

COMPASS

— DAILY DEVOTIONAL —

**FOR
DECEMBER
2024**

**NOT
FOR
SALE!**

Temiloluwa Ola

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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- DECEMBER 2024 -

COMPASS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



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Practical thoughts for a productive day

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Introduction

Welcome to December!

This is the crowning month of the year. The Lord said it is. You should be on the lookout for crowning testimonies. It will be exactly the way God said it will be:

Psalms 65:11-13 NKJV

[11] You crown the year with Your goodness, And Your paths drip with abundance. [12] They drop on the pastures of the wilderness, And the little hills rejoice on every side.

[13] The pastures are clothed with flocks; The valleys also are covered with grain; They shout for joy, they also sing.

The year is crowned with the goodness of God. Yes, it is!

What will you see?

Abundance. Your paths with drip with abundance. It means everywhere you look, you will see the blessing of God.

Things to Rejoice Over. You will dance and shout for joy. Yes you will! As you rejoice over one, another testimony will break out.

Your Challenges will become partners in thanksgiving. Your valleys will be filled up. Your mountains will become plain. Crooked places will be made straight.

Why would all this happen? The Glory of the Lord has been revealed. Christ, our Saviour, settled it all.

This month, all He has promised that you have waited for shall be sealed and delivered.

Thank you for reading COMPASS all year long.

See you again on the other side with greater joy.

We love you.

temilOluwa Ola

Feedback

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

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

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

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

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

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

- CHISOMAGA, ABUJA

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

- JUSTINA OYEDEJI, ILE-IFE, OSUN STATE

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

TGod bless you, Pastor.

- MICHAEL, GHANA

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

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

- TOLULOPE, IBADAN

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

- ESTHER AMOS, ENUGU

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

- DESIRE, UGANDA

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

- INIOLUWA, OGBOMOSHO, OYO STATE

Feedback

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

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

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

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

- JEREMIAH UGWULEBO, PORTHARCOURT

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

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

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

- REBECCA OSEYI, EDO STATE

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

- MARIE LAUREL, CAMEROON

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

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

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

- NANCY GABRIEL, NASARAWA

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

Thank you so much Sir

- OPE POPOOLA, UNITED KINGDOM

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

- OLUWABUSOLAMI, LAGOS

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

- DUDLEY CHIDZIVA, ZIMBABWE

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

- PATRICIA, ABUJA



THE DANGER OF HALF-TRUTHS IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Text: Acts 20:27 NKJV

For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

One evening at the university, I was heading to our sports complex when I met a friend of mine. While discussing, she told me that she would spend the evening attending a mentoring vigil with some of her other friends.

I smiled and told her these exact words: “Why are you guys jumping around? What are you looking for? Sit down and study the Word of God for yourself. Take time to pray too”.

You know what, it took years for me to know the value of discipleship and mentoring in my spiritual growth.

It is true that studying the Word and prayer are basic ingredients for the believer to grow, but it is also important to know that we cannot grow without the help of teachers and pastors.

One of God’s gifts to a believer is the gift of a Pastor. Every pastor has the assignment to feed and nurture the people God has committed into his care so they can grow.

“and I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. And it shall come to pass when ye be multiplied and increased in the land...” Jeremiah 3:15 – 16 KJV

Without teachers and pastors, we can read the bible and not understand, or worse still, we can subscribe to wrong or false teachings that sound true.

It is a different thing to read. It is a different thing to understand. The Ethiopian Eunuch was coming from Jerusalem, where he had gone to worship. He must

have been so blessed that he began to read the book of the Prophet Isaiah in his chariot. But there was a problem- a lack of understanding. What did the Lord do to help him? He sent him Phillip.

Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” The man replied, “How can I unless someone instructs me?” And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

Acts of the Apostles 8:30 – 31 NLT

When the Lord sends you teachers and pastors, create space for them on your chariot. Give them room on your agenda. Give them space to impact your life. Do not stay in isolation.

Even Jesus listened to teachers of the Law when he was age twelve. Apostle Paul had Ananias at the beginning of his Christian walk, who affirmed some of the experiences he was having at that season of his life.

And Jesus Christ gave gifts unto men “for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”

Ephesians 4:12 KJV

Do not live on half-truths. It is dangerous.

CONFESSION

I embrace the whole counsel of God. I do not live a life of selective obedience. The word of God is my life’s manual



"I WAS DOING MY ASSIGNMENT"

Text: Mark 1:35 NIV

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

I knew when my girls came in from school. They would come into my office and greet me before they went on to do any other thing that they needed to do. I heard their voice when they arrived but did not see my girls come in to greet me.

About an hour later, Danielle walked to my office. As she greeted me, I asked her where they both had been while I expected they were coming to greet me. She replied, "But we were busy doing our assignments."

When she said that, I looked at her and said, "Greeting Daddy should come first and not doing assignments." When I made that statement, the Holy Spirit brought it alive in me.

I was preparing a teaching on intimacy with God. I knew what the spirit of the Lord was pointing out to me- Intimacy with God was a priority. Spending time with God is more important than doing things for God.

It is possible to get lost in doing things for God that we forget about spending time with God. I can be a great preacher who no longer spends time with the Lord.

It is possible to get lost doing things for God while we were meant to do things with him. When Jesus called the twelve, it was a call first to himself and not to an assignment.

And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. Mark 3:13 KJV

It is first a call unto him. Anyone that will go for him must go from him. Your coordinates must begin from God's presence and not your own desire.

Look at this: And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, Mark 3:14 KJV

Look at the words used "that they should be with him." Being with him is a must (a priority). The word "should" is used. But going to preach or on an assignment is a probability. The word used is "might".

If you have lost contact with fellowship and intimacy, anything else you do will just be a struggle. Intimacy precedes assignment.

Greet Daddy first! It must be about him first.

CONFESSION

I prioritise intimacy with God. Nothing takes the place of fellowship with God in my life.



YOU CAN NOT TAKE THESE ON BOARD

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.

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 break free from habits that can wreck my destiny. I repent of covering up things that stagnate me. I move on in life's journey by the hand of God.

DAY 04

HOW TO RENEW THE MIND

Text: Ephesians 4:23 AMP

*and be continually renewed in the spirit of your mind
[having a fresh, untarnished mental and spiritual attitude].*

There are times that some of the old songs that we sang back in my secondary school days still come back to my head. I smile and laugh it away when I remember. However, it also tells me that my mind needs to be renewed.

When you got born again, it was a new identity in Christ but your mind did not get “born-again”. It undergoes what we call renewal.

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”

Romans 12:2 KJV

There are things already written in your mind that must be formatted. Some will be preserved. You must begin to load up your mind with new things to replace the old.

How do you get your mind renewed?

First, you need to become a student of God’s Word.

Back in my days, we had cassettes. Cassette or Compact Discs come with leaflets of the lyrics of the new songs. We had books that had a compilation of songs also. We tried to outshine one another to memorise the lyrics. We thought it impressed the opposite sex.

Now, you must begin to put the word in your heart. Become a student of the word. Read it. Do it daily. Listen to it. Read books written to explain things from the Word of God also.

Second, meditate on the Word of God.

Meditation is the way by which you imprint the word in the walls of your mind. You know the same way you bring out songs when you suffer that heartbreak. Now let the word flow from you when you go through a tough season.

God told Joshua: Never stop reciting these teachings. You must think about them night and day so that you will faithfully do everything written in them. Only then will you prosper and succeed. Joshua 1:8 GW

Transformation cannot take place without beholding. You must fix your gaze on the Word of God. There is more if you will behold.

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 3:18 KJV

Declare with me: “I am a diligent student of God’s Word. The Word works in my life. I am changed from glory to glory”

I pray for you like the Psalmist: May the word of your mouth and the meditation of your heart be acceptable in the sight of the Lord.

Amen

CONFESSION

I expose my heart to a heavy dosage of God’s word. My mind is daily renewed. I am changed into the image of God by the Holy Spirit.



DEFLATE THE PRESSURE BEFORE IT BUILDS

Text: 2 Corinthians 3:5 NKJV

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God.

When a young pastor who lives by faith and a young lady who just finished serving the nation decide to get married, they must understand certain things. The first thing Irewamiri and I told ourselves was that we would save aggressively as we looked toward marriage.

The second was a simple principle: Whenever we are out of money, we would not be worried until the next supplies come to meet the needs on the ground. No matter the cost, once we had no money on the ground for it, we would also not be worried about it.

Both principles helped greatly.

Beloved, if you allow pressure to take over the steering wheel of any situation in your life, it will most likely end up a disaster. You must learn to deflate pressure.

Once David was made king, the Philistines began to press in to attack David. David did not rush out amid the pressure to attend to them. No! He rather went to seek the face of God about what to do.

Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. So David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?" And the Lord said to David, "Go up, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand." II Samuel 5:17, 19 NKJV

Two things help a man in the middle of the pressures of life.

The Spiritual: This involves seeking the face of the Lord for guidance and supernatural intervention. Many believers are always waiting for a miracle. There is no problem with waiting for a miracle. We serve a miracle-working God. He surely will always show up. But you must never neglect this second thing:

The Systematic: Build systems and honour systems that will save you from being pressured. Why must it take a miracle to pay your rent every year? What happened to setting something aside for twelve months? You had nine months' notice for the birth of the baby, and you are still unprepared. That is not proper.

When you have done well with the systematic, even the spiritual will look more colourful. Jesus deployed both to feed the 5000. Before they distributed the five loaves and two fishes, he asked them to sit down in groups of fifty each. Why? The disorder will always eat up abundance. Some will be satisfied, while others will get nothing.

Be faithful in the systematic. Do not ignore the supernatural. That is the twin way to deflate pressure.

Kill the pressure. Do not let the pressure kill you.

CONFESSIO N

I do not give room to pressure. I do not ignore the supernatural. I am forward-thinking and proactive.



“GOD KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING”

Text: Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

We were travelling from Eruwa to Lagos. We had the first delay at the entry point to Abeokuta. We ran into a ditch, and the exhaust pipe got broken. We spent about two hours fixing that. Some minutes after moving, we got into heavy traffic. There was another delay of about an hour or more.

One of my dear ones was the one driving. He kept saying, “And we do not know what God is doing with all the delay.”

Eventually, I had to get them to drop me off with a friend who stays on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway so they could return to Ibadan before it got too late. When we met my friend, he told my protege who drove me, “Thank you for driving, pastor. You relieve him of stress. God bless you. Please give me your account number. Let me give you a token”. My protege looked at me and said, “Pastor, if we did not have delays, we would not have met your friend, and I would not have gotten this money.” We had a good laugh.

One of the ways to keep yourself from murmuring and bitterness in life and destiny is to constantly remind yourself that “God must be up to something.”

That simple thought kept Joseph from nursing bitterness against his brothers:

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.
Genesis 45:5 NLT

Did you see that? It was God who sent me here!

God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve

many survivors.
Genesis 45:7 NLT

Did you see it again? God sent me ahead of you.

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 45:8 NLT

Did you see the third time? It is God that sent me here, not you!

Do you see the theology that kept Joseph sane in Potiphar’s house as a slave and in prison as a falsely accused inmate?

Your life will be easier when you see the move of God in the moves of men. Your journey becomes sweeter when you can see what God is doing in the midst of a delay.

Do not forget the charge of Apostle Paul: And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.
Romans 8:28 NLT

Did you get it?

CONFESSION

I trust in the workings of God in my life. I have an understanding of the moves of God for me. I am secure in God’s plan.

'I PLAY FOR SO AND SO CHURCH'

Text: 1Numbers 22:9 NLT

But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us.

I was really excited to see a young man whom I had known for years again. It was a mini reunion albeit by the roadside. I knew him as a committed member of a local church back in the day. I then asked him, "What church are you now?" His answer was, "I play for so and so church". I was surprised. He tried to explain that the church he played for was not his church but that is where he attends now because of financial reasons.

When I dug deeper, his life was a mess. It was not money that he needed first. That was the lie of the devil to steal his soul. What he needed first was the conviction that comes from spiritual growth. He needed the capacity that attracts a better life. He needed a home.

Listen clearly please – Anywhere your skill is valued more than your spirit is not a spiritual home, it is an abattoir! Anywhere your talent is exalted above your training is not a platform but a graveyard.

There is a difference between sons and servants. When a son forgets what home looks like or means or what fatherhood is like, he is satisfied with sharing bread with hired servants. He will be at home but all he is eyeing will be the "bread of servants".

First, do not let the devil seduce you at any point. Settle it that your spirit is priceless. Settle it so that you will never starve spiritually. You need a strong spirit to manifest in destiny. Even Jesus became strong in spirit. Go where your spirit is fed, nurtured, and groomed for destiny.

And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.
Luke 2:40 NKJV

Second, do not let problems and the needs of life seduce you. In the training of your spirit, there will be legitimate needs that will arise, but you must still lean on and trust the Lord.

I had a young man with a calling to the ministry. I did not doubt in my heart that a brilliant young man who had great potential decided to serve the Lord in Eruwa. I would do all in my power to ensure that he had what he needed. One day, he came to my office and dropped hints of his need. I told him, "I have the money to give you, but I would not. I would not be helping your journey. Go and build your faith and trust in God". Today, he is the better for it. His capacity is enlarged. His conviction is solid. He is not where he used to be financially. It was a tough choice. It was painful to see him go through it, but it was better for his

future.

In training our spirit, we converted hunger to fasting till God showed up. We converted the lack of transport fare to prayer walking and returned home with a miracle. There is a greater joy when you see the Father show up for you miraculously.

Do not allow the immediate pleasures of life to rob you of the ultimate plan of God for you in life and destiny.

Third, do not let increases and results seduce your spirit also. There is a way that will always seem right but please check well before you sign away your destiny and birthright. Some voices have become lost today that should have been sound bars for the kingdom. They have been drowned in hustling.

When the process seems hard, endure hardness like a good soldier of Christ. When the harvest seems late, never doubt that there is a seed in the ground. When the race seems tough, do not change lanes and cross lines. You are running for a prize and not just running to be a part. There is a pattern that will help your spirit, do not despise it!

Take with me your share of hardship [passing through the difficulties which you are called to endure], like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
2 Timothy 2:3 AMP

Now listen, when your spirit is trained and your convictions are deep, you will not crumble when the breakthrough comes. Why? That height you covet will only be sustained by depths that men may not see. Digging foundations is never a waste. Be patient.

Any theology that removes the Christian suffering will leave you as a baby in the creche. You will never learn to stretch!

CONFESSION

I am not a spiritual vagabond. I do not give room to seducing spirits. I am spiritually fed and nourished.

DAY 08

"I DID NOT SEE ANYTHING BAD IN IT"

Text: 2 Timothy 2:22 NLT

Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

I had reasons to interact with the executives of a Christian Youth Organization. One thing led to the other and I got to know that one of the females has a pattern of housing her fiancé whenever he came around. I was in shock. When I asked her questions, she said, "Sir, he comes from far and we do not do anything wrong together sir. I do not see anything bad in it".

I was reconnecting with a young man after many years. In conversation, he mentioned that his fiancée moved in with him a while back. He was honest enough to say, "Sir, we have been doing all sorts of nonsense. I cannot even pray or study as I used it. But she is in desperate need of accommodation".

If you have spent enough time watching a lot of the movies we have today, sin trends. If you are not careful, the movies that are meant to be "make-believe" will make you believe that sin is normal. You will stumble on frequent scenes of unmarried folks living together before marriage.

What is the standard of God's Word that a believer should follow? (Note that I said a believer- someone who has decided to follow Christ and live for Him)

First, you must understand that there should be no hint of sexual immorality in our midst as believers. Paul, the Apostle, charged the Ephesian church as such:

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

Listen beloved, the first step into immorality is finding justification for it-

"She is staying with me because she has no one else" – Sir, how about you? Do you have anyone else she can stay with? If you are well-rooted in a local church, there must be another godly home where she can spend the night or stay during her visit.

"Sir, she or he lodged in a hotel so we do not inconvenience anybody"- Thanks for making efforts but are you sure that is not a convenient option for the devil also? And is anyone who can hold you accountable aware of his or her visit? Who will ask you tough questions after the visit?

I know you may be thinking it is your life and it is nobody's business. But again, Apostle Paul is saying this to you:

And have nothing to do with sexual immorality, lust, or greed—for you are his holy ones and let no one be able to accuse you of them in any form. Ephesians 5:3 TPT

Did you see "Let no one be able to accuse you of them in any form"? Do not live in or romance sin. Stay far from the pit and you will have not to explain why you fell into it.

Second, be rooted in a local church that can provide support, care, and accountability during such visits.

The Lord in His wisdom has created a way of escape for you. It is called the Local Church. If you have no local assembly or you are not rooted in the one that you have, you will quietly be getting rotten without anyone spotting it. It is convenient to listen to teachings online and follow many services but who will hold you accountable? Where is the home?

The early disciples have a penchant for looking out for other disciples to stay with:

Afterward, we packed our bags and set off for Jerusalem, with some of the believers from Caesarea accompanying us. They brought us to a village where they introduced us to Mnason, a Cypriot, one of the original disciples, and he offered us hospitality. Acts 21:15-16 TPT

They found a disciple to stay with. At another time: Then we went on to Caesarea and stayed for several days in the home of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven deacons and the father of four unmarried daughters who prophesied. Acts 21:8-9 TPT

It is safer when you are rooted in a local church and blessed with a company of believers. It is a solid line of defence.

No hint of sin. Do not explain it away. Will you eat a sweet meal with a little dose of poison because there is no other food? Sin is poison!

CONFESS I O N

I do not give a chance to the operations of sin. Sin shall not reign in my vessel.

DAY 09

MY GRANDPA'S UNIQUE WALL CLOCK

Text: Ecclesiastes 10:8 NKJV

He who digs a pit will fall into it, And whoever breaks through a wall will be bitten by a serpent.

We holidayed quite a lot with my late grandpa. We would spend days there alongside our cousins. It was always loaded with fun. Part of the fun was the joy of running out to see the wall clock perform its magic each time an hour struck.

At the stroke of the hour, a bird would come out and chime the particular hour. It would then go back into hiding. Trust children- we needed to get behind the mystery. At a particular hour when the bird came out, we held it and began to check it out. The end of the story was not palatable. The bird never chimed again. We were confronted with the guilt of our curiosity with a mixture of the fear of what we would tell Grandpa.

There are things you should just leave unchecked.

Some tested out what premarital sex is and today are ridden with the burden of the fruits of teenage pregnancy, the burden of aborting, the reminder is always before them in the form of a fine boy or girl that they hate or at times incurable sexually transmitted diseases and for others, demons that have held them in the trap of strange patterns. Why? They wanted to check it out.

One of the things that will keep you from checking it out is the trust you have for the one who gave the instruction. Simply trust the one who has instructed you and you will remain safe. Paul told Timothy to hold on to what he had learnt knowing from whom he had learnt it. Trust is key.

Yet you must continue to advance in strength with the truth wrapped around your heart, being assured by God that he's the One who has truly taught you all these things.

2 Timothy 3:14 TPT

Adam and Eve were lured into the curiosity of finding out what would happen if they ate out of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The consequence was unpalatable. They lost it all.

If you will be safe, please learn this- fight forgetfulness. Time does not erode what the Lord has commanded. The standard of God has not dropped in our generation. He still demands holiness. He still says we should abstain from immorality.

There was a man called Shimei who treated King David with contempt. When Solomon became king, Solomon, in showing mercy told him that his movement was restricted to the city alone.

Then the king sent and called for Shimei, and said to him, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and dwell there, and do not go out from there anywhere. For it shall be, on the day you go out and cross the Brook Kidron, know for certain you shall surely die; your

blood shall be on your own head."
1 Kings 2:36-37 NKJV

Shimei agreed with his judgment. He stayed within the ambit of the decree for three years until something happened- two of his servants ran away and settled in Gath. He got information about where they were. Guess what Shimei did?

So Shimei arose, saddled his donkey, and went to Achish at Gath to seek his slaves. And Shimei went and brought his slaves from Gath.
1 Kings 2:40 NKJV

He succeeded in bringing back his slaves, but do you know what? He did not succeed in hiding it from the King. He had to face the judgement.

And Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and had come back. Then the king sent and called for Shimei, and said to him, "Did I not make you swear by the Lord, and warn you, saying, 'Know for certain that on the day you go out and travel anywhere, you shall surely die'? And you said to me, 'The word I have heard is good.'
1 Kings 2:41-42 NKJV

The question he was asked is the same question you will be asked when you cross the line:

Why then have you not kept the oath of the Lord and the commandment that I gave you?"
1 Kings 2:43 NKJV

There are commands you must keep. Some oaths must not be broken. Some lines must not be crossed. There are times the bird will stop chirping and you know by then that you have messed up.

What was the end for Shimei? Death!
What is the wage of sin? Death!!

You may still be breathing oxygen but do you have Zoe (the life of God)? Something dies every time you cross that line- you struggle in worship, the word does not come alive, and shame and guilt take over.

Will you retrace your steps? Do not get to Gath! Leave the runaway slaves. The cost of disobedience is a life- your life! Do not gain things and lose your life. It is an unprofitable deal.

CONFESSION

I am not borderless. I keep at God's commands for my life. I live righteously.

DAY 10

THE HEIGHT OF THE FALL

Text: Jude 1:24 KJV

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.

I was trying to move some things from the bedside study table. As I flipped the cover of my Bible open, I did not realize that my wristwatch was on it. The next thing I heard was the sound of an impact of something hitting the floor. When I checked, it was my wristwatch. My heart skipped a bit. When I picked it up, there was a 'painful' crack on it. I have not been able to wear it since then. It pained me that I was careless with it.

There is a height that the devil wants a man to attain before pulling the button that makes such a man fall. The devil knows that the impact of the fall would be devastating (even when such a man eventually repents). He waits patiently (ironically) for his target to reach a height where the collateral damage is far more viral than the fall itself.

Some men fall and get it right with God afterward but some have been so impacted by the fall that they abandoned the Lord, serving the Lord, or anything connected to Christ and the Church.

When Lucifer fell, he did not fall alone. He dragged some of the angels with him. He knows the strategy well. He knows the game well. He knows that the fall of certain men can be weaponized to capture the souls of many more.

God forbid! There are ministers of the Gospel that the agency of the kingdom of darkness must never pull down. Such fall creates a ripple effect of hurt, disappointments, and denial of Christ. This is one reason why we cover one another in the place of prayer.

Let me speak to someone who has not stepped into church for the past ten years because that pastor you loved fell into sin: Beloved, a man disappointed you, but it is not an excuse for you choosing a sinful life or fighting everything that has to do with church. Restaurants have disappointed you before; you changed restaurants. Banks have messed up before; you changed banks. Why have you not trusted the Lord to lead you to another church? Move on!

The hard truth is you will see the man who fell (but repented) make it to heaven while you allow that simple yet prolonged hurt, offence-triggered

sinful conduct to drag you to hell.

For the man that God is lifting, like David said:

Thus says the man raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel:
II Samuel 23:1 NKJV

Please, consider the heights that you are.

When sin beckons at you, please take a look at the height you are.

When lust says 'Dive,' please take a look at the height you are.

When greed says, 'You can have more', please take a look at the height you are.

There are heights you fall from that you will be so broken that when you consider the damage you did to yourself and others, it would almost seem like you should never have been raised.

How do you avoid this? Stay with your first love and your first works in Christ. Stay in fellowship. Stay in consecration. Kill strange thoughts before they kill you.

But I have this against you: you have abandoned the passionate love you had for me at the beginning. Think about how far you have fallen! Repent and do the works of love you did at first. I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place of influence if you do not repent.
Revelation 2:4-5 TPT

Do not let your fall become a weapon in the hands of the devil. Fight to stand. Fight and gain ground. Fight the good fight of faith. Fight to finish well. Fight to finish strong.

CONFESSION

I stay steadfast in my walk with God. I am rooted in Christ. I will finish strong.

DAY 11

THE SUBTLE TRAPS OF PROVING A POINT

Text: Galatians 6:14 NLT

As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world's interest in me has also died.

Anytime the girls are at the table, you will likely hear things like, "I finished before you", "I finished first" or a line that shows competition. We always emphasize that it is good to finish well not just first. We also told them there was no need for that competition or comparison. We would tell them the importance of being secure rather than having unhealthy competition. Some of us were wired to always compete. I see drivers who struggle to ensure you do not overtake them. It is always childish.

Also, in the early days of ministry exposure, my timeline would look like, "On my way to Abuja for a meeting" or other things like that. When I asked myself why I did all those things, my conclusion was simple- I had to prove a point that something was going on with me. I thought ministry was about the number of invitations that I got and the sizes of the meetings. I was excited at "big" meetings and saw them as a breakthrough.

A couple of years after now, I am comfortable turning down a 'big invitation' because I have a meeting with five members of a ministry unit in church. What changed? I realised that there is nothing as beautiful as sitting down with what the Lord has committed to your hands.

There is the spirit of Nehemiah that says, "I am doing a great work".

I sent messengers to say to them, "I am doing important work and can't go down there. I am not going to let the work stop just to go and see you." Nehemiah 6:3 GNT

If you are still trying to pursue the call to prove a point, you have a long way to go. You have bypassed the altar where self and flesh are sacrificed as a burnt offering unto the Lord.

There is the trap of Saul- it is a trap that forces you to make moves that are good for public reputation and social media imprints.

And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; therefore said I, The Philistines will come down

now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

1 Samuel 13:11-12 KJV

You will force yourself to look and appear in a certain way. You will do what our generation calls "borrow pose". You will even sell it as a great idea for David to use your armour. You will transfer patterns that did not work for you. If David was not confident in the sling and stone, the spirit of Saul would have taken over. That would have been the end of his story. There is a way you will abandon what the Lord has blessed you with to prove a point.

God does not need you to put yourself under any pressure to help him. You do not have to pile up debt so you can help God "look good". Be calm. Realise it is a journey. Be patient. God still shows up. While waiting, He will open your eyes to see what grace He has blessed you with. He will make you see the resources hidden in the men you have. You will realise that the vision God has given you is a marathon and not a sprint. He will open your eyes to the sling and stone under your nose. You will soon realise that God can do great things from "seeming small places".

If you do not understand this early, you will soon hear the words of Prophet Samuel that he told King Saul to re-echo to you loudly either directly or through situations:

"That was a foolish thing to do," Samuel answered. "You have not obeyed the command the Lord your God gave you. If you had obeyed, he would have let you and your descendants rule over Israel forever.

1 Samuel 13:13 GNT

Put pressure on your faith to go through the process in grand style. Do not get into trouble and then realise that you will still have to build the faith a little more than you did earlier.

CONFESSIO

I am not caught in the web of unhealthy competition. I stay in my lane. I do not skip processes.

DAY 12

“DADDY, WE ARE MAKING FOOTPRINTS”

Text: 2 Timothy 2:2 NKJV

And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

We sat outside enjoying the breeze in the evening and at the same time watched the children play. I saw my girls standing in a corner pouring water from a container to their feet. They would then walk some steps intentionally. They returned to pour water on their feet again and repeated the process.

In my curiosity, I asked them both about what they were doing. I wanted to stop them from creating such a mess but the answer they gave made me rethink. They both said, “We are making footprints”.

Instantly my mind went to leaving a legacy- I began to ask myself questions about what kind of footprints I was making in my generation. Were they lasting or ephemeral ones? Would they dry up and fast away so fast or would they be one of lasting impact?

There are people whose lives would be like that of the rich man in the story of Lazarus that Jesus shared. They have an opportunity to be a blessing to lives but the only thing that was recorded about their lives would be the clothes they wore, the food they ate, and the house they lived in. There would be nothing said about the lives they touched or the impact they made.

“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day”
Luke 16:19 NKJV

This must not be the summary of your life. It is not ordained to be so. You have an alternative in the summary of the life

of King David. Hear what was said of him:

“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption;
Acts 13:36 NKJV

David served his own generation by the will of God. He served the purpose of God in his generation. How was he able to achieve this feat? He simply lived out the will of God.

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

Your footprint will not fade when it is in line with the plan and purpose of God for your generation. When the story is being written, the pieces that will count are those that are in line with God’s plan and purposes. Some things fade away but some will last forever. You will make a choice every day of what will last or what will fade. You are writing a lasting or a fading story. What footprints are you making?

Think about it!

CONFESSIO N

I am not useless to my generation. I leave legacies for kingdom service.

DAY 13

DO NOT “CELEBRATE” WHAT THE DEVIL IS DOING

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.

We were all standing in front of my parent’s house when Danielle walked up to me with a gentle tap and whispered, “Daddy, I saw a snake”. I was almost in doubt about the way she said it. But I asked where she saw it and took me to the flower bed just in front of the house. Right, there was a little snake finding its way along the walls through the flower bed. It slipped to the concrete parts of the compound and we succeeded in killing it.

It took quite some training to attain that level of calmness but we did not expect she would apply it to things like “seeing a snake”.

In the same way, be spiritually sensitive. You must not get so carried away that the devil is now having a field day around you. Apostle Peter warned us that we must be sober and vigilant.

Be sober [well balanced and self-disciplined], be alert and cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion [fiercely hungry], seeking someone to devour.
1 Peter 5:8 AMP

Do not allow the devil space around you. The Apostle Paul told us not to give him a foothold.

Don’t give the devil any opportunity to work
Ephesians 4:27 GW

Once you are sensitive to spot any move of the enemy around you, please do not build a celebration around what the devil is doing. Do not idolize him. Do not dignify him with so much attention.

Some people are so focused on what the

devil is doing that they spend so much time glorifying the moves of the devil. No! Do not invest your energy in that direction.

Do not spend your entire life feeding on bad news. You cannot be the one with the constant report of the woes and evils of society. You have become the broadcast channel for every evil. You have an example of every terrible thing going on. Stop it.

Have you used the same energy you are using to share bad news to spread the good news of Christ? Everywhere the Lord Jesus Christ is glorified, the devil cannot have a field day. Thanksgiving chokes the moves of the enemy. Faith-filled words deny him a working environment.

Walk to the Father quietly and draw the strength you need. Go and trample upon snakes and scorpions. Move on like nothing happened. Go in thanksgiving to the Lord. Do not glorify the devil and his moves in any way.

Be sensitive.
Be vigilant.
Be discerning.
But do not dignify the devil with so much attention. He does not deserve it.

CONFESSION

I do not lose my sensitivity. I am vigilant in the spirit. I am discerning.

DAY 14

DO YOU WEAR CLOTHES TO CLASS?

Text: Romans 13:14 NIV

Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Years ago, I walked up to my pastor after service to exchange greetings with him.

At that same moment, a young girl also walked up to him. Pastor did not blink an eye at what she wore. I was already a bit shocked.

The pastor said to her, "I heard you have gained admission into the University now". She replied in the affirmative. Then Pastor asked the next question, "Do you wear clothes to class?" I could not forget that moment.

There are two ways you can appear as a believer: You can appear the way you want or you can appear as prescribed by the Word and the Spirit of the Lord.

When the King wanted a bride in the days of Esther, these two categories were there: All other maidens decided on what they wanted to wear and how they wanted to appear.

When it was time for her to go to the king's palace, she was given her choice of whatever clothing or jewellery she wanted to take from the harem. Esther 2:13 NLT

Esther listened to Hegai – the helper that was assigned to everyone. Hegai was available for all the maidens, but only Esther followed his instructions. Her helper had worked with the king for years, so he knew what pleased the king. Esther dressed as Hegai recommended, and she pleased the king.

When it was Esther's turn to go to the king, she accepted the advice of Hegai, the eunuch in charge of the harem. She asked for nothing except what he suggested, and she was admired by everyone who saw her. Esther 2:15 NLT

Did you see "She accepted the advice of Hegai?" Are you accepting or rejecting the counsel of the Lord when it comes to your appearance?

As a believer, you are not dressing to please yourself or dressing to kill or slay, you are

dressing to please the King of kings.

Everyone who decided to do it the way they wanted did not last in the presence of the king. They faded away.

The best day you should dress to please the King of kings is everyday:

Your wedding day is not an excuse to show some flesh so the beauty of the cloth can emerge.

Your birthday photoshoot is not an excuse to let down the guards.

That Baby Bump shoot is not an excuse for nudity.

And dear brother, watch how you appear also.

Our fashion sense is not dictated by trends but by the Word of the Lord that can never change.

If you allow the Spirit of the Lord to invade your wardrobe, would you still have clothes to wear? Would you allow the Spirit of God to show you what is pleasing to the King?

Hosea 2:2 in the Message Version says: "Tell her to quit dressing like a whore, displaying her breasts for sale..."

Are you presenting and representing Christ well?

CONFESSION

I honour God in my appearance. I discard attires that deface my Christian life. I am an ambassador for Christ.



“WILL YOU ALLOW ME TO MARRY YOUR BROTHER?”

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

As that priceless soul sat in front of me that day, I heard those words: “Sir, I feel nothing. I have done a lot of things wrong in my life”.

From getting sexually involved with close relatives to having an abortion. She had been through all.

I began to talk to her about God’s love, emphasizing that in Christ, her past is thrown into the sea of forgetfulness, and she is a new creature. I emphasized new.

Then she smiled. I said, “I thought you had no emotions”. She said, “I sense some great joy”.

Then she leaned forward and asked, “But Pastor, what if I am to marry your brother? With all you have heard, will you allow me?”

What a question!

I replied, “Why not! You are a new creature. You are new. My brother is not marrying that dead one. You are a new one in Christ”.

She was taken aback! She then burst into a great smile.

And that is the truth.

Honestly, you would not understand the weight of some challenges until it is close to home. She brought it home to me. You cannot preach what you cannot live.

Some Christian brothers preach the love of Christ but draw the line because “they cannot marry a non-virgin” even after she is in Christ now. Where is the love?

Family, the love of God is powerful. He wipes away that handwriting of sin, and you become a brand new template of His love.

He takes a broken soul and brings a global brand out of him.

In CHRIST, you are never your past (Can I say that a thousand times). You are new!

Whatever keeps reminding you of where you have been and bringing that shame and guilt is a bastard- It is not the Spirit of God.

God never uses our past as a tool to judge us. Only the devil does that. Sometimes, you judge yourself. But you are redeemed. You are new. Jesus died for both your sin and the consequence of that sin.

Sister, Brother, the fact that you had a terrible past does not make you a second-class kingdom citizen, and you now start settling for less in marriage.

There are no second-class gifts in God. You do not deserve lesser love. You have all the love of God.

Whoever (including yourself) looks down on you because of your past does not understand what God has done- the person is still in the past.

Wake up!

You deserve the best.

CONFESSION

My past is gone and forgiven. I am alive in Christ. I am not inferior. I am loved and cherished by God.

DAY 16

THE RIGHTEOUS MUST NOT GIVE EXCUSES FOR THEIR FLESH

Text: Galatians 5:1 NKJV

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

As a teenager and the son of a Pastor, every Sunday evening was dedicated to evangelism. We would normally go from house to house. We went to different parts of town.

One evening, the only adult with us was not heading back to church because her house was close by. I and another teenager had to return to church.

As we got to the commercial bike stand, I requested that I would take a different bike. The bike men saw no need since they carried two people. I insisted because the other party was a female teenager.

But much more, I would not put myself in any position that would return me to my struggles with pornography and masturbation. A few minutes on a bike with a female was a major alarm clock for me. For the bike men, I was being stupid or over-reacting. For me, I was being cautious and protective.

If you will live a life of dignity in Christ, do not give excuses for the flesh. Once you know that it is a trigger point for the flesh, do not go near it at all. If you are not strolling around a pit, you cannot fall into it. When you see a pit, you keep a distance.

In driving, there are some bad pits you could see by the side where kind people have erected red flags; you keep away from them as much as possible because some have actually become eroded underneath and are only waiting for the right weight to cave in; you never want to be the victim.

Let grace produce discipline in you. Do not

allow the flesh to cover the dagger of sin. Let there be no hiding spot for the strange habits.

The whole sword went in, handle and all, and the fat covered it up. Judges 3:22a GNT

You must deal with the weight and excesses in your life that become a cover-up for the sword of the enemy. Do not give your flesh the room to make excuses.

What is the trigger of sin that you are romancing? If you are struggling with lust, do not put yourself in a position that gratifies and triggers it.

Christ has helped you, but you have a duty:

So put to death and deprive of power the evil longings of your earthly body [with its sensual, self-centred instincts] immorality, impurity, sinful passion, evil desire, and greed, which is [a kind of] idolatry [because it replaces your devotion to God].

Colossians 3:5 AMP

Your assignment is simple- Put it to death. Deprive it of power. Do not do anything that empowers sin in your life.

Do you get it?

CONFESSION

I am not a sinning believer. I destroy whatever triggers sinful actions. I am delivered and free in Christ.

DAY 17

HOW COPYING CAN LEAD TO LESS

Text: Exodus 25:40 NLT

Be sure that you make everything according to the pattern I have shown you here on the mountain.

Some time ago, we were in an appraisal meeting in the ministry-looking circumspectly at the vision and things that have driven it this far. We concluded that there were things we lost because we wanted to copy something else. We concluded that “We must be secure in our model.”

One of the things you must pray for in life is the grace to be secure with the revelations (insight, ideas and concepts) that God has given you the privilege to host and implement.

Pressure can make you leave what has been working for you to copy what is working for someone else. At times, the motive is sincere, but the loss, in the long run, is an adulterated version of what God gave to you.

Joshua learned from Moses. Moses handed over to Joshua. Moses led the people to cross the Red Sea. Joshua led the people to cross the Jordan. Both did it in the instructed way. They waited for instructions.

There are times you will do exactly like another. Elisha parted the Jordan just like Elijah did with the cloak. However, there are times you will do it differently.

A discerning man would, therefore, spend time in fellowship with God per time to draw the method heaven has placed a seal on for the moment.

What opened up for Israel may bury Egypt. You must not be in a hurry to copy. It is good to be challenged by others, but it is better to be led by the Lord.

Maybe the giving of Barnabas challenged Ananias and Sapphira, but they got themselves into a mess by attempting to do the same at Barnabas's level. Do not kill yourself while trying to copy someone else. You may end up less than God intended.

Remember, those who compare themselves to themselves are not wise. Press in for divine inspiration. Even if it makes no sense, stick to the plan that heaven has set in your mind.

If you copy without the revelation behind it, it can lead to disgrace- the sons of Sceva can explain better! They saw firsthand what happens to those who copy without a mandate from God.

Be secure!

CONFESSION

I am not an insecure copycat believer. I stay on God's directives per time. I am led by the Spirit of God.



TWO THINGS THAT MUST BE CHECKED EVERY TIME YOU DRESS UP

Text: 2 Corinthians 3:2 NKJV

You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men.

A member of the church asked another member some years ago, “Does the Pastor see your status? Because if he sees this your status, I am sure by now you would have gotten a message from him!”

What was the issue? She was indecently dressed with her cleavage out, and she paraded it on her status.

Christianity and indecency are parallel lines- they will never meet. No matter how much you try to justify the fashion that exposes your body part, there is no scriptural backing for it. It is not Christ-like in any way.

You must begin to decide who defines your boundaries- fashion icons, secular music videos, or the framework of righteousness as specified in the Word of God and by the Holy Spirit.

Is God interested in how you appear? Certainly. Right from the Old Testament, he prescribed what the priests would wear. He gave two things that must be checked every time you dress up:

And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.

Exodus 28:2 KJV

The first question is, “Does it glorify God and all that He represents in my life?” After you have settled that, you then must ask, “Is it beautiful?” If it is beautiful to you but fails the first test of glorifying God, discard it!

Is Christianity promoting mediocre appearance? Not at all. Jesus told the story of a man who was kicked out of a wedding feast because he was not properly dressed:

“But when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who wasn’t wearing the proper clothes for a wedding. ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?’ But the man had no reply.

Matthew 22:11 – 12 NLT

Once you are a child of God, you cannot appear just anyhow. Let your dressing glorify God!

CONFESSION

My appearance glorifies God. I am not a bad example of a Christian.

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 19

DRAW THE LINE!

Text: Proverbs 6:27 AMP

Can a man take fire to his chest and his clothes not be burned?

A dear minister friend shared how a protégé called him once and said she had a dream where an ant bit her on her breast. She wanted to talk to him. He simply referred her to his wife. Those were not conversations meant for him.

The relationship between a minister and the people he leads can be one that has a huge emotional attachment.

Think of Moses: He prayed that God should wipe out his own name from the Book of Life while that of the rebellious nation of Israel is retained.

Moses went back to God and said, “This is terrible. This people has sinned—it’s an enormous sin! They made gods of gold for themselves. And now, if you will only forgive their sin.... But if not, erase me out of the book you’ve written.” Exodus 32:31 – 32 MSG

However, a minister must also know that there are lines that he cannot cross. He must always take the pain to do what is right.

For we take thought beforehand and aim to be honest and absolutely above suspicion, not only in the sight of the Lord but also the sight of men. 2 Corinthians 8:21 AMPC

You must not give room for the devil at all. If you give temptation grounds to thrive, you will soon start explanations that you would have avoided.

Paul warned Timothy: Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. 2 Timothy 2:22 NLT

Did you see that? Do not start hugging all the sisters in church under the guise of spiritual fathering. Do not start fires that you cannot quench or control. Beware!

“For how can a man light his pants on fire and not be burned?” Proverbs 6:27 TPT

Dear one, please draw the line!

CONFESS I O N

I run away from what stimulates sin and temptation. I am intentional about holy living.

DAY 20

THAT MISTAKE IS NOT THE END!

Text: Isaiah 30:15 AMP

For the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel has said this, "In returning [to Me] and rest you shall be saved, In quietness and confident trust is your strength." But you were not willing...

Danielle woke up in the middle of the night while I worked. After a while, she mentioned that she was hungry. There was a cup of beverage that Olive only took a sip out of some hours earlier. I offered that to her. As she drank, she wanted to move her leg and it all poured away. It pained me as she quietly narrated what happened. I saw the look on her face.

I had to go prepare another cup of beverage for her. When I offered it to her, I said to her, "This is warmer and you will like it". The initial one was already cold. At that very moment, I had a little "proud dad" moment. I was not happy that the beverage poured away. I told her to be careful next time but I was happy to see my daughter also satisfied.

God is not excited when we make mistakes, but God's love for you is more than your mistakes. If you are open to showing him where things went wrong, He is more than willing to improve.

For instance, the prodigal son came back home after a wasteful spree and some hard lessons from a pig's sty, yet the Father had great robes at home for a lost son.

But the father said to his servants, bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

Luke 15:22 KJV

God never runs out of supplies. We only keep running out of His presence. The devil delights in using schemes to keep people away from fellowship with the Lord.

Do not be attracted to what looks like a beautiful alternative. Do not eat a fruit while you lose a garden. It is a device.

No matter how messed up you are, the arm of the father is always open. His outstretched arm is wide enough to heal and provide.

When a man walks out of your life, rest assured in God that a better man will walk into your life.

You are not hopeless. You are not helpless. There is a host of love and grace in the Father's presence. Do not stay far from His presence.

CONFESSION

I do not wander from God's presence. I enjoy my Father's presence always.

DAY 21

WHEN GENUINE CARE BECOMES A PROBLEM

Text: Genesis 18:19 KJV

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

There was a night Danielle went to bed pretty early and she woke up hungry the next day. She was so hungry that she wanted to have anything in sight. She took some water first. Then as a caring Dad, I wanted her to be strong on time, so I gave her a drink. She rushed it. A few minutes later, she vomited everything. Her system could not tolerate it. In a bid to care, I rushed her into what her system was not ready for.

The best way to build anything is to do so strategically and systematically. Any time we wait for a crisis to pass on lessons, two things are likely to happen: first, we would be teaching from emotions and second, we are likely to get into extremes.

In the world of health, the practice is "prevention is better than cure". A dear father would always add, "It is not just better, it is cheaper". Over time, science developed the system of immunization. Through immunization, you prepare the body for a likely attack in the future. Why? We know that if we wait for the disease to break out before we commence treatment, things may already be late.

What is the point here? Your daily intake of the Word of God and your daily commitment to prayers is very essential. If you wait for a crisis to get into the Word and get into prayer, you are too late.

Second, the best time to know what the Lord has said about the institution of marriage is long before you get into it. You cannot start preparing for an examination in the examination hall- that would be too late.

We must begin to inoculate our children through thorough discipleship. Show them how to pray. Answer their questions from your heart and with the help of the Holy Spirit. Do not wait for a crisis. Do it while you have the

time.

Emotional responses in a crisis can lead to greater crisis. Churches have to become systematic in discipleship. We want a generation that is gifted but also rooted in Christ and displays greater character.

We want children who are groomed, not by the screens and the keypads but by the spirit of love and the intentionality of godly parents.

If we rush what we are meant to inject periodically, our seeds may end up choking on what we gave to help. We may have great intentions but end up with children who vomit back to us what we gave to bless them.

Dear fathers and mothers, this is the time to build the immune system of your seed. Prepare them for a world that is changing consistently.

Do not forget that we need to be as wise as serpents but equally be as gentle as doves.

Behold, I send you forth as sheep amid wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Matthew 10:16 KJV

CONFESSION

Nothing takes the place of my fellowship and devotion to God. I will teach my children the way of the Lord. I prepare them for a great future ahead.

DAY 22

YOU WILL MIRROR WHAT YOU DISLIKED IN YOUR FATHER EXCEPT...

Text: Jeremiah 35:19 NIV

Therefore this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'Jehonadab son of Rekab will never fail to have a descendant to serve me.'"

During one of our training sessions, a young man stood up and said to me, "I hate my father and what he is doing, but I am doing exactly the same today. I hated to see my father drunk, but now I am drinking. I know that I will end up like him, looking at the path I am already in. Thank you for showing me the way out today."

Most men will repeat the pattern of their fathers unconsciously, no matter how much they hate it.

I suspect that Reuben hated the way that Jacob treated his mother, Leah. As the first son, he probably saw the need to defend his mother. He saw his mother negotiate for time with his father using the mandrakes he brought from the field as a bargaining chip.

Wait! Do you know the intent behind his name? So Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben; for she said, "The Lord has surely looked on my affliction. Now; therefore, my husband will love me." (Genesis 29:32 NKJV)

Reuben, in his anger, began to make very silly decisions:

First, right after the death of his stepmum, he laid with her maid (who already had sons for his father).

And it happened, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah, his father's concubine, and Israel heard about it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve: (Genesis 35:22 NKJV)

Second, he made very rash decisions. Some of his decisions were very unprocessed and sounded weird. Listen to this:

Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you; put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you." (Genesis 42:37 NKJV)

Eventually, he lost his birthright as the first son. Jacob cursed him.

"Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of

dignity and the excellency of power. Unstable as water, you shall not excel Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it— He went up to my couch." (Genesis 49:3-4 NKJV)

There are angry young men today who saw their father sleep with multiple girls while their mum looked helpless. Today, they already have multiple sex partners.

Some hated their father because he was a drunkard. They fought him and called him names. They say they are social drinkers but forget that habits are never formed in one day.

They hated that their father was not responsible but they also are not growing the necessary spiritual discipline that forms the foundation of a great life.

There are two things that will help you:

Forgive your father: Forgiveness sets you free from the trap of offence. The offence holds you down in the same mess that you are fighting. The man you refuse to forgive is more powerful than you are. He controls your reactions and emotions. Forgiveness denies such a man that power.

Follow a Mentor: You will unconsciously repeat the mistakes of your father, except you have a mentor as a mirror who models a new reality and points you away from your default destructive tendencies.

When you find such a man, even if it is your pastor, stay close. That is your help- an answer to your prayers.

CONFESS I O N

I am not an extension of a bad pattern. I do not relate with my parents in hatred. I pioneer a godly pattern.

DAY 23

YOUR CHARACTER CAN BE A KEY OR A LOCK!

Text: Proverbs 22:1 AMP

A good name [earned by honorable behavior, godly wisdom, moral courage, and personal integrity] is more desirable than great riches; And favor is better than silver and gold.

I got information from a reliable source requesting that I recommend some people for a job in a financial institution. While processing and thinking about those I could reach out to, I remembered a young man who was not close to me in any way, but I knew he needed such an opportunity.

I placed a call to those who knew him better to ask whether they would personally recommend him for such a job. The persons I spoke with said they cannot recommend him because of his character especially when it comes to money. That was the end of the opportunity.

Friends, one of the things that can open a door of favour for you is a great character and a good name. Some names are like keys. They will open doors.

Jonathan was dead, but his name opened a door for Mephibosheth in David's palace. He had a good name.

Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"
II Samuel 9:1 NKJV

But we must also understand that one of the things that can close or even slam the door of favour on your face is a bad character or a bad name. Some names are not keys. They are like padlocks. They shut people out of opportunities.

For instance, it is so hard for people to give their children names like Judas. Why? Someone bore that name and left a "forever" stain on it. It is a good name, but a character

spoiled it.

There was a time when a young man who had worked in a ministry office got another job. His new employer sent a reference form to his former employer. One of the questions there was, "Can you employ him again?"

Beloved, do not stain your life's journey with bad examples. As terrible as Laban was, he knew that Jacob was a blessing. He told Jacob himself:

And Laban said to him, "Please stay, if I have found favour in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the Lord has blessed me for your sake." Then he said, "Name me your wages, and I will give it."
Genesis 30:27 – 28 NKJV

Can your employer say the same about you? Can they trace the growth of their business to your contribution? Are you building a good name, or are you just coasting along with anything that comes?

Do not let desperation for wealth and survival make you sacrifice ultimate reward for immediate pleasure. Stand strong in character. Stand strong in your tests. Live a good name. Leave a good name.

CONFESSION

I build a solid character. I am an embodiment of good reports. I am a candidate of favour.

HOW TO OVERCOME A BEGGARLY MINDSET

Text: Psalm 23:1 NIV

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

In the early years of ministry, I went to visit a dear family that I love dearly. Normally, when I visited as an undergraduate, it was certain that I would leave with some good money in my pocket. Do you know the way a broke student announces to his uncle or aunt the day he will be leaving? If he is leaving on Tuesday, he will start reminding them on Friday. It was always a subtle reminder that they should prepare some cash without saying a lot. It always works.

This time around, I announced my departure on the day of my arrival. I was to stay for 48 hours. I did not drop any subtle reminders. My uncle and aunt went to work very early and once it was time to travel, I also returned to base.

That evening, my aunt called and said, "Even if you are now a big man and you do not need anything, you should at least let me send something to my sister." The truth was that I needed something but I made up my mind that it was time to grow up and live in the consciousness of the blessing of God's call upon my life.

The blessing is empowerment to prosper. Every child of God is blessed. When God called Abraham, he was just one person. But by the blessing of the Lord, he was increased. If you are God's child, you are blessed. If you are called of the Lord, it is unto increase and never unto shame or disgrace.

One of the things you must deal with is the mindset of a beggar. A blessed man is not always looking for opportunities to take. Rather, he seeks opportunities to give.

If you are blessed but do not live in the consciousness of it, you will slave with the blessing on your life. You will be like Jacob in the house of Laban; what took your father a few days to get done, you can struggle for it for 14 years. Isaac got Rebecca from the same place Jacob got Leah and Racheal.

A man carrying the blessing was struggling for bread, brides, and the benefit of employment until he came to a breaking point, and the sun

rose over his life in Peniel. The sun that set at Bethel when he slept symbolically rose when he refused to sleep at Peniel.

Everything changed afterwards. One of the most significant things about Jacob was when he met Pharaoh in famine. Jacob was no longer thinking of what he would get. Jacob's mindset had changed. See this:

So Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from before Pharaoh. Genesis 47:10 NKJV

Jacob was now the one blessing Pharaoh.

When you live as a blessed student, you will still look for ways to bless your parents, even if it is to buy airtime on their phones periodically. You would not keep saying, "How much do they give me?"

When uncles, aunts, or relatives visit from overseas, you will not hang around them with all your needs on your face. You will welcome them with a gift also without thinking of what they brought for you. You will keep seeking opportunities to be a blessing.

When you are on a job, you know that no matter what you are paid, you are blessed already. You have no scarcity mindset. You know you transact with favour. You know the oil of gladness is upon your life.

When God asks you to give, you do it with joy. You do not start calculating how you will survive. You know that God can take care of and meet your needs.

Beloved, you have been redeemed from lack and its accomplices. Live in the consciousness of the blessing. Look at yourself and say; I am blessed!

CONFESSIO

I am not a beggar in destiny. The Lord supplies my needs. I do not live in lack.



DO THIS WHENEVER YOU ARE ANGRY

Text: Ecclesiastes 7:9 ESV

Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools.

We were in the middle of a conversation. Irewamiri said something that got me angry, and I decided to hold my breath. She did not realize it, though. I walked away from the place where we were having the conversation.

I paused and spoke these words to the Lord: “Lord, help me to choose the right response in the middle of all of this. Help me to show genuine love. Help my heart in Jesus’ name. Amen”. It seems a stone was rolled away. In a few minutes, I was back to my wife, hugging and playing with her as we spoke. I told her what happened days later.

Anger is not the driver of your decisions. Do not let anger control you. Once you are disappointed in anything or anyone, anger wants to take over the wheels of your decisions; do not accept! Paul told the Ephesians:

But don’t let the passion of your emotions lead you to sin! Don’t let anger control you or be fuel for revenge, not for even a day. Don’t give the slanderous accuser, the Devil, an opportunity to manipulate you! Ephesians 4:26-27 TPT

Whenever anger is allowed to take the wheels, the consequences can be damning. Simeon and Levi had a problem with anger. At the end of the days of Jacob, hear what their father said to them:

Simeon and Levi are two of a kind, ready to fight at the drop of a hat. I don’t want anything to do with their vendettas, want no part in their bitter feuds; They kill men in fits of temper, slash oxen on a whim. A curse on their uncontrolled anger, on their indiscriminate wrath. I’ll throw them out with the trash; I’ll shred and scatter them like confetti throughout Israel.

Genesis 49:5-7 MSG

One type of friend that you must avoid is the angry friend:

Sensible people are careful to stay out of trouble, but stupid people are careless and act too quickly. People with a hot temper do foolish things; wiser people remain calm. Proverbs 14:16-17 GNT

There are marriages where anger takes over the wheel, breaks down communication, and introduces what they named “Irreconcilable differences”.

Anger took over thriving partnerships in businesses and two people who needed each other to survive split ways and went into oblivion.

Anytime you see anger attempting to take the wheel of anything you are committed to, fight back with the Spirit of Grace and Supplication. Ask the Holy Spirit for help. He sure will help you.

Anger has no dominion over you. You have the right attitude in tough times.

In the name of Jesus, you recover every foothold that anger had given to the devil in your life and relationships.

CONFESSIO N

I am not given to the spirit of anger. Anger is not permitted in my space. I have the meekness of the spirit.



THINGS YOU CARRY BUT YOU DO NOT KNOW

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:7 NKJV

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

About eight years ago, I was preaching in the city of Calabar. I heard the choir take a song that I fell in love with- "Your presence is like Heaven to me". I wish I had the song, but it lodged in my spirit that day. They sang just before I ministered that night.

Shockingly, while praying early the next morning in my hotel room, I was playing music from my phone. The same song began to play. I was shocked. I had the song all this while on my phone, but it took a meeting to make me realise that I had it. I am certain it must have been played before, but I did not pay attention to it.

The questions today for you are:

What do you carry?

What have you been bestowed with that you are not paying attention to?

Are you in the right place and company that will unlock the grace and gifts of God you carry within you?

First, you are a bundle of God's grace and possibilities. Whether you believe it or not, God has invested so much in you. You are carrying enough to be a blessing at least to your generation. You are a seed that can bless the nations and the generation you are a part of. You are carrying a great treasure!

We are like common clay jars that carry this glorious treasure within, so that this immeasurable power will be seen as God's, not ours.
2 Corinthians 4:7 TPT

Second, you must pay attention to the deposits of God in your life. The devil is still out there looking for what to steal and who to kill and destroy. He will use all sorts of things to

distract and derail a man. You must maintain brutal focus. The devil can join a man early in life just to ensure that he adds things to his life that make him limited or useless by the time the demand of destiny beckons. Do not let him introduce you to mixtures that corrupt your journey.

Those who sing nonsense today in our generation are corrupted versions of God's intention for them. What is meant to bless a generation has become the battles of that generation- gifted men have become corrupted and have corrupted others!

Finally, do you know there is a company that you get into that unlocks the potential you carry? A company with three beloved ones unlocked the gifts and callings of God upon my life in my days at the University. I saw them love God genuinely and stir many into righteousness. I saw them pray for hours. It unlocked gifts and graces in me.

There is an Antioch you get to that opens up the missions of God for you. There is a company you get into that men begin to ask whether King Saul is also a son of the prophet.

The earlier you find the right company, the better. Why? The enemy wants to recruit you to corrupt the same generation you should have been a blessing to.

CONFESS I O N

I pay attention to God's deposits in me. I will not waste God's investment in me.



SOME MATTER CAN NOT AND MUST NOT WAIT

Text: 1 Samuel 21:8 NIV

David asked Ahimelek, "Don't you have a spear or a sword here? I haven't brought my sword or any other weapon, because the king's mission was urgent."

That evening, my Dad got a call from one of our neighbours. He asked Dad to come over with a stick to his house. We went over armed with sticks and a good light source.

There was no time for pleasantries. He called from his kitchen, "Please come in here". A snake was hiding under the sink. He knew that he could not leave the kitchen and suffer the risk of the snake disappearing into a place he did not know. He waited in the kitchen so he could know the exact spot where the snake stayed. When he saw that he had nothing to use to kill the snake, he called for help. We killed the snake that night. Afterward, they had time for pleasantries.

Beloved, some matters cannot wait. It would be like sleeping in your house knowing that a snake was lurking somewhere around having a field day. You cannot take things for granted. You must not take things for granted.

Paul wrote clearly about not giving the devil a foothold. When the snake is given a free field of operation in the Garden of your life, it is just a matter of time before it takes over the garden. You will lose it all.

I would always tell my children that there were matters that I would have to shout about first and explain later. For instance, if you are about to place your fingers in fire. I will scream to stop you first. Afterward, I will explain. Why? Some matters cannot wait.

Do you remember the Shunnamite woman? They brought her son back from the field dead on arrival. She laid the boy on the bed of Prophet Elisha. She asked that they saddle a donkey for her and made a request, "Do not slack for me". Why? You cannot be battling for life and sipping some drink as you drive. Never! There are matters that cannot wait.

Nathan warned Bathsheba that if she kept quiet while Adonijah schemed, she was joking with death:

Now then, let me advise you how you can save your own life and the life of your son Solomon.
1 Kings 1:12 NIV

What was his advice? "Go immediately..."

You cannot have a cold home, and you keep going out to spend some time with your friends. That is like leaving a snake in your bedroom and taking a stroll expecting to sleep well all night. Stand up and address it. Ask for wisdom, patience, and the meekness required to solve the matter. Why? Some matters cannot and must not wait.

Recently, we were in a clinic. The doctor confronted a patient who had skipped some of the procedural treatments. Every ground they had gained medically had become a waste. They have to start all over again. Unfortunately, at a higher cost and more invasive procedures. Why? The patient thought some things could wait.

There are your relatives and friends that you must share the gospel with urgently. Why? Some things cannot wait. If you have the cure for cancer and your family member is diagnosed with such, would you keep quiet? There are matters that must not wait.

A beloved one had a prompt to share the gospel with an old woman he saw on his way to church. He did and she gave her life to Christ. The next day, he wanted to stop by to follow up with her. He met a crowd mourning her death. Some things cannot wait. If you have to repent, do not postpone it. If you are meant to forgive, do it now. If there is someone you need to call, do it now.

Do not allow sin to lurk within your walls while you sleep. Do not hold on to the good news when you can bless a life. These matters cannot wait.

The devil, like the armed robber or burglar, knows that he has a limited time, but do you know one of his greatest lies to you: "You can wait". Do not believe that liar. Take steps to reconcile with your spouse. Take parenting seriously. Share the good news. Some things cannot wait.

CONFESSION

*I do not slack about key matters of life.
I act with a great sense of urgency and
commitment in God's service.*



DO NOT FORCE PEOPLE INTO YOUR CONVICTION

Text: Isaiah 28:16 NKJV

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily."

I made a definitive decision on a vital ministry relationship. The day I mentioned it, she was greatly overjoyed. I had not seen that glow before. Later, she informed me that the Lord gave her a word about the situation and that relationship about three years earlier.

I asked her why she did not mention it. She said, "I did not want to force you into it by my conviction but I am glad you have gotten it also at last". That decision is one of the finest ever in my life, our marriage and the ministry.

It took a lot of strength to wait patiently for three years for the Word she heard from the Lord to crystallize. In the end, it was worth it. What did she do while she waited? She prayed for me. She trusted the Lord for it. She held it like a pregnancy.

There are times you must allow the move of the Lord to go on a full cycle without you hijacking it. Why should you give it time?

First, it may not be the will of the Lord at all. For instance, Sarah hijacked a divine move by suggesting that Abram should sleep with Hagar so they could have a child through her. It became a generational error.

Second, it can be a test of your character. King Saul forced himself to make a sacrifice instead of waiting for Prophet Samuel. It was the beginning of many impatient moves. It cost him the kingship

and eventually his life.

Faith comes by hearing. Thank God that you have heard but do you know that faith travels with patience also? It takes faith and patience to obtain the promise:

"We want you to be like those who, because of their faith and patience, will get what God has promised"
Hebrews 6:12 ERV

It is also important to state that forcing someone into your conviction can become a form of manipulation and control. Those two are ingredients of witchcraft.

Finally, when you hear it and know it, for you, it is faith. However, for the person you forced, intimidated, or manipulated (maybe unknowingly) into it, it is not faith. It is a risk. When there is trouble, they will have no handle of faith to hold on to. Things will get slippery. You will regret that you forced them.

Be patient.

Trust the Lord.

Do not hijack the process.

CONFESSION

I will not interrupt the workings of God in me. I will not hijack divine processes. I believe, so I do not act hastily.



DO NOT CONCEAL WHAT CAN RUIN YOUR MARRIAGE

Text: Romans 12:10 NIV

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

There was a Sunday afternoon when issues just began to brew. Irewamiri and I did not seem to find our sync and rhythm. She even strolled from the house for some hours. We would normally resolve all matters, no matter what, before going to bed. That night, I pranked her, but it solved the matter. I told her that our trainer and spiritual mum would call her in the morning. It worked. We resolved, but I told her it was a prank.

A dear brother said he was having some issues with his wife. As it got a bit tougher, he spotted his wife dialling the number of their spiritual parents. Before the line rang at all, all matters were resolved. He simply told her, “Babe, it is not that serious that you have to call them.”

If you have someone (maybe a pastor or trainer) who can hold you accountable, make sure you do not get angry when your misdemeanour is reported to the person. Some folks turn the heat on their spouse when they are reported for misbehaving. You are slipping into lust. Someone is pulling you away from sudden death. You are still getting angry. The demons on your case must be having a huge party. Wake up!

It is dishonourable to say to your spouse, “I know you want to talk to our pastor about it, and I don’t care.” It is simply a lack of regard. It is pride. Pride wrecks lives.

Let your spouse call you names, but if there is any issue that can wreck your family, please scream out. Your spouse’s personal decision can wreck your home.

If he or she is stealing from work and you see him or her spending above what they earn, and they are also elusive with necessary explanations, do not keep quiet. An “Achan” disaster may be loading. It ate up that entire family.

If your spouse suddenly has sudden “miracles,” please confirm if they are indeed miracles or if they are “Gehazi Leprosy” loading. Do not keep quiet.

Do not keep quiet. Help comes when you ask for it. There is a time to cover the multitude of wrongs, but there is a time to expose a can of worms. You cannot sleep with a poisonous snake in your bedroom. Once it is a snake, you rarely wait to confirm if it is a friendly one. You do not keep quiet. You speak out to handle that creepy thing. Same here- do not keep quiet.

Is he or she financially reckless? Beware!

Does he or she have a concubine? No matter the manipulation. Do not keep quiet. One son of a concubine killed sixty-nine sons of Gideon born through his wives. Only one escaped.

Is he or she covering an evil? Do not keep quiet. It may be the beginning of the flow of blood in your home. Amnon may be prepping up to rape Tamar. Do not keep quiet.

As a pastor, I have seen a situation that does not need to get messy become a cancer because a spouse was intimidated into silence. Refuse it. Scream! It will save your life. Do it for generations yet unborn.

Hear this: And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. Ephesians 5:11-12 NKJV

Expose evil!

Don’t condone darkness!

CONFESSION

I embrace accountability in my marriage. I embrace communication. Darkness has no place in my home.



PARENTING DOES NOT HAVE TO BE HARD

Text: Psalm 22:30 NLT

Our children will also serve him. Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord.

We came back late from church that Sunday afternoon. Just before you could blink an eye and go through the Sunday afternoon routine of cooking, cleaning, and at least resting, Daddy was already at our door telling us it was time for the regular Sunday evening evangelism.

My brother would give none of it. I was too young to be rebellious. My brother said, "I am not going this evening. Do we have to go to church all the time?" Daddy turned around without saying a word. I followed him gently. But my brother stayed home that evening.

I cannot remember Dad scolding him afterward. It all died a natural death. Today, we are both ministers of the gospel. My brother spends his life now for the sake of the gospel. In my estimation, he spends more time today doing ministry than he was complaining about then.

Beloved parents, you do not have to start shouting and screaming about an issue with your seed. Let that shouting and screaming be in the spirit. Settle matters on the knees before you take it up in a conversation.

I know a mother whose son was getting entangled in the wrong friendships. She did not say a word. She was warm towards him and his friends but hotter in the place of intercession. It all died a sudden natural death in a matter of months. The son lost interest in those friends. It was not a shouting match.

Begin by being an example. Model that future you want your child to have. Be the first example of what you desire.

Children easily copy what they see.

Make sure you are their first teacher. Do not delegate or transfer parenting to the school, Sunday school teacher, or worse still social media, cartoons, or any other such representative. Watch it.

Raise them with scriptures. This is key. You train up a child in the way that he should go. When he is old, he will not depart from it. It is easier to train when they are still children. Do not wait and start struggling when they are already formed. If you do not train as a child, you will lose them as teenagers.

If you have not raised them with scriptures, it will be manipulative of you to then start using scriptures as a tool of correction. It will not work at that time. If you did not show them the place of honouring spiritual leaders, do not try to say things like, "Is this what you were taught in church?" Be the example first.

Do you know that you should be the first person to share the gospel with your children? Yes! Tell them about Jesus Christ. Teach them about the Holy Spirit. This is very key. May the Lord help us raise mighty seeds.

Amen.

CONFESSION

I am committed to raising godly seeds. I am a good model to my children.



FATHER THAT CHILD

Text: Proverbs 22:6 NKJV

Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

One of my beloved families, a dear son and daughter in the faith, became first-time parents, and I was in charge of naming their seed. I was awake, trusting the Lord for a word to the parents. The naming ceremony was an hour-long service and the Word session was just about fifteen minutes. Early that morning, the Lord spoke to me. He said to tell him "Father, that child." I declared as instructed.

There are two streams for rating a child as depicted by the life of Moses. Both streams are essential, but one is very critical.

At this time Moses was born, and was well pleasing to God, and he was brought up in his father's house for three months. But when he was set out, Pharaoh's daughter took him away and brought him up as her own son. And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and deeds.

Acts 7:20-22 NKJV

There are two houses here:

First is The Father's House. This is the place of nurturing conviction, identity, and covenant. He was reminded that he was a Jew. He was also taught that there is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The training in this house is very essential. It is a training that cannot be delegated. When the training in this house is not solid, we will lose a lot of Moses to the House of Pharaoh with a distorted identity of who they are.

The second is Pharaoh's House. Pharaoh's House is like our secular education. It will sharpen your gifts and abilities. It will open the doors of politics, corporations, and commerce for you. It is also very important.

The challenge is that many who were not immunized with solid training about their identity and the heritage of faith they have are now matriculated into Pharaoh's House. They have become weaponized against the house that should have raised them.

Some have become over-enlightened, and the light in them has become darkness. Have you ever driven at night facing the full beam of another car's headlamp? You either have to slow down or stop outright before you can see again.

Teach them the values they have in Christ.

Show them the beauty of their God-given gender. Point them to the one who made them and is coming back for them. Immunize them spiritually.

There are those raised in Christian homes today that have no Christian values. They have become Pharaoh's spokesperson. The magic of the land has won their soul. There are those with Christian names but no Christ in them.

Dear parents, let your home be the base of discipleship for your children. Teach them Christ. Show them the way. The church no one can shut down is the one in your home. Make sure it is stable, standing, and solid. Make sure it is ablaze. Give answers to the questions in the hearts of your children. Let them know their identity early. It will be a blessing in years to come.

CONFESSION

My seeds are godly. I pass to them the heritage of godliness. I am a responsible parent.



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