

COMPASS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR
OCTOBER
2024

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FOR
SALE!**

Temiloluwa Ola

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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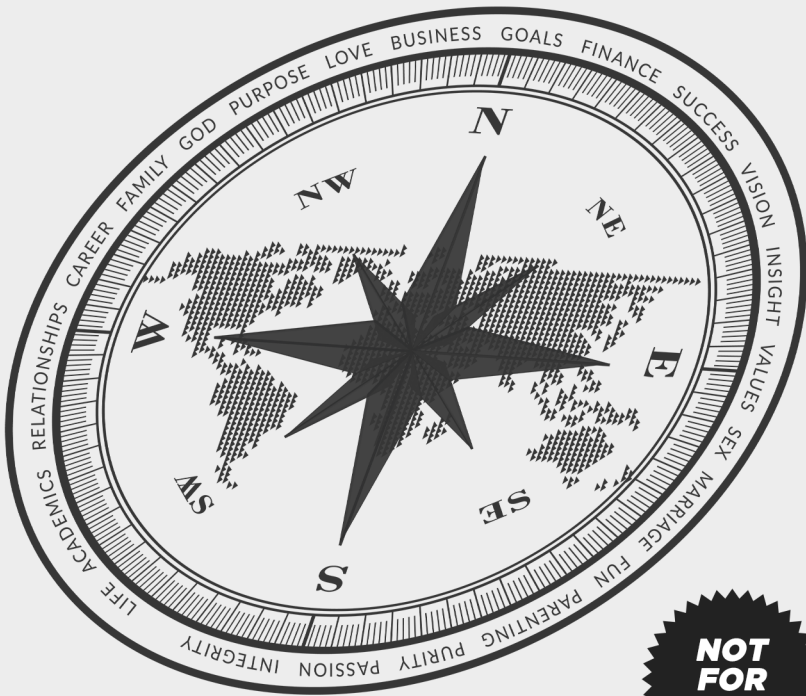
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- OCTOBER 2024 -

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Practical thoughts for a productive day

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Introduction

Welcome to October!

It is a privilege to bring you the devotional again in the month of October. This month, you will see the faithfulness of God. The Hand of the Lord will rest upon you to lead you and to help you. Your heart desires will be granted by the Hand of the Lord: And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.” Nehemiah 2:8 NKJV

You will enjoy the help of men this season also by the Hand of the Lord. Where it was difficult, men will join hands with you to make it happen. “And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king’s words that he had spoken to me. So they said, “Let us rise up and build.” Then they set their hands to this good work.” Nehemiah 2:18 NKJV

The publication of Compass Devotional has been by the Hand of the Lord. We thank God for the many lives that has been blessed and will still be blessed by the devotional both in print and soft copies. In the last quarter of this year, you will enjoy God’s overflowing blessings. He will crown the year with abundance for you. Again, draw life and lessons from this month’s Compass.

We would love to hear from you also. For feedback and enquiries call- +2349121646072, If you desire to partner with us, visit: www.temiloluwaola.com/partner

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



DO NOT BE CLUMSY WITH VISION

Text: Hebrews 12:16 AMP

and [see to it] that no one is immoral or godless like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.

I backed my daughter to the living room for the morning prayers. As we were to step through a door, I walked calmly trying to ensure that I protected her from injury. I pushed the door a little wider as we made our way through.

At that moment, the Holy Spirit said to me, “Those who carry something must never be clumsy”.

When the breath of the Lord rests upon a man and he carries a seed that can be accounted for a whole generation, he cannot just behave or act like someone who carries nothing. He is careful and calculated.

A pregnant woman will not engage in a street fight. She knows that the risk is high. She can lose what she carries. Believer, you carry the anointing and grace of God upon your life, you cannot just engage in anything and everything. You must be careful.

Even in the midst of a crisis, you must be careful how you carry a seed. The nurse of Mephibosheth was running from danger when the boy fell from her hands. Unfortunately, he became crippled for life.

“Saul’s son Jonathan had a son named Mephibosheth, who was crippled as a child. He was five years old when the report came from Jezreel that Saul and Jonathan had been killed in battle. When the child’s

nurse heard the news, she picked him up and fled. But as she hurried away, she dropped him, and he became crippled.”
2 Samuel 4:4 NLT.

In crisis, you exercise extra caution to ensure that pressure does not leave a dent in your character and reduce your capacity to be used by God.

Pressure made Gehazi forget what he had been receiving by impartation. Greed caused him to change lanes. His haste robbed him of all the impartation. His clumsiness robbed him of his inheritance. He carried leprosy as an alternative to prophecy!

Walk constantly with the Spirit. Feed on the word. Pray like a woman in labour. Be mindful of the company you keep. Refuse competition and jealousy. Protect the seed at all costs. You are not just carrying a seed, you are carrying a generation.

CONFESS I O N

*The seed of greatness in me is protected.
My vision will not fail.*



WHEN DID YOU BECOME LIKE THIS?

Text: Philippians 2:12 NLT

...Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.

A young lady left the first level of training in Church and got baptized in the Holy Ghost. She uniquely also got the gift of prophecy the same day. We saw the scriptures come alive. It was so accurate and precise.

Later in the evening, she also took time to pray again in the Holy Ghost and the Lord gave her insight to share with a friend of hers. She told her friend about the word the Lord gave. They were so accurate that the friend asked, "When did you become like this?"

Her response was simple, "Just today o". She could not believe her sin-motivated friend had an encounter with God.

You cannot encounter God truly and remain the same. If you encounter His love, shame and reproach lose their grip on you. Your history is swallowed in grace and your destiny is unwrapped before you.

There is no one who genuinely claims to have had an encounter with Christ who will not have the testimony of change-habits will change, your talk and walk will change, and your places of interest will change.

The bucket the Samaritan Woman held on tightly to was a picture of a scared child trying hard to find something to grab onto. But when the words of Christ hit her, she dropped the bucket. She could run back in excitement to the town she casually walked out of:

Boldness has displaced timidity

Grace has displaced shame

Strength has displaced weaknesses

Joy has displaced sorrow

Now she has a voice that the city can hear.

Now she has an influence as a blessing.

Now she can draw the city to Christ.

She was just a woman to avoid some hours back!

Hear me- You have a voice that your generation will hear. You will be a blessing to nations. You will unlock cities for the gospel. You cannot be ignored any longer.

You cannot claim you have been touched by love and we do not see the effect on you and in your walk.

What has Christ accomplished in your life?

CONFESSION

I grow with the help of the Holy Spirit. I will not remain an infantile believer. I mature in grace and conviction.



THE LORD WILL HONOUR YOUR OBEDIENCE

Text: Job 36:11 NKJV

If they obey and serve Him, They shall spend their days in prosperity, And their years in pleasure.

Just some few days to my wedding, a dear one called and requested us to see. When we met, she said to me, “My husband and I kept wondering what to give you for your wedding. We decided to give you this token”. She handed over an enclosed envelope to me and said, “I am sorry it is a little”. I appreciated it.

When I got home that evening and I opened the envelope, the little was some foreign currency that was enough to start a business for my wife after marriage. We knew it could only have been God.

As a young man committed to ministry, it was a much needed miracle!

God honours obedience. If you have stepped out in faith obeying God, especially to dedicate your life to serving Him in the call to ministry, God will surely honour your obedience.

The Prophet Isaiah said:

“If you will only obey me, you will eat the good things the land produces.”
Isaiah 1:19 GNT

One of the tough times in the journey of a person called to Ministry is when you are quite close to marriage. When the devil will try to throw fear into the equation, shut him up with thanksgiving to God. God does not disappoint.

God will always honour obedience.

Abraham was concerned that a slave and not his son would be the one to inherit his estate. God honoured the obedience of Abraham. In the seed of Abraham, nations are blessed.

There will come good news that will cause your heart to leap. Amen.

However, let me tell you two things about your employer (if you are in ministry full-time):

□ God cannot be mocked/deceived: Your employer is not human. He does not slumber or sleep. You cannot do eye service. He sees you all hours of the day. If you are lazy, there is no reward.

□ God does not owe: Men trust multinationals and corporations to pay as and when due. God, your employer does not disappoint. He pays. He pays big time. He also promotes and increases your benefit of employment in kingdom service.

Before you claim the honour, you must ask yourself first, “Am I obedient?”

CONFESSION

I cultivate the habit of obedience to God's word. My obedience brings me blessings.

DAY 04

ASSIGNMENTS ARE TRIGGERS OF GREATNESS

Text: 1 Corinthians 4:2 NKJV

In this case, moreover, it is required [as essential and demanded] of stewards that one be found faithful and trustworthy.

I came in pretty tired that afternoon and I was looking forward to the Sunday rest. Just when I was hoping to have that evening all myself, Dad announced that I had to stand in for him at a meeting later that day. Do you know what his reason was- He was tired.

I could not say "No". I obeyed Dad. That was the first time I met the woman who ended up becoming my wife.

Faithfulness to assignments is a trigger of greatness. Greatness is tied to divine assignments. If you do not live with an assignment consciousness as a Christian, you will never be great in the Kingdom.

Abraham's assignment was not just to give birth to Isaac but to father nations. He needed a large heart to become all God wanted him to be. Assignments like rescuing Lot (even though he was ungrateful) were part of the process.

Joseph's assignment was not just to enjoy his position as Prime Minister. It was to preserve a generation from dying in famine. Assignments like managing resources for Potiphar and coordinating Prisoners were part of the journey.

Esther's assignment was to ensure that she used her position to preserve the Jews from deadly opposition.

Nehemiah's closeness to the throne was to be deployed for the building of the walls of Jerusalem.

Look at this bold statement of Jesus:

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

A man who will be great in the Kingdom of God must:

- Find Out His Assignment
- Focus on His Assignment
- Faithfully Execute His Assignment
- Finish His Assignment

I know you want to find purpose. It is simple - be faithful with assignments.

David was faithful with assignments; he ended up killing Goliath.

Joseph was faithful with assignments, he ended up preserving Egypt and the Jews.

What are you faithful with?

CONFESS I O N

I stay true to my assignment. I imbibe the culture of faithfulness. I will finish my God-given mandate on earth.

DAY 05

SINCERITY IS NOT WEAKNESS

Text: Ephesians 4:25 NLT

So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.

There is a major conference that we get to host annually since our ministry commenced. It was quite impactful but financially demanding because of the volume of speakers involved.

One year, I had to write to all the speakers telling them about the financial constraints we had. I added that if they decide they could not make it to the meeting, we would not in any way be offended. All the speakers came!

Packaging has killed many great relationships even before they started. Pretending that “All is well” is not faith. Faith is taking rest in the word of God that you have received about a situation.

When you choose pretence and packaging, you deny God the opportunity to manifest His power through your circumstances.

“Faking it like you are making it” is not a healthy sign. Sincerity does not cost much. Most of such strange attitudes are driven by poor self-esteem.

Some of our Fathers in the Faith rode motorbikes for hours to be a blessing and support a friend in ministry. They slept in classrooms. They shared the meal they had. They bonded in obscurity.

We may call Thomas a doubter but his sincere questions got us amazing revelations about Christ.

On a particular occasion, Jesus was telling all the disciples about where He was going.

Jesus: And where I go you know, and the way you know.

Thomas: Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?

(John 14:4-5 NKJV)

I can imagine all the other disciples nodding as though they understood what Jesus was saying. Maybe they did. But Thomas would not deceive himself.

To yourself be true!

The answer Thomas got is still a blessing to us to date. What was the answer?

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” John 14:6 NKJV

Do not fake it. It can limit you.

Be sincere. You will surely make it.

CONFESS I O N

I am honest and sincere in my labour for the Lord. I am not given to pretence and packaging. God is my supplier.

DAY 06

WAITING AND READY TO SERVE

Text: Isaiah 6:8 NKJV

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

As I drove, I looked out of the car window and saw labourers standing by the roadside with their tools ready. They were simply waiting for the call to serve.

At that moment, the Holy Spirit inspired my heart about how believers must always be ready, available and willing to serve the Lord.

One of the prayers you must learn to pray is "Lord, whatever you desire to do in my generation, do not do it without me". You must be ready for divine beckoning.

A lot of people have desires but they lack pursuit. They admire those who respond to God's call. It inspires them but they would always develop cold feet when heaven beckons on them.

One man came to Jesus and said that he was willing to follow Jesus. Jesus told me how hard following can be. The man wanted to begin the journey with sentiments. Jesus knew and reinforced that sentiments have to die if you will follow effectively. (Luke 9:57-62)

One of the things that will keep you from stepping out with God is the fear of survival. If you are trying to

build some security before obeying God, you do not know the one who has called you.

The first thing that must be established between yourself and God is trust. You must settle it that the one who called you to the labour field will definitely pay the bills. God is a great employer of labour. He does not owe any man.

Are we saying you must not learn wisdom? Yes, we must. We learn by following those who through faith and patience have obtained the promise.

We learn from them how the work is done. We learn how to create systems and structures. A lot of people are called but they have not learnt how to build structures. We learn how to raise altars. We learn how to handle pressures.

Be ready. Be available. Be willing to learn, to grow and to go. Be God's own labourer. Be available for deployment.

CONFESSION

I am at the Lord's command. I will fulfill the purpose of God for my generation.

DAY 07

SERVICE OPENS DOORS

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:58 NKJV

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

A young man volunteered to drive me to a meeting out of my base. He is always that dutiful and full of honour. While he drove, I got a message that someone needed an expert in a particular area.

I only mentioned it in passing. Instantly, he said "Pastor, it is something I do and I can get it done". I connected him with the source. Before I knew it, they were talking about some huge figures. I was awed.

Service still opens doors. A man who serves cannot be stranded. He will get what others are gunning for through the seed of service. Your labour of love is never in vain. God still honours a heart that is willing to serve.

For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.
Hebrews 6:10 NLT

Rebecca simply had a heart that was full of love and willing to serve. She was old enough for marriage but did not know that a simple act of kindness and service was the link to marrying Isaac and becoming a part of God's eternal plan.

The business drought in Peter's

life ended when he gave his boat to Jesus. The business drought did not just end, he became eternally connected to God's redemption plan as a major part of the early church.

While you are waiting for God to meet your needs, ask God to make you a channel to meet the needs of others. Greatness knocks on the doors of men who meet the needs of those around them.

Joseph was in prison but the doors of the palace responded through the needs of a man he met in prison.

Your tough time can be the password for the greatest breakthrough. If you know how to walk through a tough season, you will definitely walk into a better season.

While waiting for a miracle, trust God for opportunities to serve. Remember, when God wants to answer your prayers, He opens windows of opportunity for you.

CONFESSIO

I serve faithfully. My service to godly purposes connects me to life-transforming opportunities. I am not self-centred.

DAY 08

NEVER OUTGROW PASTORING

Text: Jeremiah 3:15 NIV

Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.

When the alert hit the ministry account and I saw the name of the sender, I knew I had to call for a conversation. I sent a message telling him, "God bless and increase you. I know we trust for great things but can I kindly know the source of the money you sent".

I have pastored him for a while to know how much he would normally give. He explained to me. The words he added next struck me: 'Pastor, no one had ever asked me such questions. I am glad you asked'.

One of the assignments of a Pastor is to hold the sheep accountable. A man who is well-pastored should never be scared of being asked tough questions. Anyone who outgrows pastoral accountability will soon decline into moral compromise.

Throughout the days of Samuel in the life of David, David walked the high road- he would not even touch Saul who wanted to kill him. Unfortunately, Samuel died before he became king. This is the first thing David did when he became king:

"And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem after he had come from Hebron..." II Samuel 5:13 NKJV

The alarm clock for the scandal he would have with Bathsheba and his murder of Uriah was set long before it happened but there was no one in his life who held him accountable.

It was after he had moved from compromise to crisis that God in his mercies sent Prophet Nathan as a Pastor for his restoration.

Do not ever take pride in the fact that you

are not well pastored- it is not anything that a believer must be comfortable with. Even a pastor needs a pastor.

Look at this scripture:

Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king...He behaved well in the eyes of God, following in the footsteps of his father Amaziah. He was a loyal seeker of God. He was well trained by his pastor and teacher Zechariah to live in reverent obedience before God, and for as long as Zechariah lived, Uzziah lived a godly life. And God prospered him.

2 Chronicles 26:3-5 MSG

However, when the success of Uzziah got into his head, he began to cross lines. He became leprous and lost the throne while he was alive. He died a leper and was not even buried with kings.

The test of a believer comes when he has become successful. Would you still listen to your trainer? Would you still see a need for pastoral accountability? Would you make money your lord?

Anyone who outgrows pastoral accountability will soon decline to compromise and if caution is not taken, it will end up a crisis. Do not outgrow pastoring.

CONFESSION

I embrace accountability. I am not a loose cannon. I submit to counsel.

DESTINATION SYNDROME

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:16 NLT

So, we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now!

I noticed that I had books that my friends had written that I had not taken time to read. Meanwhile, I had read a whole lot of other books. I told my wife, “I am focusing on the books my friends write for the next few days. I will finish all of them. How will my friends write and I don’t read it”.

There is something called destination syndrome. Things that are far away always look more attractive than things that are easily accessible. Some of the answers you seek are in your friendship circle but closeness would not make you recognise them.

When the palm of your hands is away from your face, you see the lines clearly. Once it gets closer, the lines get blurry.

Learn from those who have gone ahead of you but do not discountenance the resources that God has placed in those close to you also.

The words of Solomon in the book of Proverbs are quite instructive:

“So never give up on a friend or abandon a friend of your father— for

in the day of your brokenness you won’t have to run to a relative for help. A friend nearby is better than a relative far away.” Proverbs 27:10 TPT

For instance, there are answers I seek in ministry that conversations with friends have solved. We share our journeys and experiences in that area and that is it.

There are friends who light up the flames of prayer. I take time now to read up on what my friends write also.

Do not let familiarity rob you of the divine deposits in your friends. Your friends can minister healing to you when you are sick. Your friends can sharpen you when you are weak.

Go and check your library- What books have your friends written that you have not read? Why have you not read them? What mindset do you have to change?

CONFESS I O N

My eyes are open to the resources in friendship. I disallow familiarity from robbing me of divine deposits in my friends. I honour my friends.

DAY 10

MOVE THAT MOUNTAIN

Text: Ephesians 6:18 NLT

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

Marrying my wife did not come cheap- there was quite some disapproval of our union. She was to have a crucial conversation about marrying me one afternoon. While she went to speak and seek the blessing, I was on my face in prayers asking God to intervene. It was a stress-free conversation. It was settled by God before she opened her mouth.

Mountains do not just move- they are moved by men who have touched the hands of God in prayer. Opposition does not just crumble- they bow to men who have bent their knees to God.

Queen Esther knew how hard or maybe suicidal it would be to approach the King without being called. She asked Mordecai and the Jews to spend time in prayer and fasting. She took a step of faith soaked in behind-the-scene prayers and fasting, she got what she wanted and the tables of conspiracy began to turn and crumble.

Do not let anyone lie to you that prayer and fasting is waste of time- it is not! It is the weapon of the believer that turns the table around when it is

most critical.

Faces lifted in intercession can never be covered with the powder of shame. The Lord becomes their glory and the lifter up of their heads.

Elijah prayed that there would be no rain. Elijah prayed again that there would be rain.

Did you see that? Elijah prayed again. Do not get weary of praying. After praying, pray some more.

Paul also did not get tired of praying.

My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,
Galatians 4:19 KJV

Did you see the word "Again"? Paul was not going to stop praying until the Galatian Christians became solid ambassadors of Christ.

We must never get tired of praying.

CONFESSION

I cultivate the habit of persistent prayer. I am helped by the Spirit of God in prayers.



BOOKS CAN LEAD TO ENCOUNTERS

Text: Luke 4:17 NKJV

And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written...

A dear son in ministry shared with us how he despised books or reading. He served as an executive of a campus fellowship and upon exiting the position, a lady in the fellowship gave him the book – “How to be led by the Spirit of God”. He said he thought in himself, “What is the value of a book? She should have given me biscuits instead”. He did not place value on books or reading.

Books are agents of encounter. The first book you must love as a believer is the Bible. You must also love to read things written to make you understand the Bible.

Daniel was reading the book of Jeremiah when he realised the time the nation of Israel should spend in captivity and the conditions that must be fulfilled for that prophecy to come to pass.

I have learnt that “Deliverance does not start with getting demons off your back but from getting lies out of your mind. To keep you bound, the devil first keeps you blind”

Ignorance is a terrible principality and agent of darkness. You don’t cast out ignorance by screaming, binding and loosing. You displace ignorance by going after revelation knowledge.

You can get knowledge from books but you get revelation knowledge through communion with the Word of God. A

knowledgeable man can still be bound when revelation is absent.

Therefore My people go into captivity [to their enemies] without knowing it and because they have no knowledge [of God]. And their honourable men [their glory] are famished, and their common people are parched with thirst. Isaiah 5:13 AMPC

Honourable men can become captives when revelation knowledge is lacking.

Daniel saw what Jeremiah wrote. It changed his disposition to captivity. He turned to God in prayer and fasting. The light he received changed how he viewed his condition.

No matter the title or honour you have in Babylon when light comes from God’s Word, you will realise that you cannot remain there.

It is easy to see Egypt as Canaan and see Canaan as Egypt when a man becomes blind and bound by the webs of ignorance. Press in for a revelation. Read the Word of God.

CONFESSION

I am enriched by the word of God. I do not starve of knowledge. I am diligent in reading.

DAY 12

SHAKING TO CREATE ROOM

Text: Ephesians 6:13 NLT

Therefore, put on every piece of God's armour so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

I was refilling the container for milk when I realised that it was already full and there was still some milk left in the pack. I had to shake the container to create more room. When I did, I could fill in more- it actually took everything in the pack.

Whenever you go through shaking and what can be called unsettling times as a believer, take a deep breath and tell yourself, "God is creating room for me".

Shaking precedes filling. Shaking precedes more. The prophet Haggai puts it this way:

I will shake all the nations, and the one whom all the nations desire will come. Then I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of Armies.
Haggai 2:7 GW

The filling and the glory will not come until there is a shaking.

Do not be afraid of tough times- the shaking is not to destroy you. The shaking is to promote and increase you.

When the shaking is going on, unbelievers and carnal minds will get

worried saying, "There is a casting down". But the believing worshipper will smile and say, "There is a lifting up".

The church must never be scared of what the world is scared of. The believer must never be afraid of the things that scare the unbeliever.

Shaking does not sink sons and daughters of the Kingdom; it lifts them.

When there was a shaking in Babylon, the wise men of Nebuchadnezzar lost their jobs, homes and their lives, Daniel and his friends got new status and huge bonuses.

When there is a shaking, let it be settled that your reality is different. God is making room for you. You are not the hopeless one. Start singing. Start dancing. Shaking means good news is close!

CONFESSION

I do not succumb to pressure. I stand my ground in the Lord. I overcome my season of unsettling.

DAY 13

USE YOUR WEAPONS

Text: 2 Corinthians 10:4 NKJV

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.

For about seven years, we had quite a large parcel of land that we did not use. During the lockdown, our eyes opened to it and Irewamiri began some farming projects there. There are some useful trees already on the land.

When it was the season to harvest the seeds and keep for sale, we noticed that strangers who have no right over it had been picking the seeds for those years we abandoned the land. It became a tussle getting them off the land. They had developed a sense of entitlement.

Whatever you have that you do not use limits you. The power of a weapon is not just in ownership, it is in the usage. If you do not use it, another person will hijack it.

As a believer, you have the authority in the name of Jesus, use it. You have the power resident in the blood of Jesus, use it. You have the anointing of God upon your life, use it. You have the gospel as a weapon of kingdom advancement, use it.

Stop sitting and looking while you allow strangers to take what belongs to you as a son. The day the prodigal son remembered his position as a son of the father, he stopped craving

the meal of pigs. He walked out on pigs and walked back home.

When Hagar began to misbehave because she got pregnant, Sarah had to remind her of her position as a maid and not a wife. Abraham told Sarah, "She is under your authority. Do with her as you want".

Hear me- Your need does not make you less. The fact that you don't have some things materially does not change your status as a son and daughter of God. Speak from your position and your condition will bow.

Walk out of that pity-me mode. Go and take what belongs to you. You do not owe them any apology. You do not owe the devil any explanation. Kick him out of your business. You are a Son and not a slave. You are the redeemed and not the enslaved. You are more than a conqueror and not the victim.

Take your place! Use your weapon. Do not let the devil hijack it.

CONFESSION

I take my place as a son in the kingdom. Unpleasant situations in my life bow to the authority of Christ.

DAY 14

IT IS STILL THERE!

Text: 2 Timothy 1:6 NKJV

Therefore, I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

I was driving home one day, and I noticed something I had not noticed before. I had driven the same way. It was over a year of taking the same way.

What did I see? I saw the foundation of a building. Why did I not see it earlier? It was already overrun with thick bush. Why did I get to see it? The bush was cleared out! It has always been there, but the bush covered it.

There are divine deposits in your life that have probably been overrun with weeds. The presence of the weeds does not mean that the seed is still not there. It is only proof that you have been negligent over time. If you will be deliberate, the divine deposits will become revealed again.

If you used to have an amazing prayer life and altar, the solution to your prayerlessness is not in talking about your history, it is in beginning to pray again. The divine deposits are still there. One day at a time, you are uprooting the weeds until the foundations laid are revealed again.

At times, recovery can be like fanning lighted charcoal amid black unlimited charcoal. It may seem as though nothing is happening but with consistency, the black cold charcoal begins to respond to the glow and cracking sound of the lighted one. Soon, we have a fully lighted pot.

The passion for God and His assignment is still there. Have you seen how you

have not forgotten the songs from children's Bible club days? Have you not seen how you cannot cross certain lines? Have you not sensed the tug on your heart every time you descend the slope into unholy things? The seed is there. The weeds have just overrun it.

Why is the seed still there? The enemy cannot defeat the seed. He cannot uproot the seed. He only fights by adding the weeds. As the weed grows, it seems the seed is no longer there. It is there.

Paul told Timothy something powerful: You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.
2 Timothy 3:15 NLT

There are decisions you are taking now and moves you are making now that are simply rooted in the seeds sown in you as a child.

Beloved, this is a call to get back to the basics. Go back to a life of disciplined prayer and study. You will be surprised by what you will discover about yourself. There is more under that covering. Pull it off!

CONFESS I O N

I do not abandon the basics of the Christian faith. I weed out ungodly deposits in me. I grow into maturity in the way of the Lord.

DAY 15

WILL YOU DISAPPOINT?

Text: Matthew 25:23 NKJV

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

We were on a family trip some months back. Halfway into the trip, the car developed a fault. We spent about four hours on the roadside. It was not funny. Interestingly, this was right after breaking down a day earlier. All plans had to change.

The car over time showed the same fault despite several repairs. I concluded that I would not travel with it again. Why? I do not know when it will become faulty. I cannot be stranded when it is most important. I only use it for movement in places I know I can cope even if it disappoints.

Beloved, just the way I cannot go a long distance with the car, there are people that heaven cannot trust with significant kingdom assignments. The work will get done halfway and they would give up or even abandon the work outrightly.

There are people that God has to ensure that there is a backup intervention anytime they are assigned a kingdom duty. Why? It will likely not get done.

Think about having fears that the car may just stop at any time. Can you imagine God wanting to reach a dying soul and you are the only one available? Would he be able to trust you with it?

The servants were all given the talents according to their different abilities. The training and investment that goes into the training of a soldier is not the same as what goes into that of a traffic warden. The weight of their assignment is not the same. You cannot give the work of a soldier to a traffic warden.

Interestingly, heaven will still put some trust in men even when they show low capacity. Do you realise that eventually in the parable of the talent, the man that was given one was

later referred to as the man who has none?

"And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey." Matthew 25:15 NKJV

The servant was later referred to as the one who has nothing:

"For to every person who has something, even more will be given, and he will have more than enough; but the person who has nothing, even the little that he has will be taken away from him." Matthew 25:29 GNT

Wait! So, he had nothing but heaven in mercy only wanted to give him a chance, but he still reduced heaven's deposit to the status-nothing. All along, Heaven was only hoping that if given a chance, he could prove himself.

Can God trust you?

Can heaven give you special assignments?

God placed a huge trust in Abraham. He wanted him to birth a new nation. Abraham laid the foundation and succeeded.

God placed trust in Moses to lead the nation of Israel out of Egypt. Moses did a great job. Can God trust you?

God gave Samuel to Hannah because she said she would return him to God. If you were Hannah, would you keep your promise?

Can you be trusted with divine partnerships?

CONFESSION

I give my best to the work of God. I am a faithful servant. I will serve the Lord's will wholeheartedly.

DAY 16

DO NOT DESPISE THE KNOWN BECAUSE OF THE NEW

Text: I Samuel 17:39 NKJV

And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So, David took them off.

We were preparing for a major meeting years ago when I was still a corps member. It was a Christian Concert with a focus on Charity. We wanted excellence. Because of this, we raised some funds to invest in some new sound accessories to augment what we had already.

We bought most of them a day before the concert. The team worked all night and all day to ensure that we had something good. Everything was going well until the meeting commenced. For more than half of the meeting, the sound had issues- we tried not to get frustrated. They only figured it out about an hour before the end of a three-hour programme.

From that day, it became a major lesson for me that you do not use in battle what you have not mastered in training. While you are crying for something new, the smart ones are asking for what can be trusted. The fact that it is new does not mean it can be trusted.

Greed and low esteem can be the driving force for what is new. You can desire and wear the armour of Saul if you think that confronting Goliath is a military weapons exhibition, but not David!

So, Saul clothed David with his armour, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. David fastened his sword to his armour and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So, David took them off. I Samuel 17:38-39 NKJV

Saul is not going to the war, but he thinks he knows exactly what David needs to win. Be bold to take off what you cannot walk in and what you have not tested. This is war and not a weapons exhibition parade.

What did David go in?

Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine. I Samuel 17:40 NKJV

Who owned the staff?

Who chose the five smooth stones?

Who owned the shepherd's bag or pouch?

Who owned the sling?

God is merciful. He will never leave you without a witness. You have something right now that can produce proof. Do not despise it. There are times when you do not need something new, you only need what is tested and what you have mastered.

If you are in ministry, you do not have to sound like someone else! You do not have to copy and paste. Ask for a revelation of your staff, smooth stones, shepherd's pouch, and sling. When you listen to fathers, the teachings have not changed. Sometimes the illustrations are still the same but there is a spirit of freshness upon it. Your fight is for that freshness!

I know you have done a lot of appraisals but do not be under pressure to change into Saul's armour. Learn all you can from Saul but be bold to use what is tested.

CONFESSIO N

I will not use strange weapons. I stick to what God endorses for me. I rely on God-given strategies.

ATOM

Anuoluwapo
Temiloluwa Ola Ministry

GROOMS NIGHT

HEART TO HEART MEN'S MEETING

with Pastor Temi Ola

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OF EVERY MONTH**

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PM**
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See you there!

DAY 17

NEVER ALLOW STRANGE INTERPRETATIONS

Text: 1 Peter 2:9 NKJV

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His

A young woman once called me and mentioned that someone asked her to reach out to me. She had a dream three times that she was picking snails. She was told that it meant she would be poor.

I told her to do something simple: Go to a restaurant. Order a meal and request a snail instead of the regular protein. She can tell me the price later. She got the memo. Snails are not cheap.

The danger of wrong conclusions is that it will lead to wrong suggestions that will propel wrong actions. Once Sarah concluded wrongly that it seemed as though God was punishing her by withholding her from getting pregnant, she told Father Abram to sleep with Hagar as a way to get answers.

There are two roles the devil wants to play in your life: the role of the supplier of information and the role of interpreter of information.

The devil wants to supply information. He knows that kings rule by information. Nations pay a lot for espionage. They want information. The devil wants to tell you that:

You are not beautiful.
You are not loved.
No one will marry someone like you.
You will die young.
You will remain small.
Never allow him to supply information.

However, when he notices that you have succeeded in denying him the role of supplier, he wants to play the role of interpreter. He can use someone close to you like he used Sarah to bring that suggestion to Father Abram.

Someone close to you like Peter who genuinely loves you can misinterpret your season. Beclouded with their emotions, they play the devil's advocate. You should know when a loving role has become strange and say, "Get thee behind me, Satan".

What Sarah got wrong, Rebecca did well.

When the babies jostled in her womb, she went to the Lord to get the interpretation of her season.

But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If all is well, why am I like this?" So, she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her: "Two nations are in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."

Genesis 25:22-23 NKJV

If the devil succeeds in supplying and interpreting that data to you, be it a dream, a situation, a health report, or an account balance, he will succeed in controlling, manipulating, and intimidating you using the weapon of fear.

One wrong interpretation can become a generational mess. You will birth things that will spiral out of control.

Deny the devil's information. Deny him the role of interpreter. Spend time in the Word to find the definition of your season. Spend time in prayer to receive clarity.

A lazy believer will become a willing tool of the devil. A believer who lacks sensitivity can be used by the devil to achieve his purpose. Do not let it happen.

CONFESSION

I ignore wrong opinions about my destiny. I am who God says I am.



HOW TO MAKE YOUR JOURNEY LONGER

Text: Proverbs 18:24 NIV

One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

I was heading for a meeting in Lagos. My cab broke down somewhere in Ogun State. Once we saw it may take a while, I put calls through to three people in the area. Two of them came around and stood by us.

One of them volunteered to get me to the next stop where I could pick another cab. Surprisingly, someone else had already called the cab and paid some of the bills already. That day, I knew that men are gifts indeed. I have known both men for at least 9 years.

One of the ways to prolong your journey in life and destiny is developing the habit of taking men for granted. There is no pride in saying, "I need no one".

There are men who broke down on the journey of life and are still down because they lack relationships that can restore them.

Take a look at those who thrive in ministry or career, you will observe that some of them have sustained relationships of 30 years or even more. One of the signs that a man can be trusted is that he has lasting relationships with others- it shows loyalty and trust.

Take a look at Luke 6:38:

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.
Luke 6:38 KJV

God will use the men in your life to fill your bosom. Therein lies wealth, warmth and wonders of life.

Some men will come into your life and not look like what you prayed for. David had social misfits all around him. But they were so willing to help David in the wilderness season and get him to the throne.

If you steward your relationship with men properly, your journey becomes better. Do not take your parents for granted. Do not take your pastors for granted. Do not take your peers for granted.

Keep in touch with them.

Do not let your busy schedule steal the gift of men around you. Do not look back and realise that you focused so much on goals that you lost your God-given relationships.

Men are gifts. Treat them well and your journey is faster.

CONFESSION

I do not despise the gift of men. I nurture God-ordained relationships.

DAY 19

BE ALERT IN YOUR SPIRIT

Text: Matthew 26:41 NIV

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

I have lost phones twice. They both happened back-to-back in 2005 and 2006:

I boarded a cab heading to Ife from Ibadan. I slept off. I woke up just as the car got to the campus gate. I alighted from the cab and made my way to the campus. As I entered campus, my consciousness was restored. My phone was not on me. I went after the cab. The phone was switched off already.

The second occasion was more painful. I was catching an evening siesta. My roommate went out but did not alert me. Our door was not locked. By the time I woke up, my phone was no longer by my side. It was like a dream.

As it is in the physical, so it is in the spirit. If you sleep off spiritually, the devil will have a field day and things can slip off your hands also.

One of the ways to stay watchful spiritually is by praying. Jesus told us to "watch and pray". The consequence of not watching and praying is the inability to withstand temptations.

Do you remember how the devil operates? He does it like a thief. The thief will always have a field day while men are sleeping.

"but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way" Matthew 13:25 KJV

There are times he does what he will do quickly and leave you to wake up to the consequences. But there are times that he gets really bold and takes possession. This happens when he realises that he can operate unchecked.

That was the case of the temple in the days of Jesus that made him cry out:

It is written, My house is the house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves.
Luke 19:46 KJV

There are no vacuums in the spirit. You are either a house of prayer or you are a den of thieves. Beloved, if you are not praying, things are either already slipping out of your hands, or they are outright being stolen or they have been totally hijacked.

There are sleeping parents. Their work is more important than their watch. They have lost watch over their seeds. The enemy has found a den of thieves. He is stealing the souls of their children. Some lead prayers in church but do not lead prayers at home – no family altar! Wake up.

There are sleeping believers heavily sedated by reels, skits, and movies. Their souls are desensitized to the signals of the Spirit. It takes long before they respond to the instructions of the Lord. Their bodies move faster to ungodly rhythms and become heavy when heaven beckons.

There are sleepwalking believers. They seem to be making moves, but they are in sleep mode. They try to pick up the Bible, but they pick nothing out of it. Prayer has become a burden. Spiritual things have become mere routine. Wake up! Wake up!!!

The first thing the devil steals is your attention before he moves in on your possession. If he succeeds in distracting you, he has succeeded in defeating you.

Stop resting from spiritual things. When you take a leave, do not leave the altar. When you are on break, do not take a break from the word and prayer. If you sleep, you will slip.

When the early church snoozed, James was taken and killed. It took the devil striking hard to wake up the church to prayers. Listen beloved, may evil not be your alarm clock! Must bad things happen before you start praying?

Are you awake?
Are you the House of Prayer?
Are you the den of thieves?
Wake up!
In my language, we say, "Dide".
Stand up and pray.
Pray without ceasing.
Pray!

CONFESSION

I awake unto righteousness. I stand upon my watch in prayers. I am not a sleeping giant.

DAY 20

THE BEAUTY OF DIVINE INTERVENTION

Text: Acts 12:7 NIV

Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

A while back, we were on the search for a house to move into. We saw the images of a particular building. It looked like what we wanted, and what we could use. We scheduled a visit to the property.

The agent communicated with the owner of the house. We fixed a time for inspection. He spoke to the owner just a few minutes before our arrival.

Then the strange began to happen: We got to the property and kept knocking and calling for about an hour. The landlord did not respond. The Estate Security told us he was around. He did not respond.

While waiting, another property agent showed up and said, "There is a house in so and so place, let us go and check it". The moment we stepped into the compound, and we entered into the house, we knew this was the place. It was the ram that the Lord had tied down. Everything we prayed for and asked for was right there. The Lord did it.

Beloved, when you pray, sweet coincidences will happen in your life. The world can call it coincidence, but I want you to know that there is the ministry of angels. Dear believer, there is the ministry of angels.

The patriarch Abraham said a prayer for Eleazar as he went to seek out a wife for Isaac and it is very instructive:

The Lord God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.
Genesis 24:7 NKJV

What Abraham said as a prayer, Eleazar shared as a testimony:

And he said, "Blessed be the Lord God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the Lord led me to the house of my master's brethren."
Genesis 24:27 NKJV

Angels can lead, help, protect and even intercept when it is necessary. The ministry of angels is always enjoyed by believers who pray.

Forget the fact that the devil wanted to use this

scripture to manipulate Jesus Christ during the temptation, angels can protect:

When we live our lives within the shadow of God Most High, our secret hiding place, we will always be shielded from harm. How then could evil prevail against us or disease infect us? God sends angels with special orders to protect you wherever you go, defending you from all harm. If you walk into a trap, they'll be there for you and keep you from stumbling.
Psalms 91:9-12 TPT

In this season, may you enjoy angelic protection. When Peter was locked up by King Herod, one angel was enough to organize a prison break. In the company of that angel, chains fell off and the noise did not wake up trained soldiers. In the company of that angel, the gate of the city opened of its own accord.

Beloved, may angels intercept you when you are about to make a wrong move. Sometimes, if we are sensitive enough, we will know that the donkey is not the problem, it is our spiritual blindness that is the issue. You need to stop beating the donkey like Balaam did and ask if it is not an angelic presence that is intercepting your journey.

What if the break-up was the Lord saving you?

What if the sack letter was an intervention? Had Joseph remained comfortable in Potiphar's house, he would not have reached the palace.

May the Angel of the Lord intercept you when and where necessary. You will not derail. You will be trapped. You will enjoy speed. You will be helped by the Lord.

Find every opportunity to tell yourself: I am helped by the Lord. I enjoy angelic assistance, protection, and interception when and where necessary.

Allow God to make moves in your life and on your behalf. His moves are always winning moves.

CONFESSION

I am helped by the Lord. I enjoy favour and sweet coincidences. I enjoy divine intervention.

DAY
21

BROKENNESS, NOT JUST BRILLIANCE

Text: 2 Corinthians 2:15 ESV

For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

A dear son in the faith got a birthday gift of an expensive bottle of perfume. He placed it on the table forgetting that his ten-month-old nephew was around. The baby got a grip of the bottle of expensive perfume, and you know the end of the story – the bottle broke and the fragrance that had been locked up in the bottle filled not just the house but their compound. Everyone who came in began to speak about the fragrance that filled the compound. They gave my beloved baby boy a new name- Alabaster Box!

Every believer has a fragrance that is locked up in us. Paul calls it a treasure that is carried in earthen vessels:

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.
2 Corinthians 4:7 NIV

Beloved, this fragrance must be spread everywhere:

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumph [as trophies of Christ's victory] and through us spreads and makes evident the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere,
2 Corinthians 2:14 AMPC

Every child of God carries a sweet fragrance that must fill the earth. However, this fragrance is not unlocked by brilliance alone but by brokenness. God is not looking for the most brilliant of men to carry this fragrance but the most broken of men.

Broken men are men who will not argue with the instructions of the Lord because they are calculating based on their exposure and experience.

Broken men can rely on the "effective" foolishness of the sling and stone while men expect them to parade in the armour of Saul.

Broken men know when to be as good as a lion and yet understand how to be as calm and gentle as a lamb. Their voices are not heard but their impact cannot be denied.

Broken men know that character cannot be

sacrificed because of reputation. They will not ask for honour to project an image when there is a matter of disobedience that has been left unaddressed.

Broken men know that sacrifices cannot replace obedience. Their heart is the sacrifice they have laid before the Lord.

The words of brilliant men are "Not so, my Lord!" They have a better opinion than the instructions of the Lord, but the words of broken men are "Lord, not my will, but your will be done".

The broken man has no opinion before His Lord and Master. A brilliant Moses had a sword and a powerful speech that he wanted to use to set the nation of Israel free, but a broken Moses had lost both by the time the Lord of Host beckoned on him. A man mighty in speech has become a stammerer at the burning bush.

Pride dies when you encounter God. "I" has no place any longer. "Mr. Flesh" has no voice again. Why? Brokenness has taken over brilliance.

A broken couple does not seek to be right; rather they seek to be one. They do not sacrifice oneness for the penchant of winning an argument. If truly you are broken, you know that when you go to God to complain about your spouse, He will speak to you about areas you need to work on. He can tell you to be "patient" or "apologise when you are not wrong".

Thank God for brilliance. We have a lot of brilliant believers. But can we ask the Lord for brokenness? It is the brokenness that releases the fragrance.

Will you be God's Alabaster Box?

CONFESSION

I am not full of pride. I am dead to the life of the flesh. My life is a sweet smelling savour to God

DAY 22

DO NOT BOTTLE UP YOUR HURTS

Text: Romans 12:18 NIV

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

As we sat in the fuel station that evening, my dear friend, and brother looked at me and said, "Bro. Temi, you really hurt me". I was shocked. He then went ahead to narrate the reasons why he has been so hurt. It was legit. I apologised. I did not know how much I messed up when I carried out the act. I thought I had valid excuses.

His communication of his hurt did three things:

First, it brought great healing to his own heart. That deep hurt started receiving a healing balm that day.

Second, it made me know when and how to stand up for and with people in critical seasons of life especially, friends and family.

Third, it took our relationship to new levels with better understanding and a stronger bond.

Relationships are gold mines when they are well managed. They can be landmines when people are taken for granted. There are gold opportunities that have been lost because two friends vowed never to see eye to eye again. There are great heights that have been lost because the two brothers decided that their matter will only be settled in heaven.

There is nothing like irreconcilable differences, there are only two parties who have refused to reconcile their desires with the desires of the spirit of the Lord.

Beware of strife. Strife is an attack on relationships, especially covenant relationships. It is the relationship that will add great value to your life that strife aims to destroy.

Abraham knew it but Lot did not. Did you know that there were other parties but Lot and his herdsmen chose to fight Abraham and his herdsmen?

And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land.
Genesis 13:7 NKJV

They did not fight the Canaanites and the Perizzites. They fought Abram. The devil is very strategic. He wants you to fight your spouse. He wants you to hate your parents. He wants you to despise your pastor. He wants you to act dishonourably to your boss. He

wants you to walk out on your siblings.

Is it not strange that you are fine with every other person except the relationship that should benefit you?

Your honour for your parents is tied to wellness and long life. But look at your relationship with them- it is right in the mud. You cannot pick up their call. When you do, it is like conversations with a stranger.

If strife has destroyed something, there is a reason why it has not destroyed everything- there is always a window of mercy that gives room for restoration.

How will you access that window? It is simple. Go and make amends.

Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First, be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.
Matthew 5:23-24 NKJV

What is the pattern of expression? Talk to your brother first. If he does not listen, involve your circle of accountability. Do not leave a good relationship to rot because you are hurt.

"If another believer sins against you, go privately, and point out the offence. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.
Matthew 18:15-17 NLT

Have you tried and exhausted all these options?

CONFESSION

I am not given to strife. I have a forgiving heart. I am peace-loving.

DAY 23

FIGHT FORGETFULNESS

Text: Psalm 77:11 NKJV

I will remember the works of the LORD; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.

My maternal grandpa came back and asked, "Anuoluwapo, did anyone check up on us while we were away?" That was when my senses woke up. I remember that while I was sleeping, an elderly couple came visiting and told me to tell my grandparents that they were back from the hospital.

What was the consequence of my forgetfulness?

First, my grandparents wasted fuel and time heading to the hospital to check up on a friend who was already discharged and had visited them at home.

Second, it was obvious that Grandpa was not pleased because I still have not forgotten how he said to me that such behaviour was an "animalistic tendency". He was a professor.

Instructions are one of the major ways that the Lord communicates with his loved ones. Instructions are tools for changing seasons, preservation, and activating the miraculous. A man who follows instructions carefully will see miracles effortlessly. One of the signs that you are growing is that you know the weight of instructions.

There is however a tendency to forget instructions. The devil fights with forgetfulness. Forgetfulness will always result in slack. The Lord warned the nation of Israel about the danger of forgetfulness:

1. Do not forget in your plenty: Abundance can make people forget. Be careful when there is enjoyment.

"But that is the time to be careful! Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the Lord your God and disobey his commands, regulations, and decrees that I am giving you today.
Deuteronomy 8:11 NLT

When you are settled, fight forgetfulness.

For when you have become full and prosperous and have built fine homes to live in, and when your flocks and herds have become very large and your silver and gold have multiplied along with everything else, be careful!
Deuteronomy 8:12-13 NLT

2. Forgetfulness will lead you to pride. Fight it: Do not become proud at that time and forget the Lord

your God, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt. Do not forget that he led you through the great and terrifying wilderness with its poisonous snakes and scorpions, where it was so hot and dry. He gave you water from the rock!
Deuteronomy 8:14-15 NLT

You cannot follow the Lord well if you are plagued with forgetfulness. David was a man after the heart of God, and he showed us one of his secrets was his ability to remember:

Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me.
Psalms 103:2 NLT

Will you lift your voice and say today? Lord, remind me of forgotten instructions. Deliver me from forgetfulness.

Would you make a list of gratitude like King David:

He forgives all my sins.

He heals all my diseases.

He redeems me from death.

He crowns me with love and tender mercies. He fills my life with good things and my youth is renewed like the eagle's!
Psalms 103:3-5 NLT

Where is your list?

CONFESS I O N

I speak of God's goodness always. I cultivate the habit of thanksgiving. I am not an ingrate.

DAY 24

DON'T SIT THERE... IT IS COSTLY

Text: Psalm 1:1 NKJV

Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful.

We were preparing to head to church one morning. While waiting for my parents, our neighbour's son and I played outside. He sat on the grassy drive-in.

Behold, a tiny snake slithered just over his hands and found its way into the nearby thickness of flowers. He did not sit to explain. He jumped. We ran. It was scary.

Beloved, there are times you must never remain seated. It will cost you more than you can imagine. It is better you jump immediately before the harm happens.

Follow this story:

Laban chased Jacob and caught up with him. He accused Jacob of not just running off without telling him, but he accused Jacob of stealing his gods. Jacob was so sure he did no such things, so he said:

"But as for your gods, see if you can find them, and let the person who has taken them die!" But Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen the household idols.
Genesis 31:32 NLT

When the Father of the home made such a statement, the Fear of God should have hit Rachael, but it did not. Do you know what Rachael did?

But Rachel had taken the household idols and hidden them in her camel saddle, and now she was sitting on them. When Laban had thoroughly searched her tent without finding them, she said to her father, "Please, sir, forgive me if I don't get up for you. I'm having my monthly period." So, Laban continued his search, but he could not find the household idols.

Genesis 31:34-35 NLT

She sat on what she was meant to open up on and ask for forgiveness. She wanted Jacob to get the impression that she really loved the God of Abraham, yet she romances the gods of Laban.

What are you sitting on that your family, believers' company, church or even pastor has no idea of? They think you are still wholeheartedly committed to God, and they vouch for you but here you are sitting on something.

Did the word of Jacob come to pass? Yes!

Rachael fell into labour for her last son. She died in labour on the way to Bethlehem.

"So, Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."
Genesis 35:19 NLT

She died on the way! She did not get there with others.

What are you sitting on?

What should you jump up and reveal now?

May you not become the channel through which "Jacob's confident utterances" are fulfilled.

CONFESSION

I walk away from evil. I do not associate with things that destroy.

DAY 25

HOW TO CUT DOWN WHAT SLOWS YOU DOWN

Text: Hebrews 12:1 NKJV

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

At a point, I realised that it was getting harder to wake up at night to pray. My schedule daily was heavy no doubt, but it was easier to press my phone than to stay in the place of prayer.

When I discovered this pattern, I issued myself a warrant- I cut down on my meals at night. I ensured I monitored the final things I did before heading to sleep. There was a significant change.

There are weights and excesses that are not necessarily sins but when sustained for a long time, it can lead a believer to condone things that he should not condone on a normal day. It can lead to sin eventually.

One of the words of Jesus that we should never forget is "Watch and Pray so you don't fall into temptation". Watchfulness is as important as prayerfulness. As a matter of fact, the man who prays is the man who is indeed watching.

There were people who died, and the scriptures described them as "fat" or "overweight". And the circumstances surrounding their death seem to be tied to it.

"He brought the tribute money to Eglon, who was very fat. Ehud reached with his left hand, pulled out the dagger strapped to his right thigh, and plunged it into the king's belly. The dagger went so deep that the handle disappeared beneath the king's fat. So, Ehud

did not pull out the dagger, and the king's bowels emptied." Judges 3:17, 21-22 NLT

May the weapons of the enemy never become conducive in your vicinity. The enemy attacked and his flesh covered it. What tendencies and proclivities are your flesh covering now? What do you now accept as normal?

Eli was also fat as a priest of the Lord.

When the messenger mentioned what had happened to the Ark of God, Eli fell backwards from his seat beside the gate. He broke his neck and died because he was old and overweight. He had been Israel's judge for forty years.

1 Samuel 4:18 NLT

Aside from old age, the excesses also contributed to his death. What have you gathered that now slows you down? What have you acquired that has now become a burden?

Get to the gym of the Spirit. Begin to work on your diet. Cut down on things that do not edify. Declare a war on the excesses that slow a man down in destiny. Get back in shape.

CONFESSION

I cut down on things that are harmful to my destiny. I keep fit in the spirit. I am alert in the spirit.

DAY
26

ARE YOU FIGHTING FOR A GENERATION?

Text: Psalm 22:30 KJV

A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.

I sat in the library as I spoke to a dear brother in the faith. I told him, “The whole matter concludes that ‘I am fighting a generational war that I must win’”. It was not a battle with demons or the devil. It was a battle for strength and inner will to stay faithful and on course in such a way that the generation after mine would have no reason to go through the same thing. He understood me better that very moment.

Beloved, you will live life anyhow if you are unaware of the battles that you must not joke with. Battles are a function of human existence. You have a war to fight and a battle to win.

For instance, if you have noticed a pattern of leaving things abandoned because of anger, that may be exactly what you need to fight. My grandfather left his village in anger. Your father abandoned a trade and many other jobs any time he gets angry. Your aunts abandon their marriages once they get angry. Do not say, “Anger is our weakness” with pride. Get on your knees and ask the Lord for strength.

It was the same anger that made your grandfather not leave behind any property you can point to. The same spirit left your family in a perpetual state of lack. Now, you are almost done with that project, that study or even it is a trade but your boss is beginning to treat you unfairly. Please, do not get angry. You are fighting a generational war that you must win – anger-triggered abandonment!

When you lack awareness of what you are fighting, you will not know the weapons to gather. You can begin a new lineage of grace and strong character in your family. You can be the departure from that pattern.

At least, Abraham began a new order:

And you shall answer and say before the Lord your God: ‘My father was a Syrian, about to perish, and he went down to Egypt and dwelt there, few in number; and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous.’
Deuteronomy 26:5 NKJV

From a man came a nation. What changed? He stayed through with the Lord. When he missed his steps, he retraced it.

Do not let the devil cheat or rob you. Identify the human tendencies that have limited you over the years- anger, procrastination, and the like! Fight it head-long. When you see it, know that is the devil in disguise. Do not fall for it.

CONFESSION

I bring an end to evil patterns in my life and family. I will not commit generational blunders. I am victorious. I am not vanquished

DAY
27

YOU CAN NOT TAKE THESE ON BOARD

Text: 2 Corinthians 7:1 NKJV

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

We were returning from a family trip. Irewamiri had some hot water in a flask for the children's meal. As we checked in, the officer asked, "Do you have hot water in that flask?" We answered in the affirmative. He pointed out that we should use it for the meal before we go on board. He insisted we show him the empty flask afterwards.

A man who will take flights must make sure that he deals with things that can harm him or anyone on the flight of destiny. Some issues can wreak great havoc if left unaddressed.

What started small or in innocence can become the harbinger of great damage if not well handled. Deal with issues before you get to certain heights. If not, they can bring you back to square one.

Moses had anger issues. He tried all he could, but it still exploded at a major season of his life. The Lord told him that he crossed a line when he did not control his anger.

In the words of Moses: "But the Lord was angry with me because of you, and he would not listen to me. 'That's enough!' he declared. 'Speak of it no more'" Deuteronomy 3:26 NLT

David did not handle his appetite for women early in his life. He kept adding women to women. Once he became king, he even got more wives. He had programmed his flesh for the historical Bathsheba fall.

"After moving from Hebron to Jerusalem, David married more concubines and wives, and they had more sons and daughters"

2 Samuel 5:13 NLT

That was the red signal. He took a flight in destiny with a habit that was not well handled. Whatever wrecks a man at the top followed him there.

A lot of things had gone wrong before David repented - His son raped his daughter. Another son killed the rapist and then tried to overthrow the father. What a family story!

What are you meant to deal with? Would you deal with it or would you cover it up?

CONFESSION

I overcome fleshly weakness with the help of the Holy Spirit. I do not align with what can damage my destiny. I will fulfil my purpose

DAY 28

“SON, DON’T SKIP IT”

Text: John 5:39 NIV

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me.

I was reading a particular Christian literature. I was enjoying it so much that I took the book into the restroom that morning. As I read, I got to a portion of the book that had some quotations of Bible verses. The Bible excerpt was quite long. I skimmed through and skipped it so I could continue reading.

The Lord saw my folly. The Spirit of God said to me, “Son, don’t skip it. Go back and read the Bible portion diligently”. I saw my folly. I humbly returned to the scripture portion and began to read again.

Friends, the words of man may sound exciting, and you may be in a hurry to read the opinion of men but the Word of the Lord is still the foundation upon which everything stands.

Do you know that most times we find pastors and teachers who take time to read Bible passages as they share with us as boring teachers? The ones that excite us the most are those who just preach at us without bothering us with “open your Bible to”.

If you will be helped, the opinion of men must not be your sure word. You cannot stand on the exciting words of men’s wisdom. When the storm hits and life tests come, it is the so-called boring verses that become the arsenal for your victory.

Let me ask you: How many portions of the scripture do you know? But how many quotable quotes of a pastor do you have in your head?

A young preacher prepared his first sermon and took it to his spiritual father. He had six pages of “heavy and ready to give it to them” message written. The loving father pulled out a red pen and began to cancel until there were just about two pages left.

He threw four sheets of the message on the floor and held on to two. He pointed to the four on the floor and said, “Those are your words”. He pointed to the two he was holding and said, “This is God’s Word”.

He then told him, “If your world will listen to you and you will build anything that will last, it must be on God’s Word and not your words”. The lesson sank.

Beloved, stop skipping the Bible passages. Read it patiently and painstakingly. That is where the victory is. That is where the power is. Let the seed find root in the ground of your soul so it can withstand the heat and the thorns of life while it produces a great harvest for you.

If you are a minister, set yourself free from the pressure of exciting people. Be passionate but let the scriptures speak. Let them see the Word and not just your oratory skills and brilliance. Do not say, “Because of our time, let us skip the scriptures” and then you do the talking. The aim is not to finish your message. The assignment is to deliver God’s message.

When men are taught the Word of the Lord, they become rooted but if all you have is some exciting rootless words, it will soon dry up and in the battle, you will see that all you have is a wooden sword, a caricature of the real thing.

Read the scriptures. Do not skip it.

CONFESSION

I am diligent in studying the word. My heart is set on the scriptures. I grow in the word.

“HOW DID YOU KNOW...?”

Text: 1 Corinthians 2:10 NKJV

But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

A dear protégé of mine heard the Lord say to him to apply for jobs in a particular institution. He got invited for an interview and the first question that he was asked was, “How did you know that there was a job opening?”

The memo for the job was meant to be released some hours later but he got the information by a relationship with God and by the power of the secret place. He got the job.

Beloved, if you can pay the price, you will live a life of precise instructions harvested from the secret place. If you do not have a secret place, do not expect to hear what others do not and cannot hear.

The secrets of the Lord are with those who fear Him. Those who fear the Lord dwell in the secret place of the most High and abide under the shadow of His wings.

Proximity does not mean intimacy. You can live close and yet not be intimate. They are not the same thing. You can be active in church but lack intimacy with the God you serve.

Packaging is not the same as intimacy. The container is different from the content. A man can be loud outside but lack depth within. The source of the noise may be the emptiness on the inside.

For the believer, there is no substitute for a lifestyle of prayer. You cannot delegate praying. It is something you must do by yourself.

What instructions do you have from the Lord?

When was the last time you got a template of how to run?

Could it be a challenge driven by an inconsistent prayer altar?

Would you pay the price to know the secrets of the Lord? Would you pay the price to access the realm of seeing and hearing? If you have heard from God, there is the faith of God to also get it done.

But will you pay the price?

CONFESS I O N

I develop intimacy with the Holy Spirit. I have the advantage of knowing the mind of God. I grow in discernment.

DAY
30

DEAR FATHER, DO NOT SLEEP!

Text: Psalm 103:13 NIV

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

My parents told me the story of a health crisis that my brother had while he was still about a year old. They took him to the hospital in Eruwa, and the doctor referred him to the University College Hospital that night. My parents did not wait till morning. They began the journey that night because the life of a son was at risk. My father drove all night to get them to Ibadan. However, God miraculously intervened before they even got to the hospital.

One father that continually impresses me is Jairus.

First, Jairus was one of the rulers in the synagogue. Dear Father, never allow the heights you have attained to get in the way of your heart. No matter your title, the greatest thing you can be to your child is their father. Father them!

Second, when Jairus saw Jesus, he prostrated before him and begged him earnestly. If there is any time you must never allow shame to stand in your way, it is when you are taking your place and playing your destiny role as a father.

Then one of the rulers of the synagogue came up, Jairus by name; and seeing Him, he prostrated himself at His feet And begged Him earnestly, saying, My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, so that she may be healed and live.
Mark 5:22-23 AMPC

Did you see how Jairus pleaded with Jesus? The depth of love that he had for his daughter showed. He called her, "My little daughter".

No matter how bad the state of that son or daughter is, even when society has given up on them, you are one person who must not throw in the towel. Do not leave the dirty assignment to your wife. Do not say, "See your son". If your spirit is down, the story will not change.

I want to speak to every father who has given up on a child (son or daughter); you can still plead with the Lord. God can restore that seed even when they say the story cannot change.

When the heart of the father is turned away from that of his seed, the curse will find room for expression, but when the father can still find a place in his heart for his son, and he can wake up and fan into flame that little ember of love, the blessing can speak.

Your attitude towards your child must change:

He will change parents' attitudes toward their children and children's attitudes toward their parents. If not, I will come and reclaim my land by destroying you."
Malachi 4:6 GW

I pray for every father battling with the heart to love an estranged seed: May the Lord plant their love in your heart again. May you arise from every spiritual depression and take your place as a priest. May your forgotten armour be restored.

If David and his men had not found strength as fathers; their wives, and sons would have remained slaves forever. Find your strength. It is not in drinking wine. It is not in transferred aggression. It is not in the bosom of another woman. It is not anger against the church. No! It is in the place of the altar. It is at the feet of Jesus. It is at the place of obedience.

Just like the prophet Isaiah, remember and declare, "I and the children that the Lord has given to me, we are for signs and wonders."

CONFESSION

I do not give up on my children. I love my children genuinely. My children shall be great.

DAY 31

DEAR HUSBAND AND FATHER, DRIVE ALERT!

Text: Psalm 8:18 KJV

Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.

I noticed the car was veering off the lane. I looked into the eye of our driver and noticed that he had slept off- his eyes were slightly closed. I tapped him to wake him up. I kept ensuring he stayed awake.

In every family, the father (husband) is the driver. If he sleeps off, he can cause the family a huge disaster. You cannot close your eyes and stay calm when the driver is sleeping off.

One of the duties of a wife is to scream when the husband is sleeping off on the steering wheel of the family. Your screams will save his life and save your life also.

You have observed that your husband no longer prays or studies the Word as he used to: Do not keep quiet. Wake Him up. If he will not listen, report him to your trainers.

If you observe that he is becoming sneaky. He would rather be in business meetings. His church membership is now reduced to attendance. Do not keep quiet.

If the driver sleeps, everyone in the vehicle is at risk.

A man can sleep off when he begins to have a rise in his career. It happened to David. Once he became king, he harnessed more wives and concubines. When he became successful, he stayed at home when he was meant to be at war. When his mess with Bathsheba happened, it affected the entire family. The consequences were not personal.

A man can sleep off when the pressure to meet a need is high- he wants to build a secure future for his family. Achan stole it and kept it at home. When judgement landed, it was not just Achan that was

affected, his entire family paid with their lives.

The husband of the Shunamite woman took their son to the field. The son took ill and he sent him back to the mother. The son died in the mother's hands but she ran to the prophet. It is dangerous when a father has no prayer life or pastoral relationship.

What if the wife of the "son of the prophet" had shouted out for help? Maybe he would have lived longer. Respite came only after he died.

Dear father and husband, God does not just want you to be a financial giant, he also wants you to be a spiritual giant. If all you meet are the financial needs in your home and you forsake your role as a priest, you are sleeping on the wheel. Wake up!

If you can negotiate and seal deals with men but you cannot seal deals with God, you are sleeping on the wheel. Wake up!

Dear father, if an accident happens, you will be held responsible.

CONFESSION

I rise to my role as the priest of my home. I am awake to priesthood. I am a responsible father and husband.



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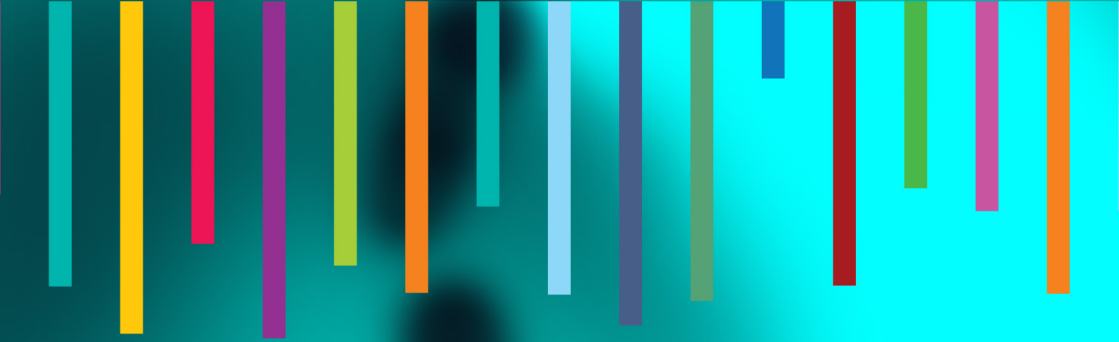
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