

COMPASS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

**FOR
SEPTEMBER
2024**

**NOT
FOR
SALE!**

Temiloluwa Ola

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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- SEPTEMBER 2024 -

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DAILY DEVOTIONAL



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Practical thoughts for a productive day

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*Request for Information and Feedback should be
directed to: mycompassdevotional@gmail.com
+2348077467754*

Introduction

Welcome to September 2024!

About Ten years ago, I got my first Blackberry Phone so I could stay in touch with my lovely fiancée (as she then was). But it became a tool to also share thoughts that has blessed my life with friends. When WhatsApp became a thing, the devotional began to spread. I started sending to people one on one until a friend taught me how to use a broadcast list. The broadcast list kept growing and today what started as a simple act of sharing with friends has become global.

Why am I sharing this with you?

First, to thank the Lord for 10 years of writing and sharing with the Compass Community (we did not have a name for it then).

Second, to tell you that indeed prophecies come to pass.

Isaiah 60:22 NKJV

[22] A little one shall become a thousand, And a small one a strong nation. I, the Lord, will hasten it in its time.”

Do not despise little seeds. They grow to become mighty trees.

As you read the devotionals this month, please put it to heart to say a Word of Thanksgiving and Prayer for me and the entire team that has driven this vision to this point.

To God be all the glory.

If you intend to Partner with the work, visit www.temiloluwaola.com/partner

God bless you.

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



UNTIL YOU REALIZE THAT “YOU ARE PREGNANT”

Text: Lamentations 1:9 NKJV

Her uncleanness is in her skirts; She did not consider her destiny; therefore her collapse was awesome...

As a young couple, we were trusting God for the fruit of the womb. At a point, it became a worry. We did some hospital visits. Then, we decided that we would not allow worrying about what we were waiting for to deny us the enjoyment of what we had- we had one another! We became really joyful.

Irewamiri began to really have fun. Aside from her travelling for business purposes, she also had other trips. She travelled a whole lot. We even have a picture of her jumping on one of the trips.

Then, we discovered that she was pregnant. Guess what happened? Everything changed. The jumping around stopped. The travelling reduced. We became more cautious. Why? We discovered that she was carrying another life.

Friends, revelation and understanding is a game changer. Something changes the day you discover the weight of the destiny you need to deliver to your world. You will behave anyhow when you lack awareness about who you are in Christ Jesus and what you carry for your generation.

Have you ever been shocked how a bike man popularly called “okada” would carry a family (maybe a woman and two children) and would still be riding roughly? I always say a word of prayer that they arrive safely. But I get to ask myself, “If it was the Father of the home that was riding the bike, would he ride roughly?” Most likely not! Why? He has an awareness.

A driver can drive roughly when the

owner of the vehicle is not in it. When you do not have Christ in your life or you do not have a consciousness that He is with you, you will be living a rough life. You will do things as you want. Awareness changes everything!

Do not hang around those who kill your awareness and sensitivity to divine things. Do not company with those who numb you to destiny matters. Run from them!

Everything changes for a pregnant woman. Everything changes. She now gets to eat for the future and not just for pleasure. She keeps a routine because of the future. She keeps appointments because of the future. She would not be caught in a fight. She knows what she carries.

Have you considered what you carry? Are you living with the awareness of destiny?

She defiled herself with immorality and gave no thought to her future. Now she lies in the gutter with no one to lift her out. “Lord, see my misery,” she cries. “The enemy has triumphed.” (Lamentations 1:9 NLT)

Give thought to your future and your eternity. May the enemy not triumph over you. May miseries not be your alarm clock to destiny.

CONFESSION

I am conscious of the seasons of my life. I discern what God wants me to do per time. I am destiny-conscious.



THE MINDSET OF THOSE WHO GO FAR!

Text: Proverbs 22:29 KJV

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

We were just two working in the Ministry office when the church started. We had a very hectic day in the office preparing for a meeting.

The next day when I showed up at work, I was alone. I called the other person and he said he wanted to rest a bit because of the volume of work we had the previous day. I asked him, "What if you were working in a bank, would you give the same excuse?" He showed up in the office some minutes later.

There is nothing committed to your hands, be it business or ministry, that will grow and become impactful if you do not treat it with diligence. The invisible line of diligence divides mere men from great men.

There are people who think that when they start out their own business, they would have more time! It will shock you that if you have the right mindset, you may need to spend more time building a solid vision than it was required working in the field of another man.

If you have been called to Ministry full-time, take heed to the ministry

you have been called to. Get equipped for it. Put your best efforts into it. Fulfil the call.

One of the things that keeps me diligent is that God who is my employer does not slumber or sleep. If it was a man, I can do eye-service but God sees all- even my unspoken thoughts.

Give your strength to the assignment that has been given to you. If you want that vision to grow big, give it a big commitment. If you want it to stay small, give it a small commitment.

Do not daydream, work hard also. If you have built castles in the wind, now bend down and start putting foundations in the right places.

You will go far!

CONFESSION

I am given to diligence. I am committed to my work. I excel by the favour of God.



DAY 03

MASTER THIS IF YOU WILL AMOUNT TO ANYTHING IN

Text: Daniel 1:8 NLT

But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods.

One of the things I wouldn't say I liked while growing up was the annual twenty-one days fast. As a pastor's child, it was our annual convention month. We were encouraged to fast. Well! It is not as though there would be cooked food anyway. It was always tough, so I came up with a "strategic fasting plan." As a teenager, the food was more important than anything else.

My first option was our neighbour's house. They always had some loaves of bread to snack on in their kitchen. While playing there, I would have eaten at least a full meal of bread with butter.

My second option was the ever-available and reliable ally- "Garri". I would pour some in my pocket and then stroll from the house. I made sure I pulled the last grain from my pocket.

When we get to church in the evening, you must find a way to appear like you also fasted, but you knew you did not.

First, anyone who would amount to anything in life must be able to master his appetite. Daniel mastered his appetite in Babylon. He would not just consume the king's delicacies- it was real food at the start, promotions and gifts were shared with others while he stayed content, and he turned down a great part of the Kingdom. If you will go far, dethrone 'King Stomach'. Let the weight of your destiny mean more to you than the pangs of that temporal hunger.

It was food that became the trap for the young prophet. The day he attained national prominence was also the day he was buried. Why? He went back to eat. Discipline your appetite. Brother, Sister, do not lose guard because you see food!

Second, God will always train a man for his future. I did not know then that I would end up in ministry. Now, I must take time to fast and pray. Do not let your emotions deny you your training. Fight that limitation.

Third, do not deceive yourself. If you stay in self-deception, the future will unravel your folly. The day of reckoning will always come, and your readiness will be revealed.

The day the disciples had to cast out a demon from a boy, they struggled with it and ended up asking Jesus the Lord why they struggled. His response was simple- "This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Build your spiritual muscles before the day you will need them. Why? If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.

May you pass your tests! May I pass mine also!

CONFESSION

My appetite is under my control. I invest in spiritual strength. I will not faint in the days of battle.



BE COMPETENT. BE PROPHETIC. BE DARING.

Text: Isaiah 60:1 NKJV

Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.

Right after the six weeks of School of Ministry training, my phone rang that night and the voice on the other went, "I am so and so. My wife just concluded the discipleship training from your ministry. Sir, I am calling to say thank you and please, can I have your account number so we can send you a seed?"

I would not know what had happened in that home and their marriage but I knew the voice I heard that evening was one of deep gratitude.

Friends, when God has given you a gift to bless your world, it is not humility to play small. Push till you birth it exactly like God intended it.

Groom your spirit. This is the source of the impact that a believer produces. Your spirit man must be constantly illuminated by the Word of God and energised by prayers.

Groom your mind. When a prophet speaks incorrect grammar while prophesying, it is not the Holy Spirit that is making grammatical blunders. No! It is the limitation of the mind of the prophet. The prophecy can be accurate but the prophet can only deliver at the level of his personal development.

Do not let the devil play games with your mind. Do not let him lie to you that keeping the candle under the bushel is God's design for you. It is a lie.

Set that light on the candle stick. Let it light your world. Just ensure that you do not arrogate to yourself the glory meant for the Lord. If you carry what God should receive, it will break you down but do not hide what God wants to use to light your world.

Christian Soldier, it is not time to play it safe. It is time to blow the trumpet. See! Carry this walk with the Lord Jesus on your head. Let it be your pride.

Make sure your trumpet is not blowing an uncertain sound. Walk in the values of a believer. Live as such. If you refuse to shine your light, strange darkness will rule the world. Do not get sucked in by darkness. The wind cannot quench the light. Crisis makes us shine brighter.

Be competent like Joseph. Be Prophetic like Daniel.

Be Daring like Esther.

But please, do not play small!

CONFESSION

I am light. I shine out of obscurity. I am not small-minded. I am unlimited.

DAY 05

OPTIONS THAT BECOME TRAPS

Text: Hebrews 11:14 NIV

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

I was studying that morning in the city of Lagos. I was meant to start preparing my documents for a three-week visit to South Africa. The Lord spoke, "Johannesburg! No. Go to the place I sent you". It was tough on me but tougher on those I owe explanations. I had to leave the very next day for the land of Eruwa.

It took me five years to know why God told me, "Johannesburg! No!!" that morning. My mentor, who played a major role in that trip, told me, "I had lined up a couple of interviews in the guise of social visits. You would have gotten a job in South Africa and maybe forget about Eruwa". He supported my decision to obey God by saying, "Temi, this is proof that you are not one of the desperate youths."

Seriously, at that point, if I got that kind of an offer, I would have negotiated the terms of the call with God. I would have postponed obedience. It was obedience and God's mercy that helped me.

There was the young prophet who was instructed not to eat or drink in the place he was sent to. The Lord also charged him not to return the same way he came. He obeyed until there was an offer by the older prophet. The offer was simple: come home with me and have a meal. He hid under the fact that an angel spoke.

The young prophet followed him back home. While eating, the pronouncement came. It was a judgment- a heavy one.

The surprising part is that the young prophet still finished the food.

After the man of God had finished eating and drinking, the old prophet saddled his own donkey for him,
1 Kings 13:23 NLT

May you not be caught in the trap of pleasure that you cannot escape. May you not be derailed by attractions that lead to destruction. Some people know they are meant to be on a mission field for the Lord, but they have become stuck in an office for survival's sake.

There are men who have gone on a trip of no return. They are already asking themselves, "If I want to start now, where do I even start from?"

May you not invest your years in what heaven will not count. May you not build Ishmael all your life without touching "God's Isaac Project" for your life. Are you doing what will count?

May the Lord help us to live according to what is written in the volume of the books. Amen.

CONFESSION

I am not caught in the trap of pleasure. I am not derailed into destruction. I am led by the Spirit of the Lord.

DAY 06

STAGES BEFORE A FALL – EYE STAGE

Text: Job 31:1 NLT

I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust at a young woman.

There was a time when we had quite a few ladies in our home. I had to call Irewamiri at a point to kindly save me from 'accidental visual assault'. I cannot be stumbling into and seeing things I am not meant to see. It took sincerity to have that conversation. It is better to be vulnerable and stand than to be "forming strong" while struggling hard.

If you can overcome the first stage, you will most likely stay safe. It is the stage of the eyes. Most sexual temptations begin with the lust of the eyes. If you can keep your eyes from it, then you can keep your feet from falling.

The rules are simple:

First, make sure you do not see it. Do all you can to keep your environment from anything that will trigger lust. If it means not watching movies and going off social media, please do it. There is no price that is too much to pay to keep yourself from falling. If you know what brought a generation down, deal with it today. If the lust of the eyes triggered adultery in your lineage, know the battles you are fighting.

Second, if you see it, make sure you do not look. Seeing is not deliberate. Looking is deliberate. It means you are now an active participant. Do not be like those older men back in the days who would say, "See the nonsense that small girl is wearing" while feeding their eyes with it. Do not try to watch suggestive videos because you want to analyze how a boy or a girl could become so delinquent. You are not a porn analyst. You are a child of God.

Think about Job who said these words:

"I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust at a young woman" Job 31:1 NLT

What does the word "look" really mean?

It means to gaze lustfully.

"I have made a covenant (agreement) with my eyes; How then could I gaze [lustfully] at a virgin? Job 31:1 AMP

It means you are beginning to undress with your eyes. It is the real see finish.

"I made a solemn pact with myself never to undress a girl with my eyes" Job 31:1 MSG

You are now actively engaged in looking, gazing, and undressing the opposite sex with your eyes. That is the first trap.

If you can keep your eyes from evil, you can keep your feet from straying.

Judah's fall began with the eyes.

When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. Genesis 38:15 NIV

David's fall began with the eyes.

One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof, he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, 2 Samuel 11:2 NIV

Samson's challenge began with his eyes:

One day when Samson was in Timnah, one of the Philistine women caught his eye. Judges 14:1 NLT

If you do not deal decisively with the first seeing, you will get into trouble soon. It worsens.

One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute... Judges 16:1 NIV

Unfortunately, do you know the first thing the Philistines removed from Samson after his capture? You guessed right! His eyes.

Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes, and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison. Judges 16:21 NIV

If the devil gains control of your eyes, he will get you bound. Did you see the shackles they used? Bronze shackles. No matter how expensive a chain is, bondage is bondage.

You need to discipline yourself before the enemy puts you in expensive chains:

If your eye causes you to stumble and sin, throw it out [that is, remove yourself from the source of temptation]! It would be better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell,

Mark 9:47 AMP

Will you deal with that lustful desire? Find out your vulnerable moment and deal with it.

CONFESS I O N

My eyes are sanctified unto God. My eyes are for seeing precious things. My eyes are not for feeding lustful desires.



STAGES BEFORE A FALL – THOUGHT STAGE

Text: Matthew 5:28 NIV

But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Some years ago, a young lady walked into the church, and I gave her a warm hug. Right after I hugged her, the Holy Spirit asked me, “Why did you hug her?” (By the way, when the Holy Spirit asks a question, the answer flashes right before you in a moment)

It struck me immediately that the moment I saw her, I had nursed a thought to hug her. Did you notice a pattern? I saw her. I thought to hug her.

Right after the eye stage is the thought stage. At the thought stage, the seed of whatever temptation you are facing is about to be sown into your heart. The battle here is real. You must not allow the thought to land, let alone settle into your mind.

The error of Judah progressed with a thought he did not deal with on time:

When Judah saw her, he thought she was a harlot, because she had covered her face.
Genesis 38:15 NKJV

One of the strategic ways the devil gains ground in the life of men is through careless thoughts that were not dealt with. If the devil succeeds in sowing a seed of strange thought, he will come back to look for the harvest.

When it comes to the realm of strange thoughts, you have the right to be a thought assassin. Be violent with strange thoughts. Apostle Paul told us to deal with it decisively:

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,
II Corinthians 10:4-5 NKJV

Bring the thoughts into the obedience of Christ. Stray thoughts will lead you astray. Do not let him use the eye gate to have access to the mind gate.

When it comes to battling thoughts, the scriptures become militant:

You are meant to “guard” your mind with all “vigilance”

Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and

above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life.

Proverbs 4:23 AMPC

You are meant to hold strange thoughts captive until they submit to the Lordship of Christ.

When it comes to your mind, be militantly brutal. Deal with military decisiveness. Your precision must be one hundred percent. Hesitation can mean defeat. Do not let nonsense stay.

Deal with it preventively. Let the word of God be in your mind already as an anti-virus before the thought lands on your mind at all. Your word-soaked mind will not allow such a thought to survive. The word environment chokes the strange thought immediately. Prevention is always cheaper than cure.

How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.
Psalms 119:9-11 NKJV

Some songs also programme your mind for sin. In my teenage years, porn was called “blue film,” and a category of songs was also called “blues.” They set you in a mood for nonsense. Deal with it. Use military precision!

Do you see why we are kitted in God's armour? This is a military affair. Wear your sword. Take your shield. Boots on. Belt tightened. Bullet-proof Vest of Righteousness. Helmet fitted. Mount guards. Shoot down stray thoughts. Take down strange thoughts.

That is how we deal with the devil and his foot soldiers – strange and stray thoughts.

CONFESSION

My thoughts are kept pure. I do not ruminate on profane things. My heart is sanctified unto God

STAGES BEFORE A FALL – THE TURNING STAGE

Text: Psalm 1:1 NIV

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers.

A dear father in the faith who happened to be a widower was being chased actively by a female friend. One day, amid rising pressure, he walked to his brother in the faith and said, “I am going to do so and so person’s house to commit adultery.” The brother and himself laughed. That was the end of the trouble. Even the lady in question felt embarrassed that the secret was now out. Sin does not like being exposed.

The third stage before a fall is what I call “The Turning Phase.” It happened to Judah. It happened to many others also. Maybe it has happened to you before, or it is happening even now.

Then he turned to her by the way, and said, “Please let me come in to you”; for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. So she said, “What will you give me, that you may come into me?”
Genesis 38:16 NKJV

When the thoughts of sin are lodged successfully in your mind and not resisted, your mind becomes like a hijacked aircraft- sin and self become the pilot. The destination changes from the right way to “the way that seems right,” which ports at the “Destruction International Airport.”

Looking out the window of my house one day I noticed among the mindless crowd a simple, naive young man who was about to go astray. There he was, walking down the street. Then he turned the corner, going on his way hurrying to the house of the harlot—the woman he had planned to meet.
Proverbs 7:6-8 TPT

Interestingly, you will keep arguing and justifying why you are going that way. It can be as simple as “At least we will get married” or as deadly as “We did everything else, but we did not have sex.” You keep finding justification rather than judging that strange thought for hijacking your mind.

When sin begins to turn your neck and your legs, you produce the sound like the Apostle Paul described in Romans 7:

For I do not understand my own actions [I am baffled, bewildered]. I do not practice or accomplish what I wish, but I do the very thing that I loathe [which my moral instinct condemns].
Romans 7:15 AMPC

This is why you keep struggling with sin. Sin has hijacked your mind. It has moved it from autopilot to sin-pilot! The thought has become activated soldiers. Now, it is a war to stop pornography. It is a battle to stop masturbating. It is a battle to stop gambling. Why? Your mind is hijacked.

How do you stop this hijacked plane from landing at

Destruction International Airport?

First, wake up your sleeping spirit. You have been desensitized. Your spirit needs the fluid of prayer and the word. Start praying intermittently but consistently. Study the word morning and night. Let the final thing in your mind be the word.

Second, do you see coup plotters also trying to take over the media? They want to announce that they are in charge. Let your mouth never be silent. You turn your thoughts by your words. You battle thoughts with words.

Third, recruit other soldiers who would not keep quiet and see Sin hijack the plane. Make sure their name is not Hiram the Addulamite.

Sin loves to be called other names. For instance, sin likes to be called a “personal struggle.” Fornication likes the name “pre-marital sex” “hook-up” or “friends with benefits.” Adultery likes the name “Extra-marital affair” or “fling.” Terrorists do not like to be exposed.

Here is the conclusion:

So listen to me, you young men. You’d better take my words seriously! Control your sexual urges and guard your heart against lust. Don’t let your passions get out of hand and don’t lock your eyes onto a beautiful woman. Why would you want to even get close to temptation and seduction, to have an affair with her? Proverbs 7:24-25 TPT

Do not let sin turn you. Deal decisively with it.

Listen to me, young men, and don’t forget this one thing I’m telling you— run away from her as fast as you can! For when you grow old you will groan in anguish and shame as sexually transmitted diseases consume your body. And then finally you’ll admit that you were wrong and say, “If only I had listened to wisdom’s voice and not stubbornly demanded my own way, because my heart hated to be told what to do!

Proverbs 5:7, 11-12 TPT

Do not turn!

CONFESSION

I am focused on life’s assignment. I am led in the path of righteousness.



STAGES BEFORE A FALL-SHOWING INTENT

Text: 2 Timothy 2:22 NLT

Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts...

Many years ago, just after I encountered Christ, an older brother mentioned that he was coming to our house, and he met a young lady on the way. When he asked her why she was not going to our place, she responded, "There is no one around". He then mentioned that I was back from school. She told him, "It is not the same person I used to know. Something has changed". Thank God for His saving grace.

Being born in a God-fearing home does not automatically make you God-fearing. I would sneak and hide pornographic magazines. It grew worse in one of the institutions I attended. It was a direct battle with lust.

Judah became bold about his intent:

So, he stopped and propositioned her. "Let me have sex with you," he said, not realizing that she was his own daughter-in-law. "How much will you pay to have sex with me?" Tamar asked. Genesis 38:16 NLT

There are times when a man descends further in the slope of sin. He has moved beyond the thought of sin to show forth his intent and willingness to sin. He begins to make an active move in the direction of sin. A man being tempted knows the end from the onset but when he decides to cooperate with his temptation, he gets into trouble.

Temptation does not keep quiet about its intent; you are the one to decide whether you want to follow through or not. Temptations are always loud and audacious.

Hear the voice of temptation through the mouth of the adulterous woman:

The woman approached him, seductively dressed and sly of heart. She was the brash, rebellious type, never content to stay at home. She is often in the streets and markets, soliciting at every corner. She threw her arms around him and kissed him, and with a brazen look, she said, You're the one I was looking for! I came out to find you, and here you are! My bed is spread with beautiful blankets, with colored sheets of Egyptian linen. I've perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let's drink our fill of love until morning. Let's enjoy each other's caresses, for my husband is not home. He's away on a long trip.

Proverbs 7:10-13, 15-19 NLT

Can I speak with you? There is no one who talks gleefully about sin that will not eventually create an opportunity to fall. You cannot be talking with so much joy about your sinful past as though you missed it. You speak about your past with so much desire. Stop it. Stop toying with sin and then return to say you were only joking. Stop joking with unrighteousness. Cut it off.

Do not hang around with those who joke with profane things. Do you have a company that keeps wholesome conversations? Do you have a company that can tell you when you are going overboard? Are you now comfortable with conversations that would normally unsettle you? Does it now feel normal to watch silly skits? Have you become an active participant?

I still wonder where Judah got that boldness to speak. There is a company that can embolden your sinful intentions. Blessed are you when you do not walk, stand, or sit in such a company. A dear son shared that the first time he got to drink alcohol was in the company of friends who kept telling him it was not a big deal.

Listen! Do not play silly games. When you hear "Truth or Dare" or "Games for Matured Minds only", do not be careful, do not hesitate, do not wait to see how it will end, and do not stay to laugh over it. Please, Run! Flee youthful lust.

I sense to say to a young lady who has started dropping her godly standards bit by bit because of your desire to get married: Be calm. Stay classy. Your God-ordained man is coming. You do not have to start "hanging out". Do not compromise. Waiting pays. Be patient.

CONFESSION

I am not trapped in sinful acts. I maintain a godly standard. I live a life of righteousness.

DAY 10

STAGES BEFORE A FALL- THE EXCHANGE PHASE

Text: Proverbs 1:10 NIV

My son, if sinful men entice you, do not give in to them.

As you walk into my office, right behind my desk, there is a quote from the book, "Finishing Strong" hanging right on the wall. Written on it are these words, "Hold fast to Jesus. It is a long way from where you are to where you are going, and the devil is not in a hurry to get you". (Paraphrased)

I remember my grandfather in the faith holding on to a book on sexual purity and telling pastors, "Get this book. It will help you". He warned with a fatherly voice: "Do not go near the gold, the glory, and the girls of Zion". Do not touch them. It was a piercing warning.

The truth about it is that we get tempted. We must ensure that we do not fall into the "Bureau De Change" of the devil. Judah got into the trap where destinies are negotiated:

Then he turned to her by the way, and said, "Please let me come in to you"; for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. So she said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?"

Genesis 38:16 NKJV

Every fall comes with an exchange. At the fall of man, man exchanged dignity, dominion, and authority for deceitful awareness. It was a thorough mess- death, sorrow, sickness, toiling, and pain took over the scene.

The trick of the devil has not changed. He tells you brazenly that it is an exchange. He told Jesus Christ at the temptation that "I will give all these if you bow to me". The devil was willing to let go of the material world and its benefits to get a bow from Jesus Christ. He was willing to let go of the material to get the spiritual. Today, people throw away the spiritual so they can have a hold on the material.

If you do not know the game, know it today- it is an exchange. When you begin to drop in your devotion to the Lord, your tendency to bow to the devil rises.

Some have exchanged bodily fluids and lost godly virtue. The height that they got to by sacrifice has been lost by partaking in a sacrifice.

For instance, in sexual sin, there is an exchange: For by means of a harlot, A man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life.

Proverbs 6:26 NKJV

A man is reduced! If you look around you, you likely know men who have been reduced to barely nothing. They have lost their dignity. They have lost their voices. They have lost their resources. Others have lost leverage, pace, and relevance in life. Some have lost the fire. Why? There was an exchange.

What is the price of a loaf of bread? Take a crust of the loaf and think about the price. That is the value you get every time you commit sexual sin.

When a man makes such a graceless transaction, it takes only the mercy of God to recover.

We were passing by a property a while back. A new landlord had bought the property. They were demolishing the building that was on the land. By the time we were returning, the demolition was already completed. I thought to myself, "How long did it take to erect this storey building?" I then asked, "How long did it take to destroy it?" It is easier to pull down a life. It is easier to destroy a legacy. It takes more time, effort, and patience to build.

What have you started exchanging? Is your money now used to service illicit affairs? You do not know how much of a sinner you can be until you have money. Has devotion dropped drastically? How did the desire for a sexual touch overwhelm your desire for a divine touch?

There is a man reading this- Mercy can still speak. You keep telling yourself 'I have gone too far'. Mercy can intervene. Cry out for mercy.

CONFESSION

*I will not exchange my destiny for pleasure.
I do not trade virtues for things that waste. I
prioritize holy living.*

DAY 11

STAGES IN A FALL- THE UNQUANTIFIABLE LOSS

Text: Proverbs 6:26 NKJV

*For by means of a harlot, a man is reduced to a crust of bread;
And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life.*

I was eating in the canteen in my faculty many years ago. One of my colleagues who had issues with me walked in and made a very strong statement. He said, "See this class pastor who has skeletons in his cupboard". I smiled but did not allow the matter to rest without confrontation. I responded and said, "Please, right here in public, would you be kind enough to state the skeletons I have hidden in my cupboard". He kept quiet and could not say a word.

Listen to me: If you strike a deal with the devil, you can never win. It is a loss from the beginning. No matter what the devil offers you, he is already or has already stolen more than you have given him.

There is nothing he gives you on a platter of gold. Nothing! What can you give in exchange for your soul? If you lose your soul in a sinful exchange, it is a colossal loss.

What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his soul? Put the whole world on a scale and put a soul on the same scale, the soul outweighs the world.

This is what Judah did not realise. This negotiation for pleasure was a total loss on his part. He was trying to be smart but, in his desperation, he had lost more than could be imagined.

And he said, "I will send a young goat from the flock." So, she said, "Will you give me a pledge till you send it?" Then he said, "What pledge shall I give you?" So, she said, "Your signet and cord, and your staff that is in your hand." Then he gave them to her, and went in to her, and she conceived by him.
Genesis 38:17-18 NKJV

Did you notice the things she asked for? The signet and cord are his seal. It is his identity. The staff is a picture of his authority and influence.

Both are quite instructive. When you fall into sin, your sense of identity is distorted, and your influence and authority is lost.

Do you know that famous story of parents who kept telling their children how brilliant they were in school to challenge their children to perform better until their report cards were stumbled upon?

Sin began a field play in David's family after he slept with Bathsheba. Amnon raped Tamar. David heard about it but there was nothing he could do about it. He had lost his signet and his staff. He simply kept quiet. Absalom went ahead to kill Amnon in bitterness. Again, David could do nothing about it.

It became a mess.

Why on earth will you lose authority, influence, and identity because of a silly pleasure of a few minutes? If you weigh the consequences of sin, you will never go near it. Never!

Hear the words of wisdom from the book of Proverbs:

Don't even go near the door of her house unless you want to fall into her seduction. In disgrace, you will relinquish your honor to another, and all your remaining years will be squandered— given over to the cruel one. Why would you let strangers take away your strength while the labors of your house go to someone else? For when you grow old you will groan in anguish and shame as sexually transmitted diseases consume your body. And then finally you'll admit that you were wrong and say, "If only I had listened to wisdom's voice and not stubbornly demanded my own way, because my heart hated to be told what to do!

Proverbs 5:8-12 TPT

You are a King!

You are a Priest!

You need authority and influence to reign well. If you lose both, you become useless!

Someone is saying right now, "It is not a big deal, I can get away with it", here is the word of the Lord to you:

Why didn't I take seriously the warning of my wise counselors? Why was I so stupid to think that I could get away with it? Now I'm totally disgraced, and my life is ruined! I'm paying the price— for the people of the congregation are now my judges."

Proverbs 5:13-14 TPT

May you not use the remaining days of your life to nurse a crisis!

May we all finish well.

CONFESSION

I will not trade my destiny on the altar of fornication. I stand in my place as a king and priest. I will finish well.

DAY 12

STAGES IN A FALL: THE REALITY STAGE

Text: 1 John 1:7 NLT

But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

She recounted how she walked into her bathroom and took several showers hoping hard that the stings of condemnation could be washed away. She wished that the stain of guilt could be removed. It was a tough one.

When the nurse told her to look at the screen to pick the heartbeat of the baby, she could not! She said, "How could I look at that which I will still get rid of?" She got rid of it in the physical, but some things will live with you forever except the mercies of God intervenes.

That day, I knew nothing about her past when the Lord in His mercies sent me with a word from the place of prayer to the young lady. She accepted that God could give her a new beginning, but she would never forgive the young man who had abandoned her after such sacrifices. She had a laid curse on him and his generations yet unborn.

Sin is a mess! A real mess.

When Judah returned (through the hands of Hiram) with the pledge of the goat so he could recover his seal, his cord, and his staff, the prostitute was nowhere to be found.

And she arose and went away, and laid by her vail from her, and put on the garments of her widowhood. And Judah sent the kid by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive his pledge from the woman's hand: but he found her not.
Genesis 38:19-20 KJV

The day could pass. The woman could have gone away. The man could have moved on, but the stain of sin is so stubborn that moving on alone cannot deal with it. It will keep rearing its ugly head again and again.

There are things that the blood of goats cannot remove. The pledge of a goat would never suffice. This was what King David discovered after his adultery with Bathsheba:

He made sacrifices. He raised burnt offerings. The stain of guilt, shame, and condemnation was still right there. He knew the weight of sin.

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: According unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: And my sin is ever before me.
Psalm 51:1-3 KJV

You can return to your daily routine. You are pretending that all is well but beloved, the fingerprint is on your soul. The devil has found a trigger point. He has found a free point of entrance and exit.

Thank God for redemption. A young one said she was so messed up years ago that she returned to the one (a family member) who introduced her to "nonsense" for strange pleasures so the stain of the first can be removed. That strange pattern was broken forever. She carried that stain of sin for many years. Sin is terrible.

You may move on! But the stain of sin moves with you. There is nothing the pledge of a goat can cleanse. Nothing!

Remember the Hymn:

What can wash away my sin?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

What can make me whole again?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh, precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow.

No other fount I know.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

CONFESSION

I am cleansed by the blood of Jesus. I do not languish in guilt and condemnation. I am a new man in Christ Jesus.

DAY 13

STAGES IN A FALL- REPUTATION MANAGEMENT

Text: Proverbs 28:13 NKJV

He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

It was the long vacation during our days in secondary school. My dad sent home one of his assistants to get him a new shirt. My curious mind would not let him go without an explanation about why my dad needed a new shirt at work. He explained to me.

When Dad returned, I was waiting for him with a naughty pose.

Temi: Dad, why did you need a new shirt?

Dad: Oh! Ink splashed on the one I wore in the morning.

Temi: Back then in primary school, if I came back home with a stained shirt, what do you always say to me again?

Dad: I will tell you that you are careless.

I gave him a naughty look and picked race!

No one wants to keep strolling around in stained clothes. You are comfortable in an outing until you discover a tiny spot on your garment. That spot suddenly steals your attention and if not careful, your day. It seems as if everyone who is looking at you is seeing that spot. Sometimes, you point it out yourself. When people commend your appearance, you are quick to add, "It would have been great, but this spot here spoiled everything".

That is exactly what the stain of sin does to us. It steals the show. Rather than come out clean and receive help, most people resort to what I call "reputation management". That was what Judah and Hirah did also. They would rather say "lest we be shamed" rather than "lest we sin".

Then he asked the men of that place, saying, "Where is the harlot who was openly by the roadside?" And they said, "There was no harlot in this place." So, he returned to Judah and said, "I cannot find her. Also, the men of the place said there was no harlot in this place." Then Judah said, "Let her take them for herself, lest we be shamed; for I sent this young goat and you have not found her." Genesis 38:21-23 NKJV

It was also the error of King Saul. Instead of admitting and dealing with his shortcomings, he said to Prophet Samuel:

Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord your God." I Samuel 15:30 NKJV

This is how we sound a lot of times after we mess up – "I have sinned, yet honour me now".

Some men are like rolling fan blades but disconnected from the power source. They will roll for a while before the ailment of sin becomes obvious.

Oration has taken over where the oracles of God are meant to be speaking. Do not sacrifice character for reputation. Looking good before people is irrelevant when you no longer have a presence before the Lord. Packaging cannot take over purity. Proper homiletics cannot take over holiness. Good vocal sounds cannot take over from sound character.

That was not how Jesus prayed. Jesus knew that honour comes only when we have done God's will.

I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. John 17:4-5 NKJV

If you are battling with sin, do not look for a cover where you can hide successfully. Talk to someone who can hold you accountable. If you are still trying to find a place where your ego is worshipped and your emotions are massaged, you are not ready.

Let the shame push you to the cross. Let it not become the reason for a cover-up! It is at home that you can get a new shirt. Do not run from home! Dirty bodies should not hate the bathroom. Dirty clothes should not despise the laundry. Dirty souls cannot despise the local church.

CONFESSION

I open myself up to God's mercy. I am forgiven. I receive mercy.

DAY 14

STAGES IN A FALL- THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS SYNDROME

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

I still remember the spot where I was standing when a dear brother called me to inform me that he impregnated a young lady. I froze. He said, "I am sorry. I have disappointed everybody". My response to him was simple, "I love you brother. You will come out stronger". He wondered why I responded that way. I told him I could have been the one in his shoes.

Years later, I saw some young ones who fell into sin, despise church and walk away because of how they were treated. When I became a pastor, we had a simple rule- love the sinner, hate the sin. It helped us make decisions in such interesting times.

The self-righteous syndrome is a terrible one. People who have committed sins sit in council over those who have been caught in sin. They pass judgment like they do not have struggles of their own. Only those who have encountered mercy can really know the weight of showing mercy.

Judah was caught in the self-righteous trap. He was the judge when the information that Tamar was pregnant broke out:

About three months later, Judah was told, "Tamar, your daughter-in-law, has acted like a prostitute. And now, because of this, she's pregnant." "Bring her out and let her be burned!" Judah demanded.
Genesis 38:24 NLT

Can you imagine the judgment? I wonder how many act like that today. He who has no sin should cast stones. We can correct in love, but we must not sit as though we are infallible. When we think of our limitations too, we apply mercy.

Thank God she had evidence. She brought out the joker:

But as they were taking her out to kill her, she sent this message to her father-in-law: "The man who owns these things made me pregnant. Look closely. Whose seal and cord and walking stick are these?"
Genesis 38:25 NLT

That was what weakened the self-righteous judge. He knew instantly that he was already caught in a trap. He backed down immediately.

Judah recognized them immediately and said, "She is more righteous than I am, because I didn't arrange for her to marry my son Shelah." And Judah never slept with Tamar again.
Genesis 38:26 NLT

Do not be caught in the trap of self-righteousness. Do not throw stones. Treat the fallen like you would love to be treated if you were in their shoes.

However, do not use the fact that men are infallible as an excuse to stay in sin. That would be foolishness.

Grace.

CONFESSION

I am not caught in the trap of self-righteousness. I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

DAY 15

THE BLESSING OF SOLID CHARACTER

Text: Proverbs 11:3 NKJV

The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.

I had shared the testimony of what God did at a season in our ministerial journey with a dear brother who is a minister of the gospel. We had given out almost everything in our house. We moved to a new place and the living room was bare.

A year later, we got the gift of a truckload of furniture that included upholstery, a dining set, and a wardrobe. It was from our dear friends. On the spur of the moment, he asked whether we had spoken about it earlier. I said "No".

But a few hours later, the Spirit of the Lord reminded me about a time we spoke about it. Immediately, I messaged that dear brother and recanted my words. I told him the accurate account and mentioned that they were aware because we had an occasion when we discussed it.

He responded and said, "Thank you. This shows that you are a man of character". I did not see it like that before. I just wanted to obey the Spirit of the Lord.

First, some things will happen spectacularly and some things will happen systematically. It does not mean they are not divine or supernatural.

For instance, God can bring supplies to you by the spectacular act of raining bread from heaven and sending quails by the wind. That is what we all want. We want it to be spectacular.

However, He can also bring an increase to what you already have. For example, an increase in business profit, or a raise in salary or even teaching you the importance of savings are systematic. He can use systematic means also. He can teach you to plant in the land. He wants to give you what is sustainable.

Do not try to turn the systematic to the spectacular when you share your testimonies. It does not have to be high-sounding for it to be divine.

One of the things you must not joke with, especially on the journey of Christian growth and maturity is the correcting rod of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit points it out, do not hesitate to repent and align. He

is bringing you into rectitude.

At least, His work is to guide us into all truth. If you keep winning arguments with the Holy Spirit, you are building a pattern that will make you deficient as a believer. In a matter of time, there will be an exposure. When you are exposed, little foxes will penetrate the vine and destroy it.

Do you know what you must do with the help of the Holy Spirit to build a great character? Catch the foxes.

Catch us the foxes, The little foxes that spoil the vines, For our vines have tender grapes. Song of Solomon 2:15 NKJV

When the foxes are caught, the Holy Spirit can turn that character deficiency around. He can light up the foxes and use them to bless the nations of the world. Just like Samson used foxes as weapons of war:

Then Samson went and caught three hundred foxes; and he took torches, turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails. When he had set the torches on fire, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards and olive groves. Judges 15:4-5 NKJV

If you let go of that terrible deficiency, God can use your journey of surrender as a testimony to bless and change other lives and impact your generation.

Character is everything.
Do not lose it.

CONFESSION

I am yielded to the Spirit of God. I live a life of solid character.

DAY 16

THE BLESSING OF COMPLETE TRUST

Text: Psalm 125:1 NKJV

Those who trust in the LORD Are like Mount Zion, Which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

I was away on a writing retreat. Some bills needed to be paid for our building project. We were at the foundation-filling stage. The account needed just about seven thousand naira more to make up for the required payments. I told those in the office to wait till noon.

At about half past eleven in the morning, I picked up my phone with the intent of transferring the needed balance of seven thousand so they could go ahead and pay the supplier. That was when things took an interesting turn.

The Lord asked me, "Is it your project?" I said, "No Lord. It is yours". He then said to me, "Will you take over the project after paying this seven thousand also?" I began to repent. I dropped my phone immediately.

About three minutes to noon, two transfers into the project account added up to seven thousand naira exactly. From that day, I learnt that you must trust the Lord completely, especially when you have the means to do it without relying on Him.

To this day, if anything is needed in the ministry, I do not try to take things into my own hands. I ask the Lord first.

Some people have mastered how to trust the Lord when they do not have enough but I believe that it is tougher to trust the Lord when you have more than enough. Learn this from King Solomon. He had more than enough to build the temple and even his own palace. But he wrote a psalm with these words:

"Except the Lord builds a house, they labour in vain that builds it"

Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

Psalms 127:1 NKJV

(It is a psalm of Solomon that is titled "Labouring and Prospering with the Lord")

Solomon! Really! You could build that house without any recourse to the Lord. You had everything needed. Why trust the Lord?

He must have learnt from his Father. David tried to help God by constructing a cart to carry the ark. He made the first mistake. The young man called Uzzah made the second mistake. He wanted to help God by reaching out his hand to steady the tipping Ark of the Covenant. He paid dearly for it.

Do not try to help God.

Do not get too emotional that you take over the wheels from the Lord. Trust Him all the way. He owns you and all you have. Ask Him what He wants you to do with the resources you have. Do not assume. It is called complete trust.

Hope you got it.

Will you join me to pray?

Lord, I would not take your place. I would not hijack your leadership. I will follow your instructions to the teeth. Help me, Lord. Help me.

CONFESS I O N

My trust is in the Lord at all times. I trust in the Lord in the time of plenty. I trust in the Lord in the time of scarcity.

DAY 17

THE BLESSING OF TIMELY HELP

Text: Psalm 38:22 NIV

Come quickly to help me, my Lord and my Savior.

After we got our first venue, we could only afford to pay for six months. We needed to renovate the property so it would be conducive for use. We had gotten quotations from artisans, and we were trusting the Lord for resources.

That same day, my brother came into town from Ibadan. The interesting thing is that we met on the road. He handed over an envelope to me. He said, "Grandpa said I should give you this envelope". It was the amount we needed for the renovation and a little more. The Lord showed up at the right time!

I have seen the Lord do it again and again. He will always show up at the right time. Do not fear, the Lord will show up for you.

First, make sure you are on God's ordained path. God is not committed to what He did not commission. For instance, it was God who led the Israelites by the way of the Red Sea.

So, God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.
Exodus 13:18 NKJV

Second, if you are on a God-ordained path and there is a challenge, cry out to the Lord.

And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So, they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord.
Exodus 14:10 NKJV

Third, keep taking steps of faith. There is at least one next step you can take. What did the Lord tell the nation of Israel? Go

forward.

And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.

Exodus 14:15 NKJV

Even the Psalms made us know that "Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me". It means that you keep moving. All you need will meet you on your journey of faith.

Stop waiting for perfect conditions. If the woman with the issue of blood waited for a time that she would see Jesus privately, she may have to wait for a long time. She may never have received her healing. She did not wait for Peter to help her book an appointment. She stepped out in faith and kept telling herself, "If I can only touch the hem of His garment, I shall be made whole". Her healing met her in her faith steps.

Stay on a God-ordained course.

Cry out to the Lord.

Keep taking steps of faith.

You will enjoy timely help.

CONFESSION

*I am not stagnant in the journey of life.
I move forward. Divine help locates me.*

THE BLESSING OF FAITHFUL MEN

Text: 1 Samuel 18:1 NKJV

Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

I took over my dad's old shop. It had a front shop which I turned into a bookstore. It also had a back office which I used as a ministry office. It was a humble beginning indeed. I still wondered how someone or anyone who saw me in that space and accept to work in the ministry.

I got back to the office that afternoon in January, and I saw a note from an acquaintance in my teenage years. He wanted to see me. When I got to see him, he said, "Today is my birthday and God told me to come and see you while I was praying".

I told him that the only reason why God sent him to me must be to share the vision of the call to Eruwa. He is still working today in the ministry. Right after him, others have come in like manner.

There is a dear one who was on a bus heading to a Christian meeting when he decided to share about a call to Eruwa with another. Two people on the bus said, "If the Lord is sending you to Eruwa, go and look for Pastor Temi".

Beloved, God sends men. He sends faithful men. They come in different forms and with different assignments. All you need to do is think about David in the wilderness and you will appreciate the blessing of men. If you had a choice to choose between working with King Saul or Hiding David, you would likely choose King Saul. Only men God sent would have gone to David.

- They were mighty men, helpers in the war:

Now these were the men who came to David at Ziklag while he was still a fugitive from Saul the son of Kish; and they were among the mighty men, helpers in the war, I Chronicles 12:1 NKJV

- They were swift, strong men of great speed:

Some Gadites joined David at the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valour, men trained for battle, who could handle shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as gazelles on the

mountains:
I Chronicles 12:8 NKJV

- God sent him loyal men:

All these men of war, who could keep ranks, came to Hebron with a loyal heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king. I Chronicles 12:38 NKJV

- Everyday, men came to David to help him:

For at that time, they came to David day by day to help him, until it was a great army, like the army of God.
I Chronicles 12:22 NKJV

If you are called to any form of assignment (ministry, career or even business), pray for the blessing of men.

My grandfather in the faith said, "You must learn to pray in men and pray out men". Men are essential. The difference between the two seasons is not always time, it is men! A man can walk into your life and change it for good. A man can also walk in and wreck it for life.

Pray for a discerning heart also. Why? The devil fights by infiltration. He wants to join the work or the vision very early. Do you remember that even King Herod said he wanted to worship Jesus? Do you get it?

Do not play games. Do not employ schemes. Trust the Lord for the blessing of men.

CONFESSION

I enjoy the blessings of faithful men. I discern valuable relationships around me.

DAY 19

THE BLESSING OF UNUSUAL SUPPLIES

Text: Psalm 23:1 NIV

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

The young man (an undergraduate) mentioned that he was surprised when he heard I was in Eruwa. He could not believe that I could ever settle in the community, especially since I rarely spent any of my breaks from school in the community. I shared the vision with him.

Some days later, he sent a message that he won a scholarship fund, and the Lord had asked him to send it as a seed for the work. That was what we used to buy the first set of chairs for the ministry. We used those chairs for our first indoor meeting called "Word and Prayer Feast," where I taught "Steps into Destiny- Lessons from the Life of Ruth."

Beloved, Jesus sent out his disciples, and when they returned, he asked them a simple but important question that everyone who has been called into this work must ask himself.

And He said to them, "When I sent you without a money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?" So they said, "Nothing."
Luke 22:35 NKJV

God sent without a money bag. He had an option of sending with money, but how would he learn to live by faith, absolute trust, and total surrender to the Lordship of Christ? How do you learn contentment on the journey? How do you learn that even though faith says you have it now, patience says you would build character to receive it?

The joy of it is just like Jesus asked the disciples; we must also be able to answer Him with confidence and assurance that we lack nothing. If it is God's work, it must be done at His pace, with His peace, and without any

pressure. If He has called you, He will meet your needs.

When God sent him to give his scholarship fund, it was between him and God; I must not turn the young man to my source. Can you imagine if I keep my eyes on his scholarship fund and not on God? I would have missed it.

If God has called you into ministry to serve Him with your life and your time (your lifetime), you will go through the basics of building your faith. If you are in any place that keeps feeding you rather than feeding your faith, you will lose the battle somewhere in the future. You will not be able to fight the good fight of faith. Refuse to be spoon-fed! Press in and build your faith for the work.

In the end, you will be able to say, like the disciples, "We lacked nothing." Build your faith muscles.

Let me state that there will be times when God will meet your needs systematically. For instance, you learn and master the principles of savings for the future. However, on the days the savings and all the systems cannot meet the need, would you have built the faith and patience for supernatural supply?

CONFESSION

I enjoy unusual supplies. The Lord supplies all my needs. I lack nothing.

DAY 20

THE BLESSING OF UNUSUAL WITNESSES

Text: Job 22: 28 NKJV

You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; So light will shine on your ways.

When I received the call of God into ministry, there were at least two people that I was scared of seeing. I was not sure how they would respond when I mentioned the call to them. He was a visionary and a great intellectual.

I knew how much help he rendered when I wrote my final project on taxation. He was a dear father. I tried all I could to avoid running into him until one evening. When he saw me, he did not mince words, "Temi, you are done with service year. What is your plan now?" I froze and I explained the call to ministry to him.

His response shocked me: "Temi, when I was coming to Eruwa thirty-three years ago, many of my colleagues called me mad. Today, when they visit, none of them has a better legacy than I do. They have now realised that my madness has method". He smiled and added, "People may call you all sorts of names but focus on what God has asked you to do". What a relief.

Beloved, God knows how to work things out. The hearts of kings are in his hands and like streams of water, he can direct it where he wills.

The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Proverbs 21:1 NKJV

I sense to say a prayer for someone today: Where you are still trying to find words to explain, may you return with testimonies. For that business that you have been trying to get investors to believe in, may you return with an assurance.

Listen, there are some things that only God can do. If you rely on your oratory prowess to convince men, you will sweat it out. However, when grace takes over, it looks like a piece of cake.

What if Joseph had been the one plotting on how to sell his vision (given by God) to Pharaoh? It looks almost like an impossibility. God knows how he will work it out.

A songwriter said:

God will work it out.

God will work it out

One thing I know

One thing I have found

God will work it out.

Do not let fear keep you in one spot. The fear of men is a snare. Say it as the Lord has told you. Say it with the wisdom of God. One thing you cannot do is convince people. Let God do it by Himself. He will surely do it.

Please, do not sit in one spot. Be like the lepers who said, "Why sit we here till we die?" They moved. They did not die. They made unusual discoveries. May the Lord bless you with boldness in such a time as this. May He bless you with unusual witnesses that He is with you on this journey.

CONFESSION

I am blessed with unusual witnesses. I obtain divine illumination for my life's journey. Light shines on my path.

DAY 21

THE BLESSING OF SPIRIT-LED PARENTS

Text: 1 Samuel 3:8 NLT

So the LORD called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" Then Eli realized it was the LORD who was calling the boy.

I did not have any fear of telling my parents that the Lord had called me into full-time ministry after years of investment in studying law. I remember my parents saying, "We thought you were coming to tell us that you had a plan to travel out of the country". We had an evening drive where I shared about the call of God into ministry.

The next day, my Dad came to my room, sat on my bed, and said to me, "Son, when we were praying that God should send young ones into the ministry in Eruwa, I did not know my son would be the first fruit of our prayers. The pain I feel inside is the proof that God has called you". They laid me like Isaac on the altar.

They did not just do it with words, they did it with great acts of support. Dad and Mum would sit in our ministry meetings and training with such grace. What a heart!

One of the things that can become a great hurdle for the person called by the Lord to cross is "parental support and consent". A lot of parents (just like mine) have a programme mapped out for their children. They have dreams laid out for them. Even those who are born-again children of God have been cowed by fear.

A father in the faith shared the story of a colleague who had the call of God into ministry at the same time they also received the call. The parents convinced her to travel out for a second degree. She was very brilliant. Forty years later, she has abandoned the call. She did not respond at all. He called it the seduction of a "false breakthrough".

The devil will use the good to derail you from the godly. It is easier to quote scripture. It takes grace to live out scripture.

Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: And the fruit of the womb is his reward.
Psalm 127:3 KJV

Every child is a gift from the Lord. If God gave them to you, you should not then hold them so tightly that they break under your grip of fear.

As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; So are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: They shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

Psalm 127:4-5 KJV

You are happy seeing them in your quiver. Please, understand that they have to move from the quiver to the bow. They must be shot in the direction of divine plans and purposes. Today, we have arrows shot into drugs, instant gratification, materialism, and purposeless living.

Mighty seeds that should be confronting the enemies at the gate have opened up the gates for the enemy. There is a generation that is now so educated that they talk down on and attack divine things. Parental fears have become generational wars.

Some only wanted their son to be successful in his career but now he does not attend church again not to talk of loving the Lord or living in the fear of God.

Are you a spirit-filled and spirit-led parent?

Do it in His will. Do it in His love. Aim your seed for great heights but never let your dream for them become the hindrance to God's purpose. When God needs a Samuel, can you be His Hannah?

CONFESSION

*I do parenting by the leading the Holy Spirit.
I position my children for great exploits in God. I am a spirit-led parent.*

DAY 22

DO NOT MISS YOUR PLACE

Text: Isaiah 30:21 NIV

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

I discussed the call of God to ministry in and from Eruwa with a beloved one when the vision was brewing. He was of the opinion that I get a job in the city (either Lagos or Ibadan). He counselled that I could visit Eruwa for monthly outreach. When the vision in Eruwa becomes big enough, I can then move into the land fully. It felt like a good counsel. I was about to adopt it when the Lord showed up.

It happened in a meeting called Breakthrough Seminar at my church in Uyo (Insight Bible Church). The guest preacher said: "There is someone here. You have the call of God to ministry but you have decided to put one leg in and one leg out. The Lord is asking me to say to you, 'There will be harvest but it will come with losses'".

He went ahead to explain how Jesus asked Peter to cast in the nets:

Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.
Luke 5:4 KJV

But Peter who was in doubt did not cast in the nets but the net which led to the net breaking.

And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.
Luke 5:5 KJV

I knew it was for me!

There are still people who are choosing

the convenient end of obedience. Modified obedience is disobedience. Delayed obedience is disobedience. Selective obedience is disobedience. Partial obedience is disobedience. Once obedience is modified, it becomes dishonour.

Listen beloved: There is a place called "there". For Elijah, it was the brook of Cherith. At another time, it was Zarephath. Do not let intelligent options take you out of Godly instructions. Counsel must be submitted to divine instruction.

When God has called you to do the impossible or the unusual, make sure you listen to find an "Elizabeth" who is also going through or has gone through the same dealing with the Lord. Or else, you will meet someone who tells you that what you heard from the angel was a demonic visitation or just a figment of your imagination yet the pregnancy keeps growing. You leave confused.

May you encounter voices that bring clarity.

May confusion be dispelled.

CONFESSION

I receive clarity of purpose. I am not in confusion. I am in alignment with the spirit of God.

DAY 23

WHEN THE CALL BECKONS

Text: Ephesians 4:1 NKJV

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called.

As I sat in my Dad's green Nissan Primera that evening under the cashew trees in church, the Lord began to speak to me about my future. I picked up my journal and wrote eight things that about my life and journey as inspired by the Lord. I kept that moment and the encounters jealously. This was April 28, 2007. In 2010 while waiting for Law School admission, the Lord spoke again on the 18th of September, at about 3:56 am. I was reading at the dining table that morning.

By the time I was ready to respond to the call in November 2011, I knew it clearly. The encounters had built up over the years and I knew it was not a gamble. I was not looking at alternatives. I was gripped by an intense desire to obey the Lord.

I remember a dear Aunt said to me, "You documented all these encounters for many years like a lawyer so I would not be able to say a word to convince you to change your mind".

You must never assume a call. If your phone rings, you know. If you have a message, it shows. If natural things that are that clear, why then do we assume that spiritual things will be so ambiguous and hard to discern. Listen beloved, you are either called or not. If you are not sure, calm down. The call comes with such a compelling desire to follow the Lord.

When Moses gambled about the call, he had no answer when the Jews asked him, "Who made you a judge over us?" When you are in assumption, you will have no rod of conviction. The calling is not a career path. When Moses returned after hearing

clearly from the Lord, it was a different Moses. He returned bold and audacious.

Apostle Paul felt the "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel". It was a grip. Isaiah had the "Here I am, send me". Jeremiah had the word of the Lord coming to him. Ezekiel had the "Son of Man, I am sending you" encounters. Your calling must be rooted in conviction.

Do not come into the ministry by impulse. Do not come into the ministry by mere desires. Come because the Lord beckoned on you. While waiting to be sure, serve diligently in your Local Assembly. Be a witness of the gospel of reconciliation. Serve those that God has called. Make the work easy for them. Please, do not gamble. Do not assume a call.

Hear these Words from the Book of Hebrews:

"And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was."

Hebrews 5:4 NKJV

CONFESSIO

I yield fully to the assignment God has given me. I am not a gambler in destiny. I am discerning and obedient

DAY 24

WHEN YOUR LOVE FOR YOUR CHILD TURNS INTO IDOLATRY

Text: 1 Samuel 1: 11 NKJV

... then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

After telling Dad about my call into full-time ministry in Eruwa, he did not say a word on the first night. It was a tough one. The next day, Dad said to me, "I thought you were coming home to tell me about your plans to leave the country or at least get a job. I was looking forward to having a son as a judge or a Senior Advocate".

The next line still brings me tears, "Son, we have always prayed to God to send men to Eruwa. I did not know my son would be the first fruit. The pain I feel now is proof that God has called you".

Beloved, if your seed cannot serve the Lord because you are afraid, it is a warning sign. You grew strong in the faith through consecration to the Lord, but you want to hold on to your seed because of your fears.

You named your son "Samuel," but you cannot let him go to serve the Lord. You called him Isaac but cannot lay him on the altar of obedience.

You find it easy to hide under the excuse of "I don't want them to suffer" or "There are other ways to go about it." Your child has become your idol. You have forgotten the Lord that brought you this far; your ward has become your golden calf.

Heaven looks down and wonders why you think your son's Master's Degree in Information Technology is a waste in the mission field. Why do you think heaven deserves the best but not "your" best? It can be anyone else but not your seed.

There are even parents who left all to serve

the Lord who has become a hindrance to the next generation because of "You cannot go through what I went through."

Wealth without a mission and a heart for God will turn your stomach eventually.

Every seed that you hold on to as your idol is a generation lost in divine agenda.

A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.
Psalms 22:30 KJV

Every time you see generational gaps in divine moves, someone held on to his seed.

A fearful parent would keep an entire nation in bondage. What if Jochebed and Amram were too shaken and afraid or security conscious to let Moses go? What would have happened to Israel?

Sir and Ma, is it the same process that made you a praying believer that you are passing on to your seed? Or have you softened and reduced the standard because "Faith should not be that serious"?

Those are warning signs!

CONFESSION

My children will serve the purpose of God. My seed shall be mighty upon the earth.

DAY 25

ZEAL WITHOUT HUMILITY

Text: Galatians 6:14 NIV

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

In the early days of the calling, I was ready to work hard, and I believe I did. I even told an elderly person that "Soon, we would have a great multitude in church". I believed it but I was only relying on gifts and abilities. I felt pastoring was about the ability to speak well. I had zeal but the journey humbled me.

There are great pastors who are not necessarily great preachers. They can tend, nurture, guide, and gently lead the sheep into greatness. They carry the sheep to heart.

Beloved, when you sense the call of God, please be zealous. Performance is at the mercy of zeal. It takes zeal to have performance.

Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:7 NKJV

It speaks of increase.

It speaks of order.

It speaks of establishment.

It says they all will happen because something called "The zeal of the Lord" is available.

The called must be zealous. However, the called must also be humble. There are heights that did not open up until I learnt to draw the wisdom available in spiritual fathering, and also honour intentionally those who have laboured in the land before me. They may be old, but they knew certain things. I listened and learned. They prayed over us each time we honoured them as a ministry. Humility is a game changer.

This is the pattern from the Book of Job:
And though you started with little, you will end with

much. Job 8:7 NLT

How are you going to get into much? The answer is in the next set of verses:

"Just ask the previous generation. Pay attention to the experience of our ancestors. For we were born but yesterday and know nothing. Our days on earth are as fleeting as a shadow. But those who came before us will teach you. They will teach you the wisdom of old." Job 8:8-10 NLT

Moses was zealous. He was leading millions of people but ten counsels of Jethro preserved him from pressure and maybe untimely death. Be zealous but also be humble.

David was anointed to replace King Saul, but he still served the man that he was called to replace. Be zealous but still be humble.

Samuel was called to step into the priesthood of Eli. Even though he had God speak about the termination of Eli's priesthood, he did not hijack the priesthood. Be zealous but also be humble.

Our Lord Jesus Christ knew that he was sent to deliver the world (including John the Baptist) but He still suffered it to be so. He was baptized by John the Baptist. Be zealous but also be humble.

Absalom in his zeal thought he would do better than his Dad- King David. He ran for a while. He burned like fire in the wild, but he vanished easily like smoke without a trace.

Be zealous. Burn passionately but be humble. May your zeal not become a trap. Be humble.

CONFESSION

I am not puffed up by talent. I have a humble heart. I boast in the grace of God.

DAY
26

THE SPIRITUAL CURRENCY OF 'LETTING GO'

Text: Proverbs 11: 24 NIV

One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.

It was challenging to say, but I told my lovely wife, "Aside from our offering today, this is the last dime on me. Please, let us kindly get some things into the house for food".

God, in his miraculous way, showed up. A few hours later, someone sent me a cash gift. It was a good amount. I was overjoyed. While I was still rejoicing, God said to me, "It is not for you. Give it to so and so".

That was a hard truth moment. My jumping stopped. My heartbeat got faster. I told my wife, and then we let it go. It was tough!

One of the warning signs you must not ignore as a believer is this: Once you find it hard to give, your soul is becoming tied to things!

Jesus warned us that the soul is tied to things. He said, "Be alert and guard your heart from greed... For your life can never be measured by the amount of things you possess."

Luke 12:15 TPT

Look around you. What is one thing the Lord can point to that you will find impossible or hard to let go of?

Your Christian maturity will always involve that curriculum on giving. It is always a tough course for the flesh, but you must pass it. There is no mature believer who is not a master in giving.

Only children have a tight fist over what they have been given, even when the giver asks for it. What have you that you did not receive?

Self-preservation is not a kingdom attribute. Why? He that keeps his life will lose it but he

that loses his life will find it. In this kingdom, when you scatter by giving, it increases. But when you withhold, you enter into poverty.

If you can track your expenses by headings, what consumes the most? Sin, Self or Spirit!

Think about Solomon- He used seven years to build the temple. But guess how long it took to build his own house? Thirteen years. Solomon would have been judged a great giver, but wait, how much did he invest in his flesh? (1 Kings 6:37 to 1 Kings 7:1)

Do you give more attention to your career than you do to your calling? You pay heavily for a new certificate, but can you do the same to reach souls?

You stay awake because of professional examinations, but do you wake up for spiritual evaluation in study and prayers?

A friend said, "God knew I was crazy about perfumes. At a point in my life, God kept telling me to give out my perfumes". It was tough, but she kept obeying it till her soul was not tied to it again.

What can God point to but He can never have? What are you building that is taking more than what you are building for the Lord?

That is your "yellow card."

CONFESSION

I invest in my spiritual growth and kingdom service. I am not earthly-minded. I invest in the things that count for eternity.

DAY 27

DEAL WITH THE SPIRIT OF FEAR

Text: Romans 8: 15 NKJV

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

One of my sons in the Lord who is just growing in the faith mentioned that he had been plagued for a season with the fear of death in his life and his family. He had become fearful. There was even pressure (due to his background) to make some rituals to appease a strange deity.

I laughed and asked him, "You have not said a single thing about your redemption and what Christ has done for you. Have you forgotten your previous testimonies of victory by the word so soon?" He said, "This season I stumbled on one of my notes where you said, 'The sacrifice of Christ is enough'. It kept me from being a part of any ritual".

I gave him a message from my spiritual father about "How to deal with the fear of death" and a teaching from church on "The Name of Jesus". He returned the following week with a testimony:

"Pastor, I listened to the message immediately. Then I listened several times each day. My spirit became so strengthened". He even had a dream that was a very powerful encounter and victory over that strange spirit of the fear of death.

Beloved one, fear will reign wherever the Word of God has no space. A lot of times, we have not built an arsenal of defence by the Word of the Lord. We have not sharpened our Sword of the Spirit in a long time. Some have even dropped the sword.

In the times we are in and at all times, your spirit man must be fuelled to the brim with scriptures. Your confession of the word must be solid. No matter how busy a soldier is, he does not joke with his rifle. When some Christians are busy, the first thing that suffers is their devotion to God. Where did we see such a pattern?

One of the most critical units in the military is the Intelligence Gathering Unit. If the intel is

wrong, a mission can become suicidal. If there is no intel, it will be like groping in the dark. Gather intelligence from the Word of God and sharpen your Sword- hell is not smiling but we are not retreating also.

Hear this, there is a covenant of long life over you. But do you remember the terms of the covenant?

First, you must have a relationship with the Most High. And if you are a child of God, you must be dwelling in the secret place of the Most High and abide under the shadow of the Almighty. It is not a place you visit. It is a place you dwell.

Second, you must watch what you say. The Psalmist said, "I will say of the Lord..." What are you saying? What the enemy turns into fiery darts are careless, idle, and vain words that we speak. Words are weapons in the realm of the Spirit. Choose your words with a Christ-guided and word-framed heart.

Finally, rebuke that foul spirit in the name of Jesus. Do not entertain the thoughts of death. Do not take any thought that is not of the Lord. It feels good when you are being pitied but make it hard for anyone to pity you. Do not court pity. Speak life.

I pray for you: You shall not die. You shall live to declare the glory of the Lord. God has satisfied you with long life. Till your hairs are grey, your health is preserved. That strange order of death is reversed.

Do not forget the terms.

CONFESSION

I am full of faith. Fear is dispelled in my heart. I will fulfil my days. I will not die untimely.



THE CONSEQUENCE OF DISOBEDIENCE IS NOT ALWAYS NEGATIVE

Text: Hebrews 12:25 ISV

See to it that you do not ignore the one who is speaking.

A beloved teacher in the faith shared a powerful lesson: They had been trusting the Lord for a car for a while. They prayed and confessed about it for quite a while.

One day, he had a meeting in Lagos, but the Lord prompted him to stop by first in Ibadan to visit a family he had always known. He felt it was not necessary initially, but he decided to obey eventually.

He visited that family. As he stepped in, the mother of the house was shocked. She said, "Who called you to come? Did Daddy call you?" He was wondering why the questions were asked. The father of the home was also shocked. He even thought the wife had called him. He informed them that he only had a prompt to visit them.

They were surprised. In their family devotion earlier that week, they had a prompt to give one of their cars away. They did not know who to give it to. They had two names. They only concluded that whoever shows up first between the two names would have the car. My dear teacher obeyed the Lord. He showed up. He got the car. What a way for the Lord to meet our needs.

This is the catch- if he had gone ahead to Lagos and returned to his base and nothing significant happened, he would have thought that it was his common sense that was just telling him to make that visit. He would not have known what he missed out on.

Listen, the consequence of disobedience is not always that something evil happens. It is the things that should have happened that we would never know. When we eventually give an account of our lives, we will be shocked when we see the opportunities we missed because we rationalized an instruction or shrugged off a prompt.

So, Samuel said: "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. I Samuel 15:22 NKJV

There are things that should be happening today that disobedience has tampered with. God can tell you to do a thing today because of something He wants to do in your life ten years from now.

When you obey Him now, it may look insignificant but wait, you will soon understand. We obey God in trust, but we understand him in retrospect.

What prompts are you taking for granted?

CONFESSION

My heart is conditioned to obey the Lord's leading. I do not walk in disobedience. I enjoy the blessings of obedience.

DAY
29

YOU CAN NOT FEED IF YOU ARE NOT FED

Text: 1 Kings 19:7 NKJV

And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you."

As we returned home that day, Danielle began to show signs that she was hungry. Irewamiri tried different means to placate. It would seem to work for a while as we distracted her momentarily. Then she would begin to throw tantrums again. We made it home and then the tears went to a new level. Irewamiri though moved by her tears said to me, "No matter how much she cries, I must eat first before I feed her. She has taken a lot from me today already and I have not eaten well". Danielle had no option. She waited for mummy to eat for strength first before she could be fed.

Beloved, ministry is an overflow. You must not minister to people out of your reserve but out of your overflow. You must get to the place where the Lord anoints you with oil and your cup overflows. If you minister to others from emptiness, there will be no impact. You will likely be a victim of trying to make it work. You will use schemes because "you want the presence to move".

What is the pattern?

"Then he added, "Son of man, let all my words sink deep into your own heart first. Listen to them carefully for yourself." Ezekiel 3:10 NLT

The key is to prioritize your feeding. Let the word sink into you first. Eat well for strength. There is a trap in our generation that you want to study so that you can share a deep revelation with friends and your online audience. Social media is not the first place to rush to with a revelation.

The secret place must be first. Read it. Study it. Meditate on it. Let it produce fruits in your life. The finest revelation of God's Word is not deep teaching or high-sounding words but a changed life.

To the believer: Do not sit in a place where you are not fed or nourished. This could sound tough but your decisions in life are tied to how nourished your spirit is. If all you hear are stories from African Magic movies intertwined with some fear-motivated talks, you may have to anoint your feet and run. You cannot be in a place where all you have are sermon titles but no practical handles for growth in life. After you put down the title, there is nothing more to note, be watchful.

However, you must not just have the mindset of a consumer. When you bear the fruits of kingdom service, you will be pruned for more. You just have to ensure that the tree bearing fruits of service is also not dying gradually. Are the fruits diminishing year after year? Do you now struggle in your love walk? Are you downcast even though you sing in the choir? Sit down and get back into the secret place. Make it a pattern.

Eat for yourself first. Only a nourished mother can function well as a nursing mother.

CONFESSION

I am not malnourished. I eat the Word of God and it produces results in me. I grow through spiritual nourishment.



WHEN YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND, WORSHIP!

Text: Psalm 63:4 TPT

Daily I will worship you passionately and with all my heart.

A dear one went through a really rough time. He mentioned that one day, our father in the faith called him and told him to spend time in worship at the altar or else the poison of the situation would settle on his soul and the effect would be terrible.

He went to church and began to worship. It was initially tough. At a point, he hit the gusher. He began to cry and talk to God about the situation. It was at that point that he realised how hurt he was. He was bleeding. Worship cleansed the poison. He drew strength again.

The first time the word “worship” was used in the Bible was in Genesis 22:5

And Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.”
Genesis 22:5 NKJV

Abraham had left home with Isaac and his servants to the region of Moriah where he was meant to lay Isaac on the altar as a sacrifice to the Lord.

You can imagine trusting the Lord for about 24 years for a seed. You had a great naming and weaning ceremony. People rejoiced with you that you now have an heir to inherit you. Then, the Lord asked for it.

Can you imagine trusting the Lord for a new house and after you built it, the Lord asks you to give it as a seed to missions? Can you imagine that new car you asked the Lord for? You got it on a bill of favour and God then asks that you release it as a seed? Can you imagine hitting your first financial milestone and the Lord places a demand for it? How do you explain such moments?

Father Abraham was caught in that situation also. What would he say to these young men that they were heading to do? He called it “Worship”.

Anytime you are in a situation that is beyond words and description, the best response you can give is Worship!

What of the time you get a sack letter instead of a promotion letter? What happens when you pray for a miracle and what you get does not seem like one? What will you do when it seems things are crumbling? Your first response must be worship.

Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshipped. Job 1:20 NKJV

There are situations that want to put poison on your soul. If it will not settle on you, make sure you respond in worship. Worship gives you an elevated perspective. Worship brings you into the realm where clarity comes, and rest is found. Worship supplies strength for unusual times.

There are people who are fighting God today because of the poison a situation left and lodged in their hearts. It settled in as an offence. Offence is a stumbling block. It has caused many to derail. Worship can take care of that ‘internal bleeding’. Do not let it spread.

When you do not understand, trust and worship! I know you are deeply shaken but will you worship? I know it is your ‘only’ but will you call it worship? I know it is Isaac, but will you lay it down? It is called “Worship”. Call it worship. Now Worship!

CONFESSION

Worship is my response to every situation. I am offered as a worship to the Lord. I live a life of worship.



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