

COMPASS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR
NOVEMBER
2024

**NOT
FOR
SALE!**

Temiloluwa Ola

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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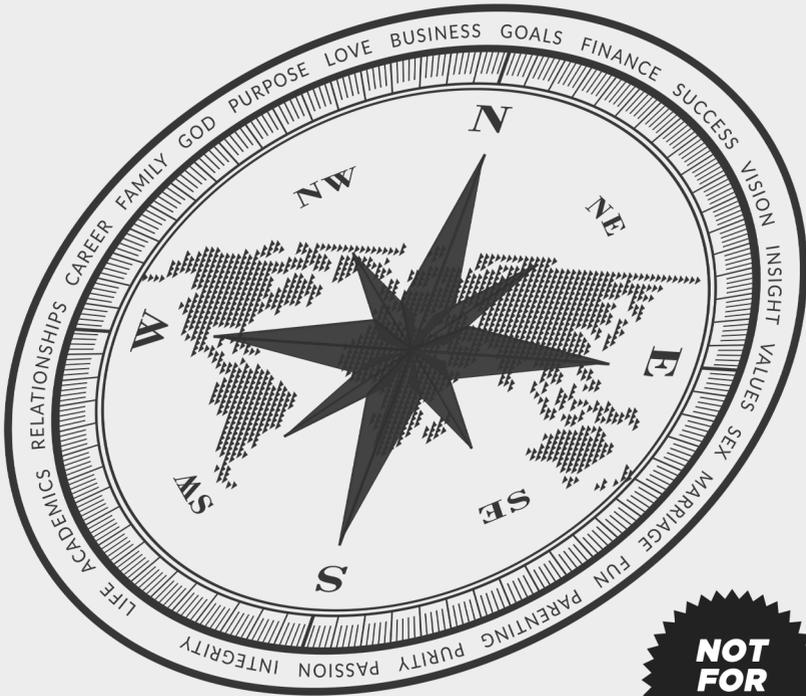
A/C Name – Anuoluwapo Temiloluwa Ola



- NOVEMBER 2024 -

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

Introduction

Welcome to November!

It will be a month of celebrations for you. Yes! It is scriptural:

Psalms 118:15 NKJV

The voice of rejoicing and salvation Is in the tents of the righteous; The right hand of the Lord does valiantly.

Make sure you are not grumbling or murmuring. No matter how the season has been, grumbling will never turn anything around. We turn things around by rejoicing.

Jeremiah 30:19 NKJV

Then out of them shall proceed thanksgiving And the voice of those who make merry; I will multiply them, and they shall not diminish; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.

If you have a culture of thanksgiving, you can never be small. Beloved, if you ever find yourself in a pit, the way out is to lift your hands.

Beloved, lift your hands in praise this month. God is doing mighty things right now.

Thank you for reading the Compass Devotional. May the Words therein be a continuous blessing to you.

Have a most amazing November.

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

- **INILOUWA, 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

DAY
01

DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH FUEL?

Text: Ecclesiastes 9:8 NKJV

Let your garments always be white, and let your head lack no oil.

I woke up at night and realized that water had stopped running. The normal thing to do was to get to pump water but there were two challenges: First, there was no power supply. Second, there was no fuel in the generator. We ran out of fuel the previous evening.

Night seasons come in life's journey and you must be prepared for it. Do not get to the night season of life and realize that you have no supply to power the needs that the night season is presenting.

The story of the Ten Virgins makes us know that there is nothing as important as having extra oil in the night seasons. If you use up all the supply in the ordinary things of life, you will be stranded when extraordinary things happen.

Paul and Silas were Apostles with extra supplies. In prison at midnight, the proof that supply was available manifested. They were in chains and should be asking questions but there was supply. They sang hymns and prayed.

When there is a supply in the midnight season, the things that depress others become your fuel for refreshing.

And beloved, you have supply in the Word of God. The Word of God feeds and strengthens the soul. Feed on the Word. When challenges come, you will be able to stand. Jesus did not start reading the scriptures when the devil was tempting him. It came out because it was there.

There is the supply of the Spirit. Pray

in the Spirit at all times. Pray without ceasing. Pray to build up your inner strength.

For I am well assured and indeed know that through your prayers and a bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ (the Messiah), this will turn out for my preservation (for the spiritual health and welfare of my own soul) and avail toward the saving work of the Gospel. Philippians 1:19 AMPC

Do not burn till you burn out. Do not run out of fuel when it is most critical. Store up. Build up. You will never be stranded.

Read what Paul told the church in Rome:

Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Romans 12:11-12 MSG

Do you have enough fuel or are you burning out?

CONFESS I O N

I am not stranded in the seasons of life. My head does not lack oil. I keep my altar aflame. I enjoy constant supplies of the spirit.



PAINS MUST NOT STOP THE VISION

Text: Psalm 126:6 KJV

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

I saw Irewamiri endure the pains of breastfeeding each time we had a baby. She had pains but yet had no option. Every time the baby demanded milk, she had to be ready to feed even though it was quite painful for her. Her pains did not stop her from feeding the baby.

There were times she was tempted to react because of the pain but I still saw her push through and feed the baby in love.

I want to speak to every person of vision- Feeding your vision will not always be comfortable. The pains you feel at times would want to make you throw that vision aside and face "your life".

Tenacity and persistence are a major ingredient in the journey of vision. Do not give up because it is painful. The pain will soon turn around to profit.

No mother should give up on the baby. They feed and nurture it to maturity. Feed the vision. See it grow. The painful season will not be forever.

Imagine the pains of Jesus on the cross but the pains did not stop the

vision of dying for the world and paying the price for our sin.

We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. Hebrews 12:2-3 NLT

Finally, if you are a Pastor or called to Ministry, you will endure the pain of raising spiritual babes also. You must not give up on them till Christ is formed in them.

CONFESSIO N

I will not lose my vision to pain. My vision comes alive. I will deliver to my world.

DAY 03

YOU CAN'T GO FAR WHILE TAKING OFFENCE

Text: Acts 24:16 NLT

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

It was a major annual convention for my grandfather in the faith. As I stepped out of the auditorium, he was walking with some of the guest ministers towards the office section. He saw me walking along the car park and said, "Son, make sure you see me before you go".

When I approached the secretariat, it was a bit hard getting through the protocol but eventually, I was ushered into the waiting area. I waited for about three hours. After about three hours, his private secretary came downstairs and asked, "Are you Pastor Ola?" I replied in the affirmative. She then said, "Baba said you can leave. He will see you some other time".

Immediately, I brought out an envelope from my pocket and handed it over to her saying, "Please, help me give him. I know it is a very busy season for him and it is just a token". I refused to allow my mind to take a walk down the corridor of offence. I refused thoughts like, "Why did he say I should wait when he knew he was busy". I was rather grateful that amid his hectic schedule, he had me in mind or wanted to see me. That was enough for me.

If you get trapped in offence, it is a stumbling block and you are close to falling. Offence in Yoruba literally means "a stumbling". When a man stumbles, he will soon fall.

You cannot be going around saying "I am offended" and you are taking pride in it. That's not wise. You are proud of "I am stumbling and I will soon fall". Do you see that? Being offended is no badge of honour. If offence has a grip on a soldier of Christ, he becomes a fallen soldier. When pride took hold of some angels, they became fallen angels. When offence has a grip on a Christian, he becomes a fallen Christian.

Offence is a trap. You cannot stumble and

expect to keep making progress at the same time. If Joseph had stayed offended with his brothers, he would not have excelled in Potiphar's House. If he had stayed offended, he would not have reached out to those who connected him to the palace. If he had stayed offended, he would have thwarted his part in a divine plan to preserve his lineage.

One way to keep yourself away from the trap of offence is to keep your focus on what the Lord is doing at the moment and through situations. Hear Joseph:

But don't be upset, and don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. So, it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt. Genesis 45:5 ,7 – 8 NLT

Did you see how many times Joseph said "God sent me here"? That is the kind of heart that is preserved from offence.

See this important prayer too:

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. Jude 1:24 – 25 NIV

May you not stumble!

CONFESSIO N

I keep off the trap of offence. I stay focused on the journey of destiny. I will not stumble.

DAY
04

THE POWER OF FOCUS

Text: 2 Timothy 2:4 AMP

No soldier in active service gets entangled in the [ordinary business] affairs of civilian life; [he avoids them] so that he may please the one who enlisted him to serve.

Back then in secondary school, one of the first experiments that we carried out was the use of a concave lens to burn a piece of paper. It amazed all of us.

We placed the lens in the direction of the rays of the sun, and positioned the paper right under it. A tiny, bright spot of light appeared on the paper, and over time, the concentrated heat caused the paper to burn. That is the power of focus.

Until strength is concentrated, results cannot be harvested. Once a direction is settled, the focus is next. Focus on the task. Focus on the assignment God has given you for life, in your home, in the ministry, in your career or business.

We have a distracted generation. We have a lot of things calling for our attention. If you do not know how to be intentional about what matters, you will be lost in things that do not and will not count.

Whatever distracts you can end up defeating you. Distraction can seem small, but poison is ineffective because of quantity- a small dose is enough.

David showed us the importance of maintaining the focus of communion with God. If everything else shakes, make sure your fellowship remains intact. That was one of David's major secrets:

"When besieged, I'm calm as a baby. When all hell breaks loose, I'm collected and cool. I'm asking God, for one thing, only one thing: To live with him in his house my whole life long. I'll contemplate his beauty; I'll study at his feet. That's the only quiet, secure place in a noisy world, The perfect getaway, far from the buzz of traffic." Psalm 27:3-5 MSG

Focus comes with blindness. Once you are fixed on a thing, there are things you cannot see again. If your phone is a distraction, get a time that you respond to chats and messages. Social media has made our lives accessible at any time. Do not let it hijack your focus.

Focus when studying. If necessary, get a hard copy of the Bible for serious study. Do not let technology lead to spiritual malnutrition. Focus at work. Let nothing steal that focus. Stay on it.

Have a plan for your day. Have a plan for your home. Have a plan for your career. The best place to get it is through fellowship. Fellowship also takes focus.

Jesus told us to shut our doors when we were about to pray. Shout in yourself with God. Shut out distractions.

Set your mind. Stay in mind. Mind your mind. Guard it with diligence. The wellspring of life flows from there. Refuse to be entangled. Live as a soldier of Christ.

"So above all, guard the affections of your heart, for they affect all that you are. Pay attention to the welfare of your innermost being, for from there flows the wellspring of life." Proverbs 4:23 TPT.

CONFESSION

I feed my focus. I do not give room to distractions.

DAY
05

HOW TO SURVIVE DRY SEASONS

Text: Jeremiah 30:19 NIV

From them will come songs of thanksgiving and the sound of rejoicing. I will add to their numbers, and they will not be decreased; I will bring them honor, and they will not be disdained.

We were excited that our trip to the well would end, and yes, it sure did. Daddy dug a well right behind the house. However, our excitement was seasonal. Why? Once the rainy season ended, our well would dry up, forcing us to return to the old one.

Today, the compound has a functional borehole and whether it is rain or dry season, there is a supply of water.

Friend, if you run out of steam and inspiration in tough times, do not blame the season, blame your depth. If you dig deeper, you will get supply.

There are seasonal supplies. There is a joy that is induced and driven by things. Once things are happening that show progress, you are happy.

There is a joy that is in and out of season. The flow is bigger than the season. That was the kind of joy that the disciples caught. They were being persecuted yet they had a unique supply of joy.

So, they brought the apostles back in and had them severely beaten. They ordered them never again to speak in the name of Jesus and then let them go. The apostles left there rejoicing, thrilled that God had considered them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name

of Jesus. And nothing stopped them! Acts 5:40-42 TPT

That was the joy that Paul encountered with the Macedonian Church. It was not a seasonal flow. It was a massive flow that nothing could place a limit on.

Beloved ones, we must tell you about the grace God poured out upon the churches of Macedonia. For even during a season of severe difficulty and tremendous suffering, they became even more filled with joy. From the depths of their extreme poverty, super-abundant joy overflowed into an act of extravagant generosity. 2 Corinthians 8:1-2 TPT

If you get moody when things go south, you need to get deeper. There is a depth you touch that nothing can hinder a flow of joy. Even when the enemy makes moves, you know you will make the final move. You are secure in what God is doing.

CONFESSIO N

My joy is not regulated by circumstances. The Lord is my defender. I rejoice always.

DAY 06

WILL YOU STOP MIDWAY?

Text: 1 Kings 19:7 NKJV

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

I travelled with a dear one for a couple of days. While preparing for the return trip, he asked whether he could stop midway while I went ahead with the journey back to base.

I smiled and told him that when next I would travel with him, I would ask him if he would be going all the way or if he would stop midway.

Commitment is important in Kingdom assignment. God wants committed men. Men want commitment also. Commitment does not abandon the work midway. Commitment stays on the path whether it is convenient or not.

Paul told Timothy that commitment is giving yourself wholly.

"Give your complete attention to these matters. Throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone will see your progress." 1 Timothy 4:15 NLT

There is nothing that is done half-heartedly that grows. Half-hearted people become a burden. John Mark abandoned Paul and Barnabas halfway on their missionary journey. His actions were the trigger of the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas.

You cannot build something

permanent on a person with a temporary mindset. It is like building with borrowed blocks. What will happen when the owners begin to demand it? The work will have holes or at the worst, it will crumble totally.

If you will go with God, make up your mind to be committed to the Lord and His work. Commitment is shown in consistency. It is equally shown in loyalty. You are consistent in the work and you are loyal to the people.

Beloved, commitment is the pathway to divine rewards. If you are blessed with farmland and you plant nothing, something will still grow- it is called weeds. Commitment deals with the weeds and replaces them with seeds. And the seed is the guarantee you have for a harvest.

Stay committed from today!

CONFESSIO N

I am committed to my God-given vision. I will not stop half-way. I will finish my race.

DAY
07

HOW TO TREAT UNWANTED GUESTS

Text: 1Numbers 22:9 NLT

That night God came to Balaam and asked him, "Who are these men visiting you?"

In the early days of marriage, there was a middle-aged man (who was not even close to the family) who would knock on our door without any notice. We would always receive him with a great sense of hospitality.

However, his visits became more frequent and uncomfortable for us. Annoyingly, even when he knocked, and we kept quiet, he would keep knocking. One day, I let him in and announced to him that we were busy. I walked into the room and left him in the living room. He got the memo.

There are unwanted guests in life's journey- sickness, disappointments, manipulative men and women, difficult people who affect your mental health amongst others.

When you see symptoms of sickness, do not accept it with pity. Do not speak words that make it feel at home. Get angry with it. Show it that it has no space in your life. Jesus paid the price and said, "It is finished".

Jesus took infirmities and sicknesses. Do not allow them to have a grip on you any longer. Speak to it. Tell it that it is not wanted in your space. Stop entertaining thoughts that give the unwanted guest wings.

There are times when unwanted guests can actually be people who

are "joy stealers".

If you keep treating unwanted guests like royalty, you will remain in the same cycle forever. You will be grumbling inside of you while trying to look good to people.

Some things you accept thinking it is humility is actually an unhealthy self-image. The inability to speak when it is not right is not a sign of a "good Christian". Call for a conversation. Speak up.

There are believers battling with a poor self-image. Your confidence is battered. You keep bearing a load that is not yours. Stop it. Ask for a conversation. Hold a conversation.

If you are a victim of sexual, domestic or emotional abuse, speak up! That is not a secret to keep. It will repeat itself as a cycle. Do not keep quiet. Even if it is a "pastor" that is the perpetrator, report. Honour is not covering for sin.

Beloved, do not entertain unwanted guests in your life. It is dangerous.

CONFESSIO N

I ward off negative influences. I do not entertain what slows people down on the journey of destiny. The word of the Lord is my reality.

DAY
08

IF YOU WILL GROW, SWITCH THE

Text: Isaiah 51:2 NLT

Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who bore you; For I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him.

A dear brother shared that he grew up in a dysfunctional home and poverty. His father would take no nonsense from anyone. There was a time he took his daughter to slap an elderly person who slapped her in the neighbourhood. Thank God for the “Abigailic” move of their mum.

He recounted that any time he had the opportunity to travel to his uncle in another city, the ambience, and atmosphere of love in the home was totally different. He saw a different kind of family. He knew that was the kind of home that he wanted. He decided to spend more time with his uncle’s family. Today, he has a great marriage and an amazing home.

Your decisions are shaped mostly by images that have become models consciously or unconsciously. The images you see have a stronger impression on you than you can ever know.

As a young boy, I would dress up in our complete traditional attire and bounce around in style saying, “I am Chief ____”. That was the image I had.

A dear son in the faith said that before he met Christ, he had a strange love for one of the foreign rappers. He began to dress like him, make his hairstyle like his, and was about to get tattoos on his body. That is the power of imagery.

All you need to do is ask yourself why you do some things you do. Your decision is driven by the images you have built.

Why did Lot choose the land around Sodom and Gomorrah? It looked like Egypt.

And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the Lord destroyed Sodom and

Gomorrah) like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. Genesis 13:10 NKJV

It looked like the land of Egypt. Remember that he came out of Egypt wealthy. That land reminded him of Egypt. Unlike Father Abraham who had dealt with that strange desire at the altar, Lot still carried that image and desire all around.

Lust is driven by images also. If you consistently view pornography disguised as movies, music videos, skits, and jokes, you will soon notice that your mind is comfortable with nonsense.

But if you begin to behold the glory of the Lord in His Word, there will be a transformation in your life. The Word is like a mirror, the closer you get, the better you see. You will also notice things that you need to work on.

As you behold the Word, and you open up to the Spirit of God, there will be transformation for the better.

But we all, with unveiled faces, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. II Corinthians 3:18 NKJV

What images do you have?

Do you have to replace them?

CONFESS I O N

I pattern my life after good and godly examples. I do not inherit a dysfunctional system. My home is blessed.

DAY 09

IF YOU WILL GROW SPIRITUALLY...

Text: 1 Peter 2:2 NLT

Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment.

In my second year at the university, I woke up one night because I had a test in the morning. I picked up my books to read, and at that moment, it struck me like light: "Have you ever woken up to pray, study or fellowship with the Lord?" That day, I decided nothing would ever come before my devotion to the Lord.

(Kindly note that I was not an unserious student. I was the type of student who drew red lines in my notes for personal study. I was the 'I will be in the library after class' kind of student. This is not to promote laziness).

You cannot grow spiritually when there is no desire for growth. Desire is the prerequisite for pursuit. Without pursuit, things will remain on the spot. Certainly, whatever stays in a spot will end up depreciating.

Jesus, our Lord, puts it this way: "Do not just seek the kingdom. Seek the kingdom first".

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33 KJV

If you will grow, do not just enjoy God's presence in your life; make sure you also make him your priority.

God gave you time. The devil wants you to waste it. God wants you to maximize

it.

God blessed you with resources. The devil wants you to worship it. God wants them to serve you and His purpose on earth.

If you will grow spiritually, you must settle on what your priority is. There is a measure where you add God to your timetable. There is a measure of growth where you hand your timetable over to God. There is a measure of growth where you ask God for His timetable and you add yourself to it.

Are you worshipping things?

Are God and His kingdom indeed your priority?

If your priority is settled, your posture changes, and your growth path is laid out, but you must be willing to play your part.

What is your desire?

What is your priority?

CONFESS I O N

I prioritize God in my life. I am intentional about growth in my walk with God.

DAY 10

THERE IS NO GROWTH WITHOUT A ROUTINE

Text: Isaiah 50:4 NKJV

"The Lord GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning; He awakens My ear to hear as the learned.

We were getting the girls set one morning when Danielle said, "It has been a while since we had devotion in this house. Daddy, why?" I did not know how to respond. I simply said, "We will resume family devotion tomorrow".

The truth was, we had gotten so soaked in activities that made us abandon our routine. We no longer joke with our family devotion. Irewamiri and I were praying personally, but we were not involving the children.

First, any form of growth must involve some routine. If it grows, routine is involved. For instance, a farmer has a routine for his plants. A man running a poultry has a routine for his birds. Growth and routine go hand in hand. If you are committing to any form of growth this season, you must know that it is a commitment to routine.

Routines are like rhythms; once it is broken, the disorder is birthed. Respect those who have kept the routine of family devotion for years- your parents and grandparents. The generation that claims to be more knowledgeable is the one that is also more disorderly- in words, thoughts, and even our actions. We struggle to have personal devotion and we struggle to hold family devotion too.

Second, there is no recovery that does not involve routine. Medicine helps us clearly with this. Have you seen the way intravenous fluids (popularly called drip) work? It drops constantly and at a specific time. It keeps a rhythm. If it is rushed (no matter how much it is needed), what is meant for help can turn into another issue.

If you have been struggling with your

spiritual growth, put yourself on a simple routine. Use the "drip" format. You can pray for ten minutes every three hours (including the night). It awakens your spirit.

Do not break your patterns or routine for growth. In medicine, drugs are taken with specific patterns. When you break patterns, you make recovery tougher.

Have you placed yourself on a regiment? What will you do periodically to enhance the state of your spirit? Do not stay in weakness. Get into the Word and Prayer. It will revitalise your soul.

Do not grumble when your parents or grandparents take time at devotion. That tradition has saved lives, raised giants, sustained marriages, and birthed answers to prayers. I still remember the scriptures we read morning and night at the "family altar".

Do you still have a personal altar?

Do you have a family altar?

Remember, there is no growth without routine.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. Acts 2:42 KJV

What will you be steadfast with?

What must be continuous in your life?

CONFESS I O N

I am diligent in seeking God daily. I maintain a vibrant spiritual altar.

DAY 11

THERE WILL BE NO GROWTH IF YOU HATE THE TRUTH

Text: Proverbs 12:1 AMP

Whoever loves instruction and discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof and correction is stupid.

A dear brother of mine called me after a meeting and said, "I need to tell you something". He mentioned that I kept repeating a particular phrase that was not honourable enough especially when addressing people I was meant to honour. It was a dear teacher who pointed it out to him.

First, I expressed my gratitude to him for watching my back. I was grateful for the feedback.

Second, I promised that I would work on it and asked him to kindly notify me if I continued making the same mistake.

Finally, I mentioned to him that I was open to more correction in any area that he noticed that I have to improve on.

If you hate the truth, you are not willing to grow. Some people say they love feedback but it only ends there. Anyone who gives honest feedback suddenly becomes your enemy.

It is a sign of poor self-esteem when you cannot accept honest feedback. Insecurity is the mother of bad attitude. If people have to walk on eggshells around you because they are not sure of what weapon you will pull out when they give feedback, you are not ready for growth.

If you take pride in the fact that no one can correct you or give you feedback, you are not ready for growth. Do not pay lip service to what you are meant to practice wholeheartedly.

Take a quick examination:

Do you have people who can correct you? If you do, who are they? Make a list.

When last did they correct you or give you honest feedback? If it has been a while, you need to call for an appraisal call. It could be that there is already a gap in the relationship or they have observed your poor reception of

feedback.

What is your attitude when they correct you? Do you take it with joy? Do you turn the issue back on them? Do you begin to manipulate with emotional withdrawal or self-pity arguments?

If you always hang everything on God, the devil, and others while you absolve yourself of any form of wrong, you are not ready for growth.

Honest conversations are life changers. Can you take feedback from your spouse or it ends up in three weeks of a cold atmosphere? Repent today.

Sometimes, the promotion you need in life is delayed because of a poor attitude to feedback and unfortunately, you have silenced those who can help with emotional intimidation, manipulation, and control. Now you claim it is spiritual warfare. No! You are the enemy. Deal with yourself first.

Let James 1:19 guide you when honest feedback is coming:

Understand [this], my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear [a ready listener], slow to speak, slow to take offence and to get angry. James 1:19 AMPC

Be ready and quick to hear.

Be slow to speak.

Be slow to take offence and get angry.

Process it. Refine it. Get better.

There will be no growth if you hate the truth.

CONFESSIO N

*I embrace the truth. I embrace godly counsel.
I do not give room to pride.*



DAY 12

HOW TO GET THE BEST FROM A SPIRITUAL MEETING (1)

Text: Ezra 7:10 KJV

For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgements.

Every time we go for the monthly meeting with my Spiritual Father, I take time out to pray for him. I back it up with a text message appreciating him for his labour over our life and ministry. I end it by mentioning how expectant I am.

My dear pastor and father said to me recently also that “When I came to Eruwa, I knew that virtue left him”. I had to confess that I taught the workforce how to receive the Word of the Lord from ministers. They became so hungry and ready.

Friend, when you enter into a service and you feel dry and not impacted, before you look at the preacher or worship minister, take a seat and examine your preparation also.

Most times, we come to church and spiritual meetings with the heart of a consumer and not the mind of a contributor. If you do not see yourself as part of the process for a great meeting, you will go in there most likely without expectation and with the mindset of a spectator.

Do you know the Bible says that when you are prepared for a meeting, you will always have something to bring along? When you go into a meeting prayed up, it is easy to hit the overflow.

“What should you do then, brothers and sisters? When you come together,

each one has a song, has a lesson, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all these things be done for the strengthening of the church.”
1 Cor. 14:26

If you come to a meeting without anything to offer, you cannot get the best from a meeting. Do you know how powerful the connection is when the song leader raises a song that blessed you the previous night? You overflow.

What happens when the Word comes to confirm what you just studied? You are super elated.

But how do you expect this to happen when you have not spent time with the Word and prayed in the Spirit privately before you come for the meeting? There will be no overflow!

This season, before you go to church, ask yourself, “What am I bringing?” It changes everything for you. You become more connected and not just a mere consumer leaving service full of complaints.

CONFESSIO N

I am not a consumer Christian. I will make efforts to prepare my heart before the Lord. I am blessed in the Lord's presence.

DAY 13

HOW TO GET THE BEST FROM A SPIRITUAL MEETING (2)

Text: Isaiah 2:3 NKJV

Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths..."

Weeks before we went for the monthly ministers meeting with my spiritual father, I had to spend time investing in prayers. I had set my heart on a particular matter. It had troubled me for a while.

We had a great moment at the meeting. I gave attention to every word. And it was as though my Spiritual Father was speaking directly to me. Finally, when he was done and about to leave the altar, he paused for a while and asked, "Is Rev. Ola, my son from Eruwa here?" As they say, the rest is history. My heart got what it focused on.

One of the things you must learn to do is work on your expectation before a meeting and your attention in a meeting. Your expectation raises your appetite. Your attention draws the attention of the Lord to you also.

If you enter a meeting without an expectation, you have short-changed yourself. It is like playing a game of soccer with a goal post. You will dribble all over the place but you cannot point to any specific impact.

If you allow your attention to be stolen in a meeting, you would have disconnected yourself from a huge flow of impact.

Think about the man at Lystra. He was lame from birth. But he listened to Paul preaching and got healed by the Word of the Lord:

"In Lystra, Paul and Barnabas encountered a man who from birth had never walked, for he was crippled in his feet. He listened carefully to Paul as he preached. All of a sudden, Paul discerned that this man had faith in his heart to be healed. So he

shouted, "You! In the name of our Lord Jesus, stand up on your feet!" The man instantly jumped to his feet, stood for the first time in his life, and walked!" Acts 14:8-10 TPT

Your expectation and attention give direction to the anointing of God. The woman with the issue of blood came in from behind with an expectation and touched Jesus, she drew virtue out of him.

Many were touching Jesus casually but got nothing. They were touching without an expectation. Expectation gives direction to the anointing.

Check the meetings you have been and it seems as though the minister was speaking to you directly, check the height of your expectation and the level of your attention.

Let's stop this indifference towards spiritual gatherings. Do not let your phone distract you. Keep it away. Put your attention on the Word. The Word will turn and place attention on your expectations.

There is power available in every meeting that the Lord has called. You must ensure you are not there casually. Be there with consciousness.

CONFESSIO N

I have an expectant heart in God's presence. The word of the Lord comes for me. I do not give room to distractions.

DAY 14

HOW TO GET THE BEST FROM A SPIRITUAL MEETING (3)

Text: Isaiah 55:11 NKJV

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

A dear pastor was teaching many years ago and I heard him say, “A loud Amen is a venison for the soul”. I did not understand him fully until I became a pastor.

There was a day I began out saying blessings over the church and the atmosphere was not receptive. I stopped and moved on to something else. Later, I had to teach my people how their responses made me switch from speaking blessings to other things.

The response of the people can limit the flow of the blessing. My spiritual father said once, “There are places I go and the response of the people draw virtue with hunger. And there are places I go that I just drop one or two thoughts and I leave. The atmosphere was not great”.

The minister of the gospel has to prepare to bless the people but the people also must be prepared to receive the blessing. Miracles happen when the door of utterance opens to the minister and the door of faith is opened in the people. The door of faith can trigger unusual utterances.

When you hear a minister say, “I did not intend to go this direction but I sense the Lord would have me say to someone...” Smile and rejoice. Intercession and expectation are pulling on the anointing. A pastor can prepare a message but it is The Word from the Lord that changes life.

See this scripture:

“When you hear the priests give one long blast on the rams’ horns, have all the people shout as loud as they can. Then the walls of the town will collapse, and the people can charge straight into the town.” Joshua 6:5 NLT

The priests would give a long blast, and all the people were expected to shout as loud as they could, then expectations would become miracles. What if the priests gave a blast, but the people did not respond? What if the people gave a cold response?

Do you see what we do in church now?

Every minister knows that in an atmosphere of joy and expectation soaked in faith, anything can happen but once the atmosphere is not right, even a great anointed preacher will struggle. It happened to Jesus in his hometown!

When you get to church, come in with an atmosphere of joy! What if we all go to church with an atmosphere rather than expecting an atmosphere?

CONFESS I O N

I am not an onlooker or spectator in God's presence. I receive every declaration from God's servants. The word of the Lord settles in me.

DAY
15

“SON, THAT IS NOT A DISADVANTAGE”

Text: Job 28:10 NKJV

He cuts out channels in the rocks, and his eye sees every precious thing.

The first 4 years of Pastoring in Eruwa came with mixed emotions. Church would grow in numbers and I would be so glad and excited. The energy was high. People were being trained in the ways of the Lord.

But then, transition season would come, people we just trained in six months or at most a year would have their stay in the city come to an end. There was a time that as a church of about 50 people, we had to send forth 14 active members. It was tough.

But one day, while brooding in the midst of this, my Father in the faith told me, “That is not a disadvantage”. He went ahead to unveil the mind of God and told me what to do. From then on, my attitude changed and everything changed.

One of the prayers you must pray is that God should open your eyes to see what He sees. There is a “seeing of faith”. You see the substance in what others call hopelessness.

There are times when those who see clearly by faith can impart the same to you. That is why you must be selective with those you keep company with.

When the servant of Elisha got up one morning, he saw the mountain surrounded by soldiers. He was afraid but Elisha saw what he did not see and was unruffled. Elisha prayed for the

servant to see.

Then Elisha prayed, “O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!” The Lord opened the young man’s eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire. 2 Kings 6:17 NLT

When you see as God sees and sees what He is showing you, you will enter your rest. Faith is not an assumption. Faith is not risk. Faith is rest in what God has shown you.

Do not pretend or package if you have not heard or seen. You are only calculative and smart. Press in. Ask for revelation. It will surely come.

That situation that you are going through now, are you sure it is a disadvantage or you have just not seen it rightly?

CONFESSIO N

My eyes are open to opportunities. I am not impeded by barriers. I have the eyes that see.



TAKE NEW TERRITORIES PROPHETICALLY

Text: Deuteronomy 26:9 NKJV

He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, "a land flowing with milk and honey".

For a while this year, we decided to spend time praying for the influence of the church to extend to one of the sectors of our community. It had been a battle for almost four years. We took it seriously this year in intercession.

A few weeks into interceding, the barriers began to crumble one after the other. We began to see tangible results in that area. Folks began to come to church and get serious about discipleship in the church also.

Friends, prophetic fulfilment follows prayerful commitment. If we are not committed to praying, we are not ready to see the fulfilment of the prophetic.

You cannot possess new territories by simply wishing for them. You take possession first in intercession. Intercession must birth action.

When Moses was wrapping up his work as the leader of Israel, he said to them what the Lord said to him:

"Beginning today I will make people throughout the earth terrified because of you. When they hear reports about you, they will tremble with dread and fear." Deuteronomy 2:25 NLT

We definitely cannot doubt that Moses picked those words in prayer. He was a praying man.

Those words were fulfilled in the days of Joshua. Joshua sent spies into Jericho

and Rahab made a confession that shows prophecies birthed in prayer will always be fulfilled.

"I know the Lord has given you this land. We are all afraid of you. Everyone in the land is living in terror. No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the Lord your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below. Joshua 2:9, 11 NLT

Dear believer, take praying seriously. Use prayer to build a bridge between the prophetic and its fulfilment. Use prayer as the steering wheel for a generation that you will necessarily not be a part of. Pray until you see what looks so hard and difficult become possible.

Pray to give the divine permission to permeate the affairs of humanity. Leave nothing to chance. Study data, discern patterns but do not explain it away. Take it to God in prayer.

Today, every barrier is removed. Your influence is enlarged in the name of Jesus.

CONFESSIO N

I possess all my possessions by the power of God. I overcome every obstacle to inheritance. My inheritance flows to me.

WATER, BLOOD AND PAIN

Text: Romans 8:18 NIV

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

I looked at my youngest daughter and said to my wife, "I remember that day in the labour room. I can never forget". It was a mixture of water, blood and pain. The deep groans that followed the final push are well ingrained in my mind to date.

One of the things a believer must constantly be grateful for is what Jesus did for him on the cross. If you take your eyes off his sacrifice, your feet may slide off the path of consecration.

One of the ways we endure the walk of faith is by the seeing of faith. The seeing of faith begins with a focus on what Jesus has done. Remember, Jesus is the author and the finisher of our faith. You cannot master this walk of faith if you do not read Jesus Christ.

A believer who forgets the sacrifice of Christ will soon begin to misbehave.

And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT

Just like Peter, when we keep our eyes on Christ, the waters cannot drown us but once we take our eyes off him, the waters overwhelm our walk and we can begin to drown.

We are in trying times. Our eyes must be on Christ. We are in times when the believer must walk by faith and not by sight. We are in times when you must not bypass the cross and all it represents.

There is a birthing that will come.

There is a delivery that will happen.

It will be through the mix of the water, blood and the groans of labour.

Spend time with the Word.

Stay in the flow with the Spirit.

Do not joke with intercession.

CONFESSIO N

My eyes are fixed on Jesus. The strength of the Lord carries me through.

I DID NOT KNOW HIM...

Text: Ezekiel 18:4 NKJV

“Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.

I was having an afternoon nap when that name dropped in my heart. I did not know the person but I became restless. I left the hostel and headed to the faculty.

I asked my first colleague that I met in the faculty, “Do you know anyone by so and so name?” I was shocked when he said, “He just left me now”.

I told him to kindly tell the person that we should see before the day was over. We saw that night and he committed his life to following Christ- he was a brilliant chap from an elite background.

Friends, God will go the extra mile for a soul. The salvation of souls is paramount in the divine agenda. It is the desire of God that men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

Your wealth cannot save you. Zacchaeus was a wealthy tax collector but when he encountered Jesus, salvation entered his home.

Good work cannot save you. Cornelius was religious. He gave to the poor but he was still unsaved. God would go the extra mile for a soul.

Jesus was never too tired when a soul was involved. He reached out to the Woman from Samaria in spite of cultural and gender bias. He crossed lines to save a dying soul.

Souls are important to God. You are important to God. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.

Salvation is a total package- it is redemption from darkness, deliverance from sin, freedom from sickness, divorce from smallness and access to God.

A man who is not saved is not safe. He is spiritually dead. And if such a man does not meet Jesus Christ and dies physically, he will end up dead eternally.

God has gone the extra mile by dying for your sin, would you go the extra mile by giving your life to God? A saved man is a safe man!

Are you saved?

C O N F E S S I O N

I enjoy the gift of salvation. My life is sold out to Christ Jesus. I give attention to soul winning.

DAY 19

THE WEIGHT OF TIME

Text: Psalm 27:4 NIV

One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

I was in conversation with an elderly person, and I was deeply stirred by his passion for what he does and the push he gives to it. I was forced to ask him, “Daddy, why are you running with so much passion and so relentlessly?”

His answer was instructive. He said to me, “My brother, I have wasted so much time earlier. I know how much time I wasted as a young person”. It struck me so hard.

Beloved, we are in a battle of time. The greatest battle of your life will be a battle for time. Why is this so?

“So, rejoice, you heavens, and every heavenly being! But woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil, has come down to you with great fury because he knows his time is short.” Revelation 12:12 TPT

The devil knows that he has a little time. He does all he can with a sense of urgency. And knowing that well, he seeks to have your time to himself. An idle hand (someone who lacks a sense of timing) is still the devil’s workshop.

The devil wants you to indulge. But the Psalm teaches us that we should pray for wisdom to number our days and deal prudently with the time God has given us.

The prayer of youth must be “Lord, satisfy me early with good things”. The prayer of a person who wasted his youth will be “Renew my youth like that of an eagle”. A person who wasted his youth will be looking for compensation.

Have you ever noticed that the moment you begin to have time for your spiritual growth,

something always seems to come up? Getting on your knees is a battle that the devil wants you to lose. Opening the word to study is a battle the devil wants you to lose. Someone reading this is already losing that battle.

The devil does not mind you getting promoted at work as long as you would have lost the time needed to focus on your spirit.

It is a battle for time. It is a battle for your soul. The highest transaction in the spirit is a transaction of souls. Jesus told us, “What would it profit a man if he gains the world but loses his soul?”

And John in the book of Revelation mentioned that the merchants of this world and the system of Babylon trade in the souls of men. It is a major part of the list of merchandise.

“Quantities of the finest cinnamon, spice, incense, frankincense, and myrrh, wine, olive oil, wheat, and the finest flour, sheep, cattle, horses, and their four-wheeled carriages, and the trafficking of the bodies and souls of people.” Revelation 18:13 TPT

It is a battle for your soul, and it will be won by the person who gets your time. Whoever gets your time has a grip on your soul.

Beloved, who has your time?

Friend, who has your soul?

CONFESSION

My soul is for Jesus. I do not trade with the Devil. I do not pay attention to time wasters.

DAY 20

HARDER EFFORTS CANNOT REPLACE OBEDIENCE

Text: 1 Samuel 15:22 NIV

But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

I was speaking with two ladies when the Lord dropped a word in my heart for one of them. I did not know who in particular when I got the word. It was simple:

God said, "No matter how much you have invested in the wrong relationship, turn back now".

One of them confided later that she knew she was in the wrong relationship, but she did not know where to even start. It had been going on for so many years — the man was not even a child of God. She cried, but I was not sure if she had the courage to obey God.

Amaziah was preparing for war. He took stock of his military strength. He realised that he needed to hire mercenaries for the battle.

"He also paid about 7,500 pounds of silver to hire 100,000 experienced fighting men from Israel" 2 Chronicles 25:6 NLT

After such a huge investment, a word came from the Lord:

But a man of God came to him and said, "Your Majesty, do not hire troops from Israel, for the Lord is not with Israel. He will not help those people of Ephraim! If you let them go with your troops into battle, you will be defeated by the enemy no matter how well you fight. God will overthrow you, for he has the power to help you or to trip you up." 2 Chronicles 25:7-8 NLT

You do not win battles by personal struggles but by divine alignment. No matter how much you struggle without divine backing, it will end up as a loss.

Amaziah asked a question that we would all have asked:

Amaziah asked the man of God, "But what about all that silver I paid to hire the army of Israel?"

The response of the man of God is the reassurance that we all need when we need to obey God but the flesh does not find it comfortable.

The man of God replied, "The Lord is able to give you much more than this!" 2 Chronicles 25:9 NLT

Friends, no matter what you have to say bye to, God can give you much more.

Say bye to that ungodly relationship, he can bless you with someone better.

Say bye to that ungodly business, he can bless you with better ideas and ways of making a profit.

Harder efforts cannot replace obedience.

CONFESSIO N

I do not despise divine instruction. I detach from what God is against.

ATOM

Anuoluwapo
Temiloluwa Ola Ministry

GROOMS NIGHT

HEART TO HEART MEN'S MEETING

with Pastor Temi Ola

↑ **THIRD THURSDAY
OF EVERY MONTH**

1ST FLOOR, FRESH BITE BUILDING,
ALONG TOWN PLANNING,
OLUYOLE, IBADAN.

**5:30
PM**
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CHARACTER VS. REPUTATION

Text: Jeremiah 17:10 NLT

But I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve.”

I was taking care of certain places in the house one morning. As I swept, I began to lift up and shift bookshelves, chairs and photo frames. As I did, I would find dirt tucked in behind them.

The Holy Spirit began to teach me about reputation and character. He said to me, “All those areas that people would see when they step in which are always clean is a picture of reputation.

He then added that all the dirt hidden away nicely behind shelves, chairs and frames is the picture of character.

Have you ever had a visitor come to your room before and you pack all those clothes into your wardrobe while the room looks so clean? The clean room is your reputation. The closed wardrobe is your character.

A lot of people are under pressure to keep up a reputation while they have things hidden away in their closed wardrobe.

You need friends who see beyond your clean room who can lift up those chairs of comfort and shelves of compromise and open up your wardrobe of performance exposing the areas you have tucked away diligently behind the mask of religion and at times, spirituality.

Saul wanted to play cover up with Samuel but Samuel asked, “What is the sound of the bleating of goats and rams that I hear?”

When you plan to cover up your fraud and character flaws, may the goats bleat and send a message that will help preserve your soul.

Do you have friends who challenge you about your business ethics? Do you have a circle that pulls you back when ethical lines have become blurry?

Is there someone close to you that can call you to order when the smile at that lady says more than “Good Morning”? Do you preach up a storm but then hide pornographic links in passworded folders?

Who are you behind the shelf?

Who are you in the closed wardrobe?

Who are you when and where no one sees you?

And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. Romans 5:4 NLT

And I pray for you:

May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God. Philippians 1:11 NLT

Do not lose with character while you win with reputation. It is a huge loss.

CONFESSION

I do not cover up what destroys. I grow in strength of character. I have the mind of Christ.

LESSONS FROM MY LOST PHONES

Text: Ephesians 5:14 NKJV

Therefore, He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

I have lost phones twice in my life and it happened in my second year as an undergraduate.

The first was a Sagem My-X 2. I was in transit from Ibadan to Ife- I slept off. I woke up just before the campus gate but my phone that was on my laps had slipped to the chair. I got off the cab. By the time, I realised what had happened, it was late.

The second was a more expensive version- Sagem My-X7. I came in tired from the class and I slept. My room mate stepped out and left our door unlocked. I woke up and realised I had become phoneless.

Phones can be easily recovered but 'slept-off' destinies, opportunities and families take grace to redeem.

There are people who have lost major things in life and it was too late before they realised it.

Esau probably thought that the transaction he had with Jacob was simply one of those brotherly pranks. He did not know that it was more than that- it was a destiny negotiation hidden in a simple physical siblings conversation.

The scripture told us that when he woke up to know what he had lost, it was too late. It was an irredeemable one:

"Watch out for the Esau syndrome: trading away God's lifelong gift in order to satisfy a short-term appetite. You well know how Esau later regretted that impulsive act and wanted God's blessing—but by then it was too late,

tears or no tears." Hebrews 12:16-17 MSG

A sleeping man is an ignorant man. A sleeping man has lost awareness. Ignorance and a loss of awareness give the enemy the room to perpetrate evil.

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

Why do you think the enemy comes while men are sleeping? It is easy to rob a sleeping man of his possessions, opportunities, family, joy, future and his destiny.

Sleeping parents lose their kids to strange influences.

The psalmist said "Give light to my eyes or I sleep the sleep of death" Ps. 13:3b (NIV)

Can I ask you like they do in the Yoruba language when you are acting dull, "So n sun ni?" (Are you sleeping?)

I pray for you this day: You will not sleep away your opportunities. You will recognise your chance and time when it shows up. You will not lose your home to carelessness. The enemy is rendered handicapped because you are alert.

CONFESSIO N

I am alive and alert in the spirit. I resist the devil and he flees from me. I recognize my moment of opportunity.

BEDROOM SITUATIONS

Text: 1 Corinthians 10:12 NLT

If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.

I told my associate in the ministry office, “My brother, get me a house at all costs. I need an apartment even if it is one room, I need to move out of my parents’ house. It is time to be a man.” My request shocked him. I was very serious.

Later that evening in the place of meditation, the Lord told me “No”. I was safer living in my father’s house. Some months into marriage when I eventually moved out, three of the unit heads stayed with me.

Why? I was a single pastor. Living alone at that point was no big deal but I had to make a sacrifice for the integrity of the gospel. I did not want a situation where sisters had to visit a single pastor who lives alone. I did not want a situation where anyone misinterpreted my lifestyle.

Paul spoke about this also to the Ephesian Church. He admonished them in clear terms:

But among you, there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Ephesians 5:3 NIV

Let no hint of sexual immorality be found in your midst. It means if another person will have a reason to draw immoral conclusions from your action – do not do it.

It means you cannot visit your fiancé or fiancée and then stay alone in the same room or even house. I know our generation has dropped the ball a lot but you cannot change biblical standards.

These instructions of God are like rail guards

on a cliff- they protect us from our own tendencies.

You do not have a reason to be found in bedroom situations. Watch your steps.

It is dangerous to be with the wrong person in the wrong place but far more dangerous to be with the right person in the wrong place.

Intending couples can be tempted to have sex or just fondle a bit after the hottest prayer sessions (no jokes here). Pray in places where you will not be led into temptation.

Some people say things like, “We know we did not do anything. It is our lives”. Paul again has an admonition for you:

“For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man.” 2 Corinthians 8:21 NIV

I know God sees your heart but men also weigh your visible actions. Remember, there must not be a hint of sexual immorality at all.

My friend, do it for yourself. Do it for the future. Do it for the sake of the gospel. Let no one be able to point a hand, shake the head and add “And he says he is a Christian”.

Live your life as a believer in such a way that a sinner does not find justification for his sin in your conduct.

C O N F E S S I O N

I do not live a questionable Christian life. I am a good model of Christian living. I flee from all appearance of evil.

DAY
24

Bigger Than Where You Are: Living above the Spirit of The Environment

Text: Genesis 26:2 NKJV

Then the LORD appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you.

One of my teachers said to me, "You do not operate as though you are in Eruwa at all. You have succeeded in living above the spirit of the environment." Many times, people step into our meetings and say, "We cannot believe there is a church like this here".

First, every location has a spirit that is prevalent therein. In the days of Jesus, it was obvious that mediocrity was prevalent in Nazareth; or what else would make someone say, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

"Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" "Come and see for yourself," Philip replied.

John 1:46 NLT

Second, it means that even though there is a prevalent spirit in an environment, it is possible to live above it. Jesus broke the jinx of what people have always known about Nazareth. His profile stunned those who only saw the stereotype. He set a new standard.

Jesus did not just set the standard; he became the standard. They began to call him by the name of Nazareth at a point.

Then asked he them again, Whom seek

ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. John 18:7 KJV

No matter where you are at the moment, always settle it within you that there is more. Insist that you will never settle for less or the culture of that location or office if the location or office does not promote the spirit of excellence, make sure you do not settle for less. Live above it.

Travel to places that challenge you to be better than where you are at the moment. Press in for something more. Climb higher but refuse to settle for less than excellence. Give your best at the level you are in.

CONFESSIO N

I stay in the divinely assigned location for divine assignments. I am not limited by barriers around me.

DAY
25

DO NOT LET IT SETTLE IN YOUR SPIRIT

Text: Philippians 2:5 KJV

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

I was in a conversation with an elderly one and he referred to a cultural adage. I smiled and asked him whether there was a biblical backup for that adage. He could not find any but wanted to still justify the adage. I gave up.

There are things you have accepted that have shaped your thinking and way of life that are not necessarily scriptural. Such thoughts unknowingly have grown to become mindsets.

One of the things that can open a man up to demonic limitations are mindsets that have grown over the years to become strongholds. The devil sees the loophole in such thought patterns and capitalises on it for his operations.

There are people who in a bid to teach contentment have transferred low self-esteem and complacency. They become boastful of “their perceived contentment” without realising that the devil has built a stronghold of poverty and smallness using the leverage that complacency has given to him.

Paul warned the Corinthian Church about strongholds:

For although we live in the natural realm,

we don't wage a military campaign employing human weapons, using manipulation to achieve our aims. Instead, our spiritual weapons are energized with divine power to effectively dismantle the defences behind which people hide. We can demolish every deceptive fantasy that opposes God and break through every arrogant attitude that is raised in defiance of the true knowledge of God. We capture, like prisoners of war, every thought and insist that it bow in obedience to the Anointed One.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 TPT

Did you see the description of a stronghold? The defence behind which people hide.

Today, in the name of Jesus, every barrier that has been created mentally that is not according to the Spirit and Testimony of Jesus is pulled down. Every thought and imagination bow to the obedience of Christ.

CONFESS I O N

I pull down mindsets that are not of Christ. I think in the scriptures. I hold on the thoughts and words of God concerning my life.

DAY
26

NO WORRIES! NO LAZINESS!!

Text: Philippians 4:19 NKJV

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

We were preparing to shop for our first baby. Honestly, we were trusting God for more. Some weeks to delivery, while trusting for financial blessings, God sent us gifts of new clothes. Her wardrobe was almost filled up.

While preparing to shop for our second baby, God sent us a boxload of baby clothes. The person was even telling us it was small. God still meet needs and answers prayers.

First, do not be afraid of obeying God because of the fear of needs and survival. One of the most prominent questions you will have no answer to is “How will you survive?” Or “How will you take care of your family”.

God does not encourage laziness but He equally discourages worrying.

“This is why I tell you to never be worried about your life, for all that you need will be provided, such as food, water, clothing—everything your body needs. Isn’t there more to your life than a meal? Isn’t your body more than clothing?”
Matthew 6:25 TPT

Worrying changes nothing. You must have plans but you must not be soaked in by the concerns so much that it takes over the driver’s seat of your life.

Second, God still answers prayers. When you have a need, the first place to look at is not your pocket but God’s

budget. In His budget, the needs are already included.

“For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.” Matthew 6:32 NKJV

Finally, do not be so driven by your need that you begin to walk in disobedience to divine will such as giving lovingly and sacrificially. God still wants you to bless lives with what you have.

If you live only for your needs, you are living a pretty small life. There is someone somewhere that you can bless while you wait. Seek out opportunities to be a blessing in small doses while you wait for the big deal.

Do not let your need take over the driver’s seat of your destiny. It will shut out divine favour.

CONFESSIO N

I trust the Lord for divine supplies. I do not lack good things. I am a blessing to others.

DAY
27

DON'T STRUGGLE WHEN THERE IS HELP

Text: Psalm 46:1 NLT

God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

I had a bottle of freshly squeezed juice and Olive loved it after tasting it. She wanted to have more but the bottle was tightly shut. She began to struggle with the cover.

Every time I reached out to her so I could uncover and help her, she held tightly to the bottle and kept crying. When I collected it with the intent to open it, she protested a bit more. She did not know that help was available for her.

When she realised eventually that I was trying to open for her, she was full of joy.

When you got born-again, you came under the covering of God's grace and divine help. Submission to Christ gives you the edge in life's battle.

The Gibeonites came to surrender as a nation to Joshua and the Israelites. Five nations came to attack Gibeon because of what they had done.

Gibeon had mighty soldiers, yet they sent an urgent plea to Joshua, as they were under siege and desperately needed his help.

The men of Gibeon sent word to Joshua camped at Gilgal, "Don't let us down now! Come up here quickly! Save us! Help us! All the Amorite kings who live up in the hills have ganged up on us." Joshua 10:6 MSG

The strong need help too. Do not keep relying on your own strength when the help of God is available for you.

You cannot be struggling when help is available for you in His Word. Do not try to "run things" by yourself when you can run it first with God. He wants to show you what to do.

That son of the prophet lived and died as a debtor because he did not see or maximize the help that was available. Elisha had always been there.

You must understand that your relationship with God brings you an advantage in crisis- be at peace. Put your mind at rest.

We struggle because we do not know how much God wants to help us. His hand of help is constantly stretched towards you but do you see it?

When you know the volume of help available to you, you stay at peace. Gibeonites knew that with Israel as their "covering", nothing could defeat them.

The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run into it and they are saved.

You are helped by the Lord!

CONFESSIO N

I do not rely on my strength. My help comes from the Lord. Divine help locates me.

DAY
28

FAVOUR COMES AS OPEN WINDOWS

Text: Psalm 90:17 NLT

May the favour of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.

Late last year, in the middle of making a major decision about a purchase, I got a unique opportunity – the seller brought down the price by about twenty-five per cent.

While trying to make a final decision about it, I heard my father in the faith teaching and he said, “Favour comes as open windows and if you do not grab it, you lose it”.

By the time I made a decision to purchase, the seller had forgotten she had given such a huge discount. But God granted favour eventually.

You are blessed and highly favoured. You must carry that consciousness into everything you do. Make the bold ask. Give them the opportunity to say No.

When asked what you want to pay for the land, mention what the Lord has dropped in your heart and what you can afford even when it seems ridiculous. Let them laugh but give them the chance to say No! But refuse to be limited because you feel your offer is too small.

Be sensitive when doors of favour open for you. Someone said to me this year while we spoke about the purchase in question that, “Pastor, it almost feels like it was stolen. It is cheap compared to the value”. I had a good smile.

Timidity and fear will shut you out from the windows that favour will open for you. Do not sit down and expect favour to work. Favour is not for the timid or the

lazy. Favour is not for daydreamers.

Look at Ruth, a foreigner and a widow who refused to live at the mercy of people’s pittance to herself and Naomi:

So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, “Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favour.” And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.” Ruth 2:2 NKJV

Ruth would not sit down and walk in pity. No! If they told her “No” in one field, she walks to another until someone recognises that she carries favour on her head.

This season, favour will work for you! The field will produce for you. You will recognize your windows of opportunity. You will maximize it.

CONFESSIO

I am sensitive to open doors. I discern my moment of favour. I am favour from above.

DAY
29

DO NOT LET THE “MOSQUITO” PERCH (so it does not bite)

Text: Psalm 107:2 NLT

Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies.

I was studying at night when I noticed a mosquito was having a field day around me. Before I knew it, I noticed I had gotten two spots from a bite I did not feel initially- one on my legs and another on my arm.

I stood up and looked for the mosquito repellent cream. I rubbed it on myself, thinking that if I did not allow it to land on me, it could not bite me. Afterwards, I was not bothered by mosquitoes anymore.

Friend, what is on you determines what comes around you and what feels confident and comfortable to perch on you. There are things that will stay on you until you arise to do something about it.

What is on you? The Prophet Isaiah said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...” Wherever the Spirit of the Lord is there is joy and liberty. If it does not look like what the Spirit of God will bring then it is something to resist.

If you are not careful, others will see in you what you do not see in yourself. Jericho was shut down and gripped by fear because its inhabitants were afraid of the Israelites. God spoke to Joshua, revealing that although Jericho had mighty warriors, they had been weakened by divine fear.

“And the Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.”

Joshua 6:2 KJV

Potiphar recognised that there was something on Joseph. Pharaoh did the same. They both enjoyed the grace upon Joseph’s life. If your recognition is poor or altered, your ability to appropriate the blessing will also be altered.

There are things you rub on that repel every activity that limits a man, a marriage, a business or even a calling- the Word of God and Prayer are in that category.

A man who knows what is written can never live like a victim and a man who speaks what has been written will surely live as more than a conqueror.

Paul knew the power in both so he told the Roman church that when strange things attempt to perch upon you must be able to respond like the anointed:

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

Romans 8:31 KJV

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”

Romans 8:37 KJV

From now on, stand and sound like the anointed and not the defeated!

CONFESSIO N

The word of God is my reality. The hand of the Lord is upon me. I have victory through Jesus.

DAY
30

INSIST ON SOMETHING BETTER

Text: James 1:17 NLT

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

We travelled out of base and had to lodge in a hotel. The moment we checked into the hotel, I saw some faults in the room. I told Irewamiri “This does not look like what we paid for”.

We made some complaints and we managed the first night. The next day, I refused and asked for something better or I got a refund. We got another room- far bigger and better than where we were.

We were both like, “So there was something better and we were settling for less”.

Beloved, if you do not insist on what is better, you will stay in the same spot. Jesus paid for better promises by His blood. You must insist on what has been paid for.

“But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises” Hebrews 8:6

Look around you- Does everything look like what Jesus has paid for? Does your health look like it? Does your marriage look like it? Does your calling and ministry look like it? Whatever does not look like it is your ignorance at least or the devil at worst trying to play a quick one on you. Refuse substandard. Jesus

paid for the premium.

How do you insist on it? Abraham is an amazing example.

“He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform Romans 4:20,21

First, hold on to the promise of God as revealed by the Word of God. Reject unbelief.

Second, strengthen your faith by giving God all the glory. Third, rely on the faithfulness and ability of God to do whatever He says He will do.

CONFESS I O N

I do not settle for inferiority. I do not settle for mediocrity. The Lord has the best for me.



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