwise decisions and

then resort to prayer points. Prevention is way cheaper than cure.

Listen! What brakes are to a vehicle is what self-control is to our lives. If you think you lack self-control, you may just have been deceived. No matter how passionate you are, if you get information that the girl or guy you are about to sleep with has a sexually transmitted disease, you will apply brakes. There is proof that you actually have some sense of self-control. You just chose to stay in sin.

Any victory you have without self-control will soon become history. Any ground you gain without self-control will soon be lost. Why?

Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city. Proverbs 16:32 NIV

Samson's disregard for his brakes led to his downfall. Solomon's disregard for his brakes led to his fall.

Cars crash when brakes fail. Destinies fail when there is no caution. Be careful.

CONFESSION

I have self-control. I do not take my physical and spiritual health for granted. I am regulated by the Holy Spirit's warnings.

DAY 10

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (10)- CONSCIENCE

Text: Acts 24:16 NLT

Because of this, I always try to maintain a clear conscience before God and all people.

There was a year at our stewards' hangout for the ministry when I decided to represent my group in a football match. It was a lot of fun while it lasted. However, by evening, after I slept and woke up, my body began to communicate with me- I was in pain. My entire body, especially my thighs, became very heavy. That pain was communication, that I was doing what I was not used to.

The way pain is to the body is the same way the conscience is to the soul. Your conscience is an alarm clock in your soul telling you when you are acting in the wrong way. You will sometimes hear people say, "Does this man have any form of conscience?"

Do not violate your conscience. The first time you do anything wrong, you are troubled in your spirit but if you keep consistently at it, you adjust to the evil.

Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked. 1 Timothy 1:19 NLT

You can violate your conscience by defending and justifying wrongdoing. The first time you do anything questionable, your conscience will be loud, but if you find a reason to justify it, your conscience begins to adjust to wrong-doing. It can get to a point where your conscience does not bother you anymore. Why? You have shut it down consistently so that it does not matter anymore.

Some people would just drink hot tea like it is nothing while you are still sipping on it. Why? They have taken it consistently that the body has adjusted to it. The sensitivity of the cells to the heat is dead. It feels like nothing again. It is like getting numb to pain.

In the same way, there are men with dead consciences.

These people are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead. 1 Timothy 4:2 NLT

Do not practise wrongdoing so much that your conscience becomes dead. Men cannot appeal to your conscience anymore. You can be

demanding by your position to sleep with a girl who is your daughter's age mate, and the girl says, "Take me as your daughter, sir," and you feel nothing at all.

You can be a pastor, and there is no demarcation between what belongs to the church and what belongs to you. You are the only Operating Officer of all income. Tread with caution. Do not kill your conscience. Do not let it become normal.

If you are in a relationship where you keep crossing boundaries consistently and you shut down your conscience, it will get worse. Keep your heart tender, and your body will not be violated.

The proof of a good conscience is the desire to live and act honourably in all you do, whether towards God or man, whether you are seen or unseen, or whether you will be caught or not caught.

Pray for us, for our conscience is clear and we want to live honorably in everything we do. Hebrews 13:18 NLT

One of the things that can kill your conscience is the wrong doctrine. Doctrine is the regulator of character. Some preachers justify sin. If you listen too long to them, you will be a swimmer in sin. You will enter into the extreme of "It does not bother. I can always ask God for forgiveness". Your conscience is affected already.

Keep your conscience alive by staying in meekness. When the Holy Spirit corrects you, do not justify it. If you keep winning all arguments and debates against the Holy Spirit, you will lose very soon to the schemes and plans of the devil. The devil enjoys it when you win arguments and shut down the voice of your conscience. He has gotten you to his side of the ring; you will soon fall. You will soon lose the battle. Do not stay there. Can this be your wake-up call?

CONFESSION

I do not endanger my conscience. I keep my conscience alive. My heart is safeguarded.



The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (11)- CONTRITENESS

Text: Psalm 34:18 NKJV

The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

In the first year of ministry, I was teaching in a midweek service, and I made a point from the Bible story about women. A young man who was a church member said, “Pastor, all women are like that.” I did not wait for his statement to get cool when I responded, “Does that include your mother and sisters?” He said, “No, sir”. I told him not to make hasty conclusions. I continued teaching.

I thought it was over. The next morning, as I got into the place of prayer, the Holy Spirit convicted my heart of that action. He told me to apologize to the young man. I called and apologized immediately. Even though the young man said he was not offended and that I was correcting him, I knew it was equally my training under the Holy Spirit.

The next Sunday, I also told stewards I apologized for what happened at the midweek service. A young man walked to me afterwards and said, “Sir, thank you. I was worried about how you spoke to him. Thank you for apologizing, sir. From today, you are my pastor”.

You cannot walk with God without a contrite heart. It is one of the sacrifices that God cannot despise. What is a contrite heart? A contrite heart is quick to repent and come into alignment or realignment, as the case may be, to the plan and purpose of God.

There was a day I was driving and started hearing a sound from the engine. At that point, the steering wheel toughened up. It was so hard to use the car afterwards. Turning the car in the needed direction was a battle. I was sweating and driving. This is exactly the way some believers are. It is so difficult for the Holy Spirit to point them towards repentance.

Contriteness is revealed in two simple

ways:

First, what is your attitude toward sin? How remorseful are you when your wrongdoing is pointed out by the Word, the Spirit, or even other brethren? Are you quick to apologize when you are wrong? Or can you keep malice with your spouse for days as a form of emotional torture, yet you still lead or attend prayer meetings?

Second, what is your attitude toward following God's plan for your life? Are you one of those who cry to know God's will, and after it is revealed, they fight and resist it? Do you find it easier to move in the direction of comfort and testify about God's goodness rather than live with conviction even when it is not that comfortable? Do you rejoice at a multinational job but are concerned for the brother called by God to serve in the hinterlands?

Take a look at this scripture:

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise. Psalms 51:17 NKJV

Like David, do you try to cover with sacrifice what you are meant to resolve by repentance? Sacrifice without a contrite heart is a waste of time. It is mere routine. It is unacceptable.

What is the state of your heart? Are you 'leadable' by the Lord? Or are you like the tough steering wheel?

CONFESSION

I am of a contrite heart. My heart is tender before God. I am sensitive in overcoming temptations. I go with the move of God for my life.

DAY 12

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (12)- COMPANY

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:33 NIV

Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”

Two of my sons in the faith got admission to the University. They came to ask me questions and seek counsel. One of the questions was, “Sir, what would you do differently if you were to get admission to study at the University afresh today?” I did not think twice when I told them, “I would not waste time before I find and settle in a local assembly of believers, be it a church or a fellowship.” They both took my counsel for it. They have been greatly helped spiritually, academically, and even financially.

In a new territory (maybe you just got admission into a higher institution, you just got a new job, you moved into a new city, or you relocated out of the country), the first thing you should look out for is a company of believers.

Finally, we reached Philippi, a major city in the Roman colony of Macedonia, and we remained there for a number of days. When the Sabbath day came, we went outside the gates of the city to the nearby river, for there appeared to be a house of prayer and worship there. Sitting on the riverbank we struck up a conversation with some of the women who had gathered there. Acts 16:12-13 TPT

Some believers have spent months in new locations and still have not connected to a group of believers. Armed robbers form gangs without advertisement, yet a believer finds it ‘hard’ to find a believer’s company. Do not be deceived. The devil knows that it is easier to catch a sheep that lacks a shepherd. Isolation precedes destruction.

A company of believers helps you to preserve your kingdom values. Some people lost their grip on their faith when they moved into new seasons. You begin to wonder what happened to them. Daniel had company in the other three Hebrew boys. They jointly stood and refused the king’s portion. They encouraged one another toward spiritual, academic, and career advancement.

A great company makes assignments and projects easier. A great company makes it easy for you to also grow in spiritual practices. For instance, Jesus sent the disciples out two by

two.

After these things, the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. Luke 10:1 NKJV

A great company can also be your launching pad into greater things. Paul and Barnabas were launched into the great mission work from the believer’s company in Antioch.

You must be discerning when connecting to a company also. At face value, if you look at the company of Saul and the company of David, you will see King Saul with his elite, well-fed, and well-paid squad, and you will wonder at David’s rugged-looking men living in caves. If you are asked to choose a company, you will likely follow King Saul. It takes discernment to know that the company of Saul was expiring and that of David was a rising company. You do not just choose by looking at the outward. No! You choose by the eyes of the Spirit.

And if you think you can do life alone, take a look at this city and why it was destroyed:

There was no one to rescue them because they lived a long way from Sidon and had no relationship with anyone else. Judges 18:28 NIV

And if you have the habit of despising your neighbours to run to your family far away, listen to the counsel from proverbs:

Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family, and do not go to your relative’s house when disaster strikes you— better a neighbor nearby than a relative far away. Proverbs 27:10 NIV

Build a great company. Keep a great company.

CONFESSION

I am not surrounded by bad friends. I discern my company rightly. I am blessed with good association.



The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (13)- CHURCH

Text: Psalm 68:6NLT

not forsaking our meeting together [as believers for worship and instruction], as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more [faithfully] as you see the day [of Christ's return] approaching.

Growing up as a pastor's child comes with its troubles. There was a day that we came back from church a bit late. We had hardly settled down after eating and clearing dishes when Dad peeped into our rooms and asked that we get ready for the regular evening evangelism meeting.

My older brother did not blink when he told Dad, “I am not going to church this evening”. Dad smiled and left him alone. That day I wish I had his boldness. This is the amazing thing- Today, my brother is a pastor.

There are a lot of people like us today who are simply casual attendees of church services. They do not draw the best of their local church. If you see the church as just one of those regular religious practices, you will not get the best of her.

One of the reasons why God set up the church is to give believers a spiritual family. Your family is a place of identity, nurturing, and inheritance. It is God himself who sets the solitary in families.

God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land. Psalms 68:6 NKJV

When you give birth to a baby, you do not leave the baby in the hospital while you return home. You bring the baby home. In the same vein, a man who comes to Jesus Christ must find family in the local church. That is a new home for you.

Attendance is not membership. For instance, that you show up every time we

have a family function and you join in the feasts does not confer membership of our family on you. If you just show up in church for ceremonies, it does not make you a member.

Church is a solid support system. The first thing God introduced Saul to after conversion was the church.

He was disciplined and followed up by the brethren. One of them was called Ananias. He was given a platform for service and ministry in Damascus. He was protected in the day of trouble. The church stood by him and ensured that the troubles did not swallow him. The Church loved and accepted him despite his history. He was given a chance to become all God has ordained him to be. His ministry went to a whole new level in the church at Antioch. The church blessed him with friendships and sons. The church provided support for the missions that he was also called into.

The church is a major part of a believer's journey. Do not despise the church. Ask the Lord to lead you to the church He has ordained for your growth. Pay the price to be committed there. Even if it is a bit far for comfort, do not complain that it is far. You skipped many schools to attend the one you graduated from. Why? You went to one that would help you in your life and career. Do not be sentimental or casual when it comes to church. Choose by the spirit also.

CONFESS I O N

I value my local church. I am not an attendance marker and a churchgoer. I make myself available for training. I am valuable to the work of God.

DAY 14

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (14)- CHALLENGES

Text: Psalm 18:29 NIV

With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall.

Right after we had the very first meeting as a ministry, I was so elated that I sent a message to my mentor. His response was simple and unforgettable- “Pastor Terri, congratulations, but what next?” I did not know whether to rejoice or how to respond. I have celebrated a milestone, but truly, what next?

Beloved, challenges are the food of champions. To become an indispensable champion, you must be willing to take on challenges. There is no champion without challenges. You must be willing to receive challenges. If you run from challenges, you cannot be a champion.

Small challenges prepare you for bigger ones. Thank God for the victory over the lion and the bear. Do not over-celebrate that you miss out on facing the giants that are still coming. Your voice should ring out loud like that of David:

Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them because he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” 1 Samuel 17:36-37 NIV

Thank God for what has happened, and do not stop thanking Him for it. Never be caught in the trap of ingratitude. Never be caught in forgetfulness. However, do not build a monument where you are meant to erect a tent. Build altars and move on. Remember the altars. Visit them again and again. But keep moving on in obedience as you take on greater things.

You need someone who challenges you in life. You need someone who reminds you never to settle. You must be challenged to:

Spiritual Growth

Character Development

Capacity Development

If you are only surrounded by fans, you will be stuck in your past achievements. They will make you print business cards with titles like “Killer of Lions and Bears.” Do you have new and fresh testimonies, or are you still sharing past victories? Thank God for previous victories. You must trust him for fresh victories, too.

Be like Caleb. Ask for more mountains to conquer while others are settling down:

“Now then, just as the Lord promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I’m just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as he said.” Joshua 14:10-12 NIV

Do not sleep with trophies when there are still mountains to conquer.

CONFESS I O N

I am not bowed by challenges. I advance in spiritual growth. I grow in character and capacity.

DAY
15

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (15)- CALMNESS

Text: Psalm 46:10 CEV

Our God says, “Calm down, and learn that I am God! All nations on earth will honour me.”

I picked up my old journal and scanned through it. At one point, I stumbled on a list of prayer points I wrote down. I began to check through it and saw that the Lord had come through for it all.

One was particularly striking; it was a request for a loyal yet trained person who could serve in an office. It was striking because the Lord had just answered the question some weeks earlier. It took three years, but the Lord answered. He answered with such a perfect fit.

When it comes to your walk with God, one of the qualities you will need is calmness. Like our generation will say, “Be calm”. Calmness talks about patience. It speaks of inner peace while going through a process.

Have you ever felt like God is slow? Listen! He is not. Listen to what Apostle Peter has to say:

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9 NIV

If the wine is ready, but the wineskin is not, and in haste, you decide to pour new wine into the old wineskin like that, you would also waste the wine and destroy the wineskin. That is the perfect illustration that Jesus himself gave.

And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.” Mark 2:22 NIV

I know there are times that Irewamiri is cooking and my girls are hungry. No matter how much they cry and how loving she is, she will not give them uncooked meals. They would have to learn patience.

No matter how loving God is, he knows that it is through faith and patience that you will obtain the promise. He is not wicked. You just need to be patient.

Some people have not been patient in waiting and end up with “half-cooked” spouses who are a mixture of strange things with a splash of spirituality. They keep saying, “But I met him in church,” and God kept saying, “But I was asking you to be calm.”

Calmness helps you to come into a well-rounded understanding that enhances decision-making. Patience will reveal authenticity. Time will always reveal the truth.

Am I saying you should lack drive and passion about life and decision-making? Not at all. I am saying exactly what the writer of Hebrews told us: “Run with patience.” Make sure you do not abandon patience as you run. Running is beautiful. Speed is amazing. However, patience is key! Run with patience.

How do you obtain the promise? It is with faith and patience. You must have an amazing drive, and it is great to be passionate. However, you must not forget patience. Be patient. Patience keeps you within the framework of God’s plans, process and patterns for you. Do not let your desire for answered prayers make you turn a blind eye to things that are not approved by the Lord. Run with patience.

Stop comparing yourself with others. Be calm.

Stop feeling like your life is not working. Find points of gratitude.

Stop trying to help God. You can birth an Ishmael.

Stop trying to help the ark. It can lead to a disaster.

Be calm. Be patient. God is not slow.

CONFESSION

I imbibe the virtue of calmness. I am confident in God’s plan, God’s time and God’s process.

DAY 16

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (16)- COURTESY

Text: Philippians 4:21 KJV

Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you.

As we shared experiences about how different people got into the church, there was one that, to date, I have not forgotten.

An elderly woman shared that the reason why she came into the church for the first time was that I would always acknowledge and greet her as I walked into the church. She visits a bar beside the church frequently.

She then added about how transformed her life is today. She stopped drinking and is no longer involved in fisticuffs. She has grown. But what did God leverage to bring her into the fold? Simple courtesy.

There is a generation that is rising that does not seem to understand the power of courtesy. They speak as they want, thinking it is being expressive. They dress as they want, thinking it is being free. No! Courtesy must not be lost. It has to be learned.

What is courtesy? It is the showing of politeness in one's attitude and behaviour towards others. It is quite scriptural to show courtesy.

Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 1 Peter 3:8 NKJV

Courtesy will show in your tone and manner of speech. Are your words graceful or disgraceful? Some people speak anyhow. It is worse off in the times we are in now.

Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out. Colossians 4:5-6 MSG

Courtesy shows in how you treat total strangers. Do you treat them honourably, or do you only wake up after discovering people's status?

In that region, there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days. Acts 28:7 NKJV

Do you treat your friends in a shabby way? There was a time we hosted a friend of one of our team leaders in church. Our first rule was to keep reminding the team leader, "He may be your friend, but he is our guest. Please treat him well".

It is very important.

Do you realize that you love to always relate with and return to people and places where you are treated honourably and with courtesy?

How do you also treat the opposite sex, the disadvantaged, or the needy? Boaz showed us the image of a man with courtesy.

He came into the field and greeted without expecting to be greeted first. That is courtesy.

Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" And they answered him, "The Lord bless you!" Ruth 2:4 NKJV

He was quick to notice a new addition to the workers on the field. He did not treat Ruth with disrespect. He gathered information discreetly about her and then made an informed decision to show her care. That is courtesy.

He ensured she had enough and invited her to join them as they ate. He knew she would be feeling shy. That is courtesy.

Even though she came into the field to make a very important request, Boaz still followed the process before marrying Ruth. That is courtesy.

Courtesy means that you find out in what way people want to be helped rather than forcing your thoughts on them. Do you realize that Jesus would ask a blind man, "What would you have me do for you?" Did you see he asked the man at the pool at Bethesda whether he wants to be made whole? He would not force his help on anyone. That is courtesy. Do not allow the desire to help overrule the principle of courtesy. Do not drag people's will in the mud because they are needy. Dignify others.

Did you learn something? Practise it.

CONFESSION

I am not uncourteous. I treat everybody with respect and dignity. I grow in the fruit of the spirit.

DAY 17

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (17)- CORRECTION

Text: Proverbs 29:1 AMP

He who hardens his neck and refuses instruction after being often reproved (corrected, criticized), will suddenly be broken beyond repair.

We were with a dear teacher, asking questions regarding leadership. He said to us, “Pastor Temi, anyone that is not being instructed or corrected is not being trained. Anyone that is not being trained will soon become a major source of trouble”. That is a very true statement.

Correction means to make a change that makes something right. To correct means to amend, adjust, alter, modify, or improve on a thing. A correction is a change that makes something more accurate than it was before.

As a leader for some years, I have realized that correction can be like weaning a child. I remember when we wanted to wean Danielle from the breastmilk; it was a tough demand both on Irewamiri and Danielle. Correction is always painful for the giver and the receiver. The giver finds it hard to give. The receiver, at times, finds it hard to receive.

There are bad ways of receiving correction:

You can feel beaten down or trodden upon. Some people withdraw from anyone who can correct them or begin to give the person quiet treatment. You can become defensive. You can begin to show self-pity. You can see correction as being judged. You can also think that you are better than the person correcting you. You can give excuses. You can turn the table on others. You can explode in outright anger. Some resort to insult. Some hate the person who corrects them.

There is a young man I pastored who sent me a message of gratitude about a correction he received almost three years after leaving our town. The weight of things dawned on him years later.

Beyond, there are terrible alternatives to correction. You would not want to be in these alternatives, but unfortunately, many prefer some of these alternatives.

First is silence. Some prefer this option, but

it does not end well. Jacob kept quiet when Reuben slept with Bilhah. At the end of the day, when blessings were meant to drop for a generation, Jacob cursed his firstborn. Silence does not always end well. David kept quiet and did not correct Adonijah. Adonijah ended in rebellion. He died shamefully.

The second is flattery. Flattery corrupts. Unfortunately, many prefer those who flatter them rather than those who correct them. Flattery is a slippery path. It never ends well.

How, then, should you correct?

Do it in gentleness. Use a gentle tone. Do not do it while you are still angry. Calm down. Find a proper time to do it. But do not withhold it.

My beloved friends, if you see a believer who is overtaken with a fault, the one who is in the Spirit should seek to restore him in the Spirit of gentleness. Galatians 6:1 TPT

Do it in sincerity of heart and not with hypocrisy. Do not use correction to score cheap points. That would be terrible.

Do it in love. It is easier to correct someone who knows that you love him or her genuinely.

It's better to be corrected openly if it stems from hidden love. Proverbs 27:5 TPT

Without correction, we cannot go far in life.

(You can listen to this teaching on the Beauty of Correction. Visit ngcc.church/the-beauty-of-correction/. It will help you).

CONFESSIO N

I give attention to corrections. I am not full of myself. I have a teachable heart.



The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (18)- CHASTITY

Text: 1 Corinthians 6:18 NLT

Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.

I still remember where we sat. I was trying my best to share the gospel with her. I noticed she was super quiet for a while. She then dropped a bombshell: “Temi, I appreciate your effort. I have lost it already. Why then pretend like I still have it?”. I had to tell her that living a pure life may begin with being a virgin, but it was more than that. You can be a virgin and still not live a pure life. But much more, I wanted her to meet Jesus Christ first and surrender her life to Him. All others will be settled.

Chastity, in Bible terms, means to be untouched and undefiled.

For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. II Corinthians 11:2 NKJV

It means to live a pure, godly life.

For when they observe your pure, godly life before God, it will impact them deeply. 1 Peter 3:2 TPT

Thank God for the consolation and redemption that we have in Christ Jesus. Glory to God. You must, however, know that if Mary was no longer a virgin, you would not have fulfilled that ancient prophecy of Isaiah:

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14 NKJV

The prophecy clearly stated that “the virgin” shall conceive. If Joseph and Mary had not been living a pure life, heaven would have looked for another person to raise the Messiah.

Beloved, depending on the height of the demand of your destiny, let me gently announce to you that there is a state you must be in sometimes for destiny to be fulfilled. There is nothing God cannot turn around, but God is also a righteous God- Joseph and Mary would have been bypassed.

In a generation that lowers the standard, kindly raise yours. In a generation where anything goes, make sure you stay grounded and rooted in the love and the fear of God.

In a generation where fornication is “premarital sex” and adultery is an “extra-marital affair”, remind yourself by calling it what it is- Sin! If you keep explaining it away, you will never walk in victory over sin.

Defilement places a limitation on you. Daniel knew this and refused to defile himself with the King’s portion.

Are your words edifying or defiling? Do you speak with the fear of the Lord or with the desire to belong and just trend?

Does your appearance show that regard for the fear of the Lord or just the fashion trends of the day?

Is your courtship or dating pure and edifying, or is it already defiling? Are you presenting your members (all of your body parts) as a living sacrifice to the Lord?

Listen, embrace purity in courtship. It helps to keep trust in marriage. A man who runs his hands all over you now will ruin you. A man who sins with you before marriage will likely sin against you in marriage. It is simply a lack of self-control. Marriage is not the cure for it. Deal with anything that defiles. Do not explain it away!

Stop saying, “Body no be wood” every time you drop the ball. Place a demand on yourself. Submit your all to the government of Christ.

CONFESSION

I keep away from defilement. I am committed to righteousness and holiness. I do not joke with consecration for purity.

DAY 19

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (19)- COVENANT

Text: Deuteronomy 7:9 NLT

Understand, therefore, that the LORD your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations...

My first time out of home as a teenager was at a State University. I was just about sixteen years old. One night, I was all alone in the flat when sickness struck. I had no phones to call home. My temperature was high. I was scared.

As I shook with feverish rigour under the thick blanket, I began to say, “God that my father calls on, help me,” “The Lord that my mum cries to, help me.” I knew I slept off and woke up better. That impression never left me.

You can be blessed or trapped by a covenant you are ignorant of. You cannot joke with covenants. Saul, in his zeal, killed the Gibeonites. In the days of David, famine struck. When they asked the Lord, it was revealed that Saul’s action triggered it. The Gibeonites asked for seven sons of Saul. Those sons were impaled. Saul was ignorant of the covenant of Joshua with the Gibeonites that the Israelites would never kill them. Those sons were caught in the net of trouble because of their father’s ignorance of another leader’s covenant. Covenants are powerful.

Beloved, covenants are powerful. You can even be a beneficiary of a covenant you were not a part of. For instance, Mephiboseth would have died a pauper, but one day, David the King remembered his covenant with Jonathan. He asked if there was anyone left in Saul’s house that he could favour him (because of Jonathan’s sake).

When Mephiboseth was found, his dignity as a prince was restored – lands, houses, servants, vineyards and even given access to the palace to eat at the king’s table. All of it happened in a day. Covenants are powerful.

Ignorance of a covenant is not an excuse, as we saw with King Saul and Mephiboseth.

As a child of God, never underrate the power of covenant. Covenants can open a fountain of mercy.

But the Lord was gracious to them, had compassion on them, and regarded them because of His covenant with Abraham,

Isaac, and Jacob, and would not yet destroy them or cast them from His presence. II Kings 13:23 NKJV

Covenants are rooted in relationships. When people pray from the covenant standpoint, there is always a change. We have the covenant of life now because of the blood of Jesus.

Live with covenant sense. It changes everything for you. It stirs strength and courage in you.

Mordecai lived with a covenant sense. They warned Haman that as long as Mordecai was a Jew, Haman would fall before him.

When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, “If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him.” Esther 6:13 NKJV

Some seeds are struggling because of strange covenants that their patriarchs entered into. It has led to oppression and strange afflictions. By the mercies of God, every affliction ends in your life today!

Never joke with covenants. Live by a sense of covenant. Our covenant in Christ Jesus is superior to any other covenant. A man in Christ can only be oppressed or afflicted if he permits it. Live with a sense of covenant.

He is a covenant-keeping God!

We must be covenant-living sons and daughters.

CONFESSION

I do not undermine the power of God’s covenant for me. I have covenant sense. I am preserved by covenant.

DAY
20

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (20)- CALLING

Text: 1 Corinthians 7:20 NKJV

Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called.

I was reading about 3 am that September morning in 2009. I was awaiting a miracle for my Law School posting. It had become a naughty issue. That morning, while reading a book by Myles Munroe, “Principles and Benefits of Change,” I heard the Lord speak to me at my parent’s dining table. He said, “Son, there is a repositioning coming to the land of Eruwa; I want you to be there to reap the harvest.”

This was a follow-up on similar prompts I had received in 2006 and a solid eight points He had given in 2008. It took a while, but I knew I had been called to serve the purpose of God in my generation.

You have a calling upon your life. You must not take it for granted. A calling is a divine beckoning. It is God calling you to Himself so you can represent Him properly wherever He deploys you. The calling is first to intimacy and fellowship. It is a call to know God before going for him. A man who goes for Him must go from Him.

You are not a headache to the devil until you decide to say “Yes” to God’s demand for your life. Salvation is God calling you out of captivity. Calling is God sending you to bring others out of captivity. The devil is protecting his captives. You have an assignment to fulfill. There will be a clash.

If you are just talented but lack awareness of the call, the devil is fine with it. If you convert the call to a social enterprise called an NGO, the devil is also fine with it. Anything that makes you not go all the way pleases him. He loves half-measures.

Whenever the call is varied, and obedience is limited, frustration and lack of fulfilment are never far. You will always know that something is missing. Listen, the devil can even sponsor your disobedience by distracting you with bigger deals that make you comfortable.

The called man who acknowledges and responds to it pleases the Lord. Such a man is helped by God. The supply of God to a called man is called Grace. The grace in the call will provide the privileges, the protection, the preservation, the provisions, the power, and the promotion. The calling takes you from the company of beggars

into the communion of greatness.

There is no life as sweet as one that the devil is scared of and God is pleased with.

If you say I am not called to be a Pastor, at least lead your home and children as a priest.

Lead them to Christ. That is a calling too.

If you say, I am not called to be an Apostle, at least break new grounds on your knees through intercession. Pray for souls and communities to Christ. That is a calling too.

If you say, I am not called to be a Teacher, at least be a disciple who discipled others. Let someone be rooted in Christ and in the church because of you. That is a calling too.

If you say I am not a prophet, at least be so in tune with God like David that you lose sleep because you enjoy the best and the kingdom of God has demands for the gospel. Be willing to raise altars of burnt offerings that cost you something.

If you say I am not an evangelist, that’s fine. At least, be a great steward of divine resources. Have a clear mindset that all you have belongs to God, and you will give an account someday.

You are called.

Pursue the call.

Do your best at the level He has placed you.

Moses’s parents did many things with their lives, but God took note of the conception and raising of Moses as their “act of faith”. Calling makes you focus on things that count. Are you focused beloved?

CONFESSION

I have an awareness of my calling. I focus on my calling. I will pay the price for the demands of my calling.

DAY 21

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (21)- CONSECRATION

Text: Romans 12:1 NIV

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

A dear friend used a powerful illustration once: If you have two bowls that look similar- you use one in the kitchen and another in the restroom. Then one day, you had a visitor who did not know the difference. You just met the two bowls in the kitchen. You are not sure of the one for the kitchen nor of the one for the restroom. What will you do to the bowls?

Most likely, you will begin to use both for the restroom. You will then get a new one for the kitchen. Why? By the mix-up, you were no longer sure of the one you had separated for each use.

Consecration is separation unto the Lord for specific use and purpose. Consecration means that there are things that others are permitted to do (even when not sinful) that you must never do. Consecration means you know the 'dos' and 'don'ts' of your journey.

We are indeed all children of God but consecration can set you apart in certain areas. One of the consecrations of Samson was the seven locks on his head that no blade should touch. Once he took his consecration for granted, that was also the beginning of his fall.

When you understand consecration, you do not joke with anything that will make you lose the ground that you have gained spiritually or gained in obedience to the instructions of the Lord.

There are ministers of the gospel who would never watch a movie (especially Nollywood or Hollywood). Why? They have laid it down into the Lord. You would not find them in cinemas. It is not sinful to watch a movie however, they have seen from experience that some of the unholy, casual sex scenes, nudity, and all affect the state of their mind. They cut it off.

There are others who would not miss a particular hour of prayer or a season of fasting. They have kept this routine for many years. It is the secret of their stability. They do not joke with it. It has become a consecration.

When Abraham told Eleazar to get a wife for Isaac from his own family and his own kinsmen. Eleazar envisages intelligently that he may get a woman who does not want to come to where Abraham or Isaac was. He asked Abraham a simple question:

The servant asked him, “What if the woman is

unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?” Genesis 24:5 NIV

You just need to perceive the tone of Father Abraham rightly. He would not take such chances.

“Make sure that you do not take my son back there,” Abraham said. “The Lord, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, ‘To your offspring I will give this land’—he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there. If the woman is unwilling to come back with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there.” Genesis 24:6-8 NIV

Did you see the tone?

“Make sure you do not take my son back there”

“Only do not take my son back there”

His tone was final- On no grounds should we lose the grounds we have gained in obedience to God.

Listen, anything (I mean anything) that makes you lose the grounds you have gained in obeying God is an attack on your consecration- it could be a new guy or fresh babe, it could even be a new job or promotion at work or it could be a new set of friends or your new love for a particular way of living.

Ask yourself- “What are the lines I must never cross?” Please, do not stay at the edge. You need to be close to a pit to fall into it. Do not allow mixtures or mix-ups that reduce the potency of your assignment and the richness of your walk with God.

When there is a mix-up, you become only useful for the least demands and not for higher purposes any longer. Do not take consecration for granted.

CONFESS I O N

I do not take consecration lightly. My consecration is shielded from attacks. I am committed to God and godly living.

DAY 22

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (22)- CARRIAGE

Text: Genesis 41:14 NLT

Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and he was quickly brought from the prison. After he shaved and changed his clothes, he went in and stood before Pharaoh.

I have a dear son in the faith who is an artisan also. He does a great job in tiling and plumbing. He has some knowledge of electrical work also. He is a utility worker. I called him one day and told him to change the way he dresses and how he appears after work. He must never appear like a site worker when he is not on a site.

One day, he returned home and his sister kept asking the mum where he was coming from. She was confused. He did not look the way he used to. He has sustained that practice.

A private university banned the wearing of jeans on campus because they discovered that they could not spot the difference between their students and the several labourers and artisans on the various construction projects on campus. They needed to distinguish their students.

Beloved, your carriage is important. It speaks of your posture, presence, and comportment. It speaks of the way you bear your body whether casually, deliberately, or with class.

There is an appearance of royalty. There is a way kings appear. Look at the way Solomon's appearance was described:

What's this I see, approaching from the desert, raising clouds of dust, Filling the air with sweet smells and pungent aromatics? Look! It's Solomon's carriage, carried and guarded by sixty soldiers, sixty of Israel's finest, All of them armed to the teeth, trained for battle, ready for anything, anytime. King Solomon once had a carriage built from fine-grained Lebanon cedar. He had it framed with silver and roofed with gold. The cushions were covered with a purple fabric, the interior lined with tooled leather. Song of Songs 3:6-10 MSG

Dear Christian brother, smelling good is not a crime. Do not carry an offensive smell and expect to be treated like an executive. Dear sister, take a regular shower. Take care of your body. Be clean. Smell clean.

Do you know that there are times you appear alone in some places that people get suspicious and worried? For instance, your in-laws should know that you have valuable relationships. Do not be oppressive about it but also not be silent about it.

In the early days of ministry (and even till now), some people ask what we do in our office because of the way we appear and we carry ourselves. Your appearance speaks without you saying a word. It shows your mood- seriousness, nonchalant, depressed, mourning, etc.

If you have an organization, appear well but also ensure you care about the appearance of your staff. When Queen of Sheba visited King Solomon, she observed many things:

“she was overwhelmed. She was also amazed at the food on his tables, the organization of his officials and their splendid clothing, the cup-bearers, and the burnt offerings Solomon made at the Temple of the Lord” 1 Kings 10:5 NLT

What impression was left on her?

First, she admitted that Solomon was a wise king and it was no rumours. Your carriage can show how learned or wise you are.

Second, she admitted it was beyond what she was told. Your carriage can determine the impression and perspective people have about it.

Third, she admitted anyone who was around him was privileged to be there to see and listen to him.

Fourth, she gave glory to the Lord who has given him such wisdom. Your carriage can either glorify God or not.

Finally, she could not but give to King Solomon. Your carriage and the impression people have of you determine what they give to you.

If you are perceived as a beggar, you get a beggar's portion. If you are perceived as royalty, you get a kingly portion.

What is your carriage like? Beggarly or Kingly!

CONFESSION

I am royalty and I refuse to live a casual life. My appearance glorifies God. My appearance attracts favour from men.

DAY 23

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (23)- CRUCIFIXION

Text: Galatians 2:20 NLT

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

A group of missionaries went to preach the gospel in a village many years ago. Halfway into the first day of their outreach, the entire village was in tears of joy and there was a revival. The missionaries felt it was too easy to get the entire village saved, so they began to ask questions. The villagers had a powerful story to share:

Some years earlier, the village was besieged by a group of rogue government soldiers who lined up the entire village for execution. Fear gripped everyone. Death felt so close and real.

The first person in the queue was an old woman. As the soldiers lifted their swords to behead her, she let out a scream, “Oh God that died by execution, save me”. There was silence thereafter. Everyone was expecting their turn to die but were surprised there were no screams of pain for a moment.

They summoned the courage to look up and saw that all the rogue soldiers were nowhere to be found. There was joy and relief.

They told the missionaries, “From that day, we all began to pray to the God who died by execution. Whether it is planting or harvest season, whether for health or protection”. The missionaries were in awe.

They then added, “Today, you came to tell us about the one who died by execution. We now know his name is Jesus Christ. That is why we are in tears”.

Never take for granted what Jesus Christ did for you at the cross:

At the cross, he cancelled the curse and replaced it with the blessing. We talk a lot about generational curses but we seem to forget about generational blessings that we got through Christ.

But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung

on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith. Galatians 3:13-14 NLT

At the cross, he ensured that the devil and his demons were thoroughly defeated. Your victory over the forces of hell was settled. Any believer who the devil defeats permitted him to do so. We have victory in Christ.

In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. Colossians 2:15 NLT

Walk with confidence. Talk with confidence. Do not let fear keep you in one spot. Fear not!

Let me help someone afraid of attacks from the “village”:

For all people walk each in the name of his god, But we will walk in the name of the Lord our God Forever and ever. Micah 4:5 NKJV

When anyone threatens with the name of their god, you should also walk in the name of Jesus Christ who paid the price for you.

Say with me: I am the ransomed of the Lord and I have passed over. I am the redeemed of the Lord, I shall always return!

CONFESSION

I live a crucified life. I enjoy the benefits of the crucifixion of Christ. I walk in liberty in Christ Jesus.

DAY 24

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (24)- CONFESSION

Text: Proverbs 18:21 AMP

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it and indulge it will eat its fruit and bear the consequences of their words.

My little one was at a stage where her vocabulary was beginning to grow. She would say at times the exact opposite of what you are saying. We have to start speech culturing. When you say “You are a fine girl”. She can say, “I am not a fine girl”. We kept educating and correcting her.

One evening, we were in a general conversation and she started playing with words again. She said something quite outrageous. I gave her a friendly one-touch spank. I looked straight at her and said, “Not in this house. We do not have a bad girl in this home”. You do not speak vain words here! She got the memo from that day and stopped immediately.

There are three purposes of the mouth:

The first is that your mouth is an instrument of praise to the Lord Most High. You use your mouth to praise God.

I will greatly praise the Lord with my mouth; Yes, I will praise Him among the multitude. Psalms 109:30 NKJV

When your mouth is full of praise, your life will show forth God’s glory also

Let my mouth be filled with Your praise And with Your glory all the day. Psalms 71:8 NKJV

Will you take a moment to praise God? Have you thanked Him for this season or you have just been complaining?

The second purpose of your mouth is to stir the direction of your life. Your confession is critical in life. Do not say things that will wreck your life. Speak life. Speak to your health. Speak to your home. Speak! Speak grace.

Your words are so powerful that they will kill or give life, and the talkative person will reap the consequences. Proverbs 18:21 TPT

Your tongue may seem small but it can set

the course of your life aflame. Do not destroy things with your mouth.

A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it! It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech, we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke, and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell. James 3:3-5 MSG

Be careful what you say. A widow kept telling her children that “I just want to see the last of you get married”. She died the week her last daughter got married.

There are jokes in the spirit. Men may know jokes but angels and demons only know words.

A man was explaining something to his friend and he said, “For example, you are poor”. The friend said, “Even in the example, I cannot be poor”.

Stop adding “die” to every joke. Why must “I want to die” be the response to a funny happening? Be warned. Be careful.

Finally, the third purpose of the mouth is eating. That needs no explanation. As you eat this season, do not get carried away. Give thanks and confess right.

CONFESS I O N

I confess the blessings of God for my life. I confess the promises of God for my life. My tongue confesses ONLY what God has said concerning my destiny.

DAY 25

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (25)- CHRIST

Text: Acts 17:28 AMP

For in Him we live and move and exist [that is, in Him we actually have our being], as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children.’

I was born into a Christian home. It did not take too long to realise that being born in a God-fearing does not automatically make you God-fearing. Lust began to tug at my soul. It was such a strong pull that almost tore my teenage years apart.

It began with getting junk into my imaginative young man. I would and could read up on anything. My introduction to porn began with my love to read. The ability of some writers to paint sexual images with words was the trigger point. If you are in my generation, you may know the James Hadley Chase and the Hints Magazine. It was not videos. It was words that began the downward slide.

Once my heart defense was broken, it was easier for other things to come in. I found outlets to express the pictures my mind had stored up. Only the mercy of God saved me.

I was singing in the choir but lust had a grip on my soul. I was winning academic awards but I had no space for the word. I was something else behind the scenes. The spirit of Hophni and Phinehas seems to be re-awakened in a young soul.

My story changed and my joy was restored when I met Jesus Christ. I decided to start living for Him. That was my game-changer. I still remember how much I read the Living Bible that my Dad gave me. I still remember how the fire of the Holy Ghost was restored as I prayed and sang. It was indeed a new beginning.

Beloved, you cannot joke with Christ. Hear John the Beloved writes about what we have in Christ:

For out of His fullness (abundance) we have all received [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favor upon favor and gift [heaped] upon gift. John 1:16 AMPC

In Christ, you have grace. The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared unto all men. The grace that saves from sin. The grace

that breaks addiction. The grace that delivers from lust is still available today.

In Christ, you have spiritual blessings. Beloved, what a joy it is to be blessed. In Christ, we have been redeemed from the curse of the law. We now have the blessing flowing in and from our lives.

In Christ, we have favour upon favour. The favour of God that stands by us and with us. In the favour of God, you cannot be written off because favour has written and rewritten your story.

In Christ, you have gifts upon gifts. Is it the gift of salvation? Is it the gift of the Holy Spirit? Is the gift of men? Is it spiritual gifts? There are gifts heaped upon gifts in Christ Jesus.

Beloved, some people celebrate Christmas with everything that has no stamp of Christ on it. This season is not about the indulgence of the flesh. Don't "club for Jesus Christ". Don't groove to lust. Cleave to the love of Christ. If Christ is going everywhere with you, what would you do? Where would you go? How would you behave?

Listen! If you are born again, live for Christ. There is no greater gift you can give to Him.

What is your own "Christ-Story"?

Would you share with me and the world?

Who were you before you met Christ?;

How did you meet Christ?

What changed after you met Christ?

What a Joy!

CONFESS I O N

I enjoy spiritual blessings in Christ. I enjoy grace and favour in Christ. I will live my life to the fullest in Christ. Glory! Hallelujah!!

DAY 26

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (26)- COMMUNICATION

Text: Romans 12:10 NKJV

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour, giving preference to one another.

There was a season when Irewamiri and I had a particular issue that we always avoided talking about. The moment we began the conversation, we both knew it would likely lead to an argument. Once our conversation goes in that direction and it starts getting heated a bit, we would throw the issue under the carpet again.

One day, it got to the height and it seemed to get harder the more we tried to talk about it. We eventually asked for guidance and counsel from our spiritual parents. One of the statements that we cannot forget was the admonition that we should never behave like ‘spiritual orphans’. It rang a bell in us.

Communication is a major skill you need to master that will help you in tough times. I always say to sons and daughters in the faith, “You give us permission in your lives by communicating your seasons to us”. It is always painful to see that issues have degenerated before counsel is sought.

There was an issue that had gotten so messy. I kept asking, “Why did you not say anything when it was just starting”. The usual answer is “I did not want to bother you”. My response is always “Are we not now bothered when it has become a huge issue”.

Beloved, you must master the art of communication in relationships. Communication will open you up to counsel. When counsel is solid, you get to do mighty deeds.

great in counsel, and mighty in work: Jeremiah 32:19 KJV

If you are being mentored, build the skill

of asking questions, sharing about your season, and getting counsel. When was the last time you got feedback from a mentor? Build the art of communication.

If you are going through a transition season, communicate it. Sometimes, you get counsel. At times, you get contacts. Some other times, it may be prayers. It helps to build that relationship.

There is great counsel I have gotten because I communicated our season. From my early days in ministry, I would even write a full account quarterly and send it to my mentors. I remember one of them challenged me once with his response, “I love all you have written and you are doing but I see no room for prayers”. It woke up the awareness that ministry was not mere activities. It must be soaked in intercession.

We would have made a great financial error at a point. We communicated with our spiritual parents and we got the counsel that reshaped it all.

We would have made a great mistake at a transition point once. Our dear teacher simply shared steps on what we had to do. It has saved us a lot of stress.

If you have spiritual parents or a pastor or mentors, do well by communicating regularly. It is better to learn than to grieve. It is better to build well than to repair.

Work on your communication.

CONFESS I O N

I will improve in the art of communication. I communicate effectively with those God has placed around my life.

DAY 27

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (27)- CREATIVITY

Text: Exodus 36:1 NIV

So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the LORD has commanded.

During the economic crisis in the early 90s, when we had to cook with sawdust stoves and invent different things, we also had a shortage of supplies. However, as kids, we did not know. Mum would send us hunting for slightly ripe mangoes. She would cook vegetables, and when they were almost done, she would cut huge chunks of mangoes into them. She called it mango soup. We did not realize that the challenge was that “things were hard.” We would even keep begging her to make mango soup. Smiles! Her creativity paid off. We still speak of mango soup till date.

One of the things that the Lord has blessed us with as men is creativity. Let situations and circumstances bring out your creativity. Do not shut down when things are tough. Never let it happen. Tough seasons produce strong men with creative minds.

It was a pending crisis that threw Joseph into the limelight. A crisis is like a wave. It will bury some people while it will throw up some others. You may not know what waves will come, but you can ask the Lord for courage to ride the waves at the proper time.

When Covid struck in 2020, some people gave in while some reinvented. A little online class we started to strengthen believers has become a full-blown training where believers are equipped for ministry today. The waves lifted us.

Listen, beloved, one of the things you need to do to fan the emblem of creativity is worship. Worship keeps your mind open to God, our Father and creator. With an open mind, heaven can pour resources into your mind. You cannot be connected to the creator and not be creative.

If you keep complaining during a crisis, your mind will shrink to the size of the situation, and all you will keep seeing and saying will be hardship and possibilities.

Dear parents, you must be seed spotters and not seed killers. When you see a huge sign of creativity, fan it up to flames. Do not kill the

seed in the generation because of the pains and hurt that you went through. Be that coach that wakes up the gifts of the Lord in them. Every child has a mission here on earth. Fear not! Blow it into flames. Be the Lois and the Eunice in their life. Raise them until their Pauls show up. When Paul shows up, be willing to let them go.

If you are connected to the creator in a crisis, the testimony of men about you will be like that of Daniel:

There is a man in your kingdom whom is the Spirit of the Holy God. And in the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him; and King Nebuchadnezzar your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers. Daniel 5:11 NKJV

Do you also have the Spirit of the Living God?

You cannot shut down because the economy is hard. You have an advantage!

You cannot give up on that business yet. You have an advantage!

Stop washing your nets. Cast the nets one more time. Launch into the deep. Your “nevertheless” of obedience is about to become a harvest of testimonies.

Do you believe it? Stand up. Worship. Let the gift in you be stirred. Wake up possibilities. Let creativity flow!

CONFESSION

I fan my creativity through worship. I have the advantage of the Holy Spirit. My mind is blessed with creative ideas.

DAY
28

The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (28)- COLLABORATION

Text: Acts 13:2 NKJV

As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

One day, I was trying to reverse the car and accidentally got one of the tyres at the back into a drainage. I was stuck. I did not know what to do. Then someone showed up, an elderly man who had experience driving. He looked at the situation and requested that I pull out the car jack. Someone else fitted the jack and lifted the car. He asked for a strong stool. They placed it under the tyre in the drainage. He asked me to drive. It all came out with ease.

I would have been on that spot for longer hours if there had been no help from and collaboration with those men.

Many are stranded because of their unwillingness to collaborate and receive help. You cannot do mighty things all by yourself.

Collaboration is a joint effort of multiple individuals to achieve a task. Collaboration will never thrive where competition is in place. You must be willing to collaborate with others to achieve your goal. It involves humility and patience most times.

One of the hardest things for some people to ask for is help. At times, it is pure arrogance. Sometimes, it is hinged on ignorance. But no matter what, it will keep you in the same spot.

There is no great thing that you will ever get to do on your own. With vision, it is said that people will perish, but without people, you must also know that vision will perish.

There are instances of collaboration all over the scriptures:

There was no way Adam would fulfill God's mandate alone. It was not good for the man to be alone. There is a need for the woman. That's the complete team. It is a need for companionship, intimacy, and procreation. One of the strongest attacks of the devil is on marriages and families.

Some of the finest examples are Moses, Joshua, Aaron, and Hur. When the Amalekites attacked Rephaim, Moses called on Joshua to take some men and proceed to the battleground. Moses climbed the mount with his rod alongside Aaron and Hur.

Moses lifted the rod on the mountain. Joshua had the upper hand over the Amalekites as long as

the rod was up. At a point, Moses got tired, and his strength was failing. It affected Joshua on the battlefield.

Aaron and Hur found a stone and had Moses sit on it. They stood each one on his side and formed a brace to support his hands. They won the battle.

What if they were competing? Joshua could have accused Moses of sending him on a suicide mission. They would have lost the war.

Aaron and Hur could have wrestled the rod from Moses's hand because he was tired. They would have lost the battle.

Aaron and Hur could have been arguing about who was stronger enough or older, and the battle would have been over before it started.

In marriage, the goal is to be one and not to be right. If you insist on being right, you may end up not having a home. You can win an argument yet lose your spouse and your home. Do not sacrifice oneness for non-lasting victory.

Nehemiah caught the vision of building the wall, but he had to mobilize the people to build it. Each one was built close to his house. It was all done in fifty-two days.

What has remained small because you are not open to collaboration? There are heights you cannot get to alone. You must be open to the help God has placed in others.

Look at that image of Moses, Aaron, Joshua, and Hur again- They gave Moses rest! Think about your pastor. Do you give him peace of mind? Does he sigh over you, or does he smile over you? Are you of help or a burden?

Collaborate!

CONFESSION

I am not a lone ranger in the journey of life. I discern profitable companion. I am blessed with great associates.

DAY
29

THE “C”s THAT WILL HELP YOU (29)- COMPASSION

Text: Ephesians 4:32 NIV

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

My father, in the faith, shared with us about a time when they had a capital-building project they trusted the Lord for. When he took the matter to the Lord in prayers, the Lord told the ministry to build a church at a particular mission field. They obeyed.

The moment they finished building the church in the mission field, the heavens opened, and the resources needed for the capital project began to flow in.

If you are blinded by your needs, you will be deaf to divine instructions. When you are deaf to divine instructions, you will likely struggle with compassion.

Compassion is one of the companions of restoration. Mephiboseth, the son of Jonathan, would have died in poverty even though he had legal rights to his grandfather's properties if not for the compassion that the Lord planted in the heart of David.

A servant called Ziba had already taken over the estate of King Saul, but it was all turned around in a moment.

If you are goal-oriented without compassion, you will trample on those who can give answers and hence make your journey longer. David and his men were going after the Amalekites for a showdown. They were men in great pain. Their wives and children were already taken as prisoners of war. Their base was set ablaze.

On the way, they saw a man who was left alone to die in the field. They gave him bread and some water. His health was restored. He gave them all the intel to wage war and recover their families. No matter how pained you are, never trample on people!

Compassion is needed to give direction to your passion. Sometimes, you will discover that you are anointed for the things breaking your heart. Look at the ministry of our Lord, Jesus Christ:

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep

having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few” Matthew 9:36-37 NKJV

He came to seek and save the lost. His heart is always moved when he sees lost souls. Compassion is a major driving force for ministry. You cannot serve a generation that you are not passionate about.

Compassion does not trample on a fallen brother or sister. Compassion will ask, “What if I was the one?” We judge people by their actions but want to be treated by our intents. Learn to walk in other people's shoes. It is a game changer.

Compassion never fails. Why? The merciful shall always obtain mercy. There are men who have no mercy in their account balance asking for the mercy of the Lord.

As you think about your needs this season, there is someone whose needs you can meet. If you need a hundred million naira, there is someone who needs a hundred thousand naira. Be merciful!

You must be compassionate to your spouse. Apostle Peter said that a husband must treat his wife compassionately, or his prayers will be hindered. When compassion leaves a marriage, competition and strife will take over.

Compassion makes it easy to bear with one another. You will give people the room to become. You will be patient with those in the process of growth. Be compassionate.

Do not forget – we are all recipients of God's mercy. It is by His mercies that we are not consumed.

CONFESSION

I am not heartless and unfeeling. I have compassion for the people around me. God's mercy and compassion keep flowing in my direction.



The “C” s THAT WILL HELP YOU (30)- CREDIBILITY

Text: Proverbs 10:9 NLT

People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will be exposed.

At another time, someone shared that when anyone heard that my Dad was serving on the board of a financial institution, they were more willing to invest.

Beloved, never joke with your credibility. Credibility is goodwill. Credibility is the blessing of a good name. There are names that open doors. There are names that close doors. No matter how powerful the name Judas is, no one wants to bear that name. Some names are associated with corruption or evil.

While we were searching for land as a ministry, I had cause to meet with one or two people. While in negotiations one day, a middle-aged man told me, “If not for the fact that your Dad is not a greedy man, you should have no business looking for land”.

A good name is better than gold or silver. I know it is not one of the things we hear often in our generation but there is the blessing of a good name.

If you have to choose between a good reputation and great wealth, choose a good reputation. Proverbs 22:1 GNT

Some names have become institutions. The moment you hear the name, you link the bearer with greatness. That was the blessing of the Lord on Father Abraham:

I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. Genesis 12:2 NKJV

A good name helps to build a great brand in business too. Some statements are

linked with bad or low-quality products or services. There is a difference between “Swiss-made” and “Made in China”.

Credibility earns you reference. A dear teacher has referred his mechanic to tons of people. He has been using the same man for over twenty years. He would do a great job, keep accounts, and still hand over your change to you. He kept earning references.

Credibility gives you access to needed resources. When they untied the donkey, they were confronted but once they mentioned who needed it, the questioning ceased.

If you have soiled your name and reputation, it could be tough to regain but it is not an impossibility. Begin to work on honest dealings. Seek forgiveness of those you took for granted. If you borrowed without returning, the Bible calls it wickedness. Deal with it.

You are delivered from the trap of a bad name. You are blessed. Your name will be great.

CONFESS I O N

I build credibility in all I do. My life is not a mockery of the life of Christ. I have a good name that opens doors. I have the character of Christ.

DAY 31

TWO FACTORS THAT MUST GUIDE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:11 NIV

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

A I was speaking to a dear sister some years back. I noticed her spiritual growth as her pastor and I was excited about it. Every Pastor loves a growing sheep! I told her the truth about her courtship.

She had been talking about the man in some previous conversations. I told her, "Can I tell you this? The pace at which you are growing, if your man refuses to grow, you will outgrow him. There will then be problems because you will not be talking about the same values or have the same understanding".

It happened exactly like that. She fought for it but it dawned on her that their values were not the same even in something as simple as consistent church attendance.

Friends, two things must play strong roles in your decisions in life: First is Growth. The second is Value.

Some of the troubles you will have will come from holding on desperately to people and places you have outgrown. Can you imagine at 25, you are trying to wear a shirt you loved wearing at age 10? No matter how much you try it cannot fit. Can you imagine going back to primary school to join a class? Even the chairs will tell you that you are only stressing yourself.

Most "couple affairs" that began on campus (even fellowships) hit the rocks when one of the parties begins to outgrow the other or they realise that they were hasty in making a choice that will not fit the demand of their destiny. You just realise that you love each other but your direction is no longer the same. You will pull each other apart when the direction is different. And if one person forces himself or herself to go in with it, it will feel like being dragged on the floor by a galloping horse- there will be heavy emotional bruises.

A second challenge will be your values. For instance, you did not know the importance of a local church on your life's journey but now you are fiercely committed to learning, growing and serving in your local church but your immediate company are still full of "sleepers on service days" not to talk of commitment to serving.

You now realise that your destiny will not be built in a weekend party but the place of prayer. The

party has reduced. You now realise that you must be accountable to be responsible but you are in a company that laughs every time you say you want to visit your mentor or pastor.

You now realise that sex before marriage is a breach of the covenant but you are in a company that feels "What is the big deal with having a little fun, at least we are adults or we are getting married?"

You have chosen the high road of purity but you are in the company of those who sit down to watch and discuss the latest in sitcoms, songs and styles that promote nudity and perversion. You all go to church but you see your taste is different.

Growth and Values will always be the demarcating lines in the long run. You will love them genuinely but you know that there are lines you will not cross.

You know the demands of your destiny and nothing will make you settle for less. You know you are on a national assignment with international impact, and you cannot afford a day's rest in the bosom of a "burning beautiful housewife". Your destiny will not allow it!

Let your values and growth be tied to the demands of your destiny. Remember, when it comes to your destiny, be brutal. No sentiments!

May your head not find rest where your destiny's demand will not be fulfilled.

Do not forget the counsel of Solomon:

The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray. Proverbs 12:26 NKJV

CONFESSION

I am intentional about my spiritual growth. I give value to the things of God. I gain value and strength in the place of fellowship.



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