

- JUNE 2023 -

COMPASS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



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FOR
SALE!**

Temiloluwa Ola

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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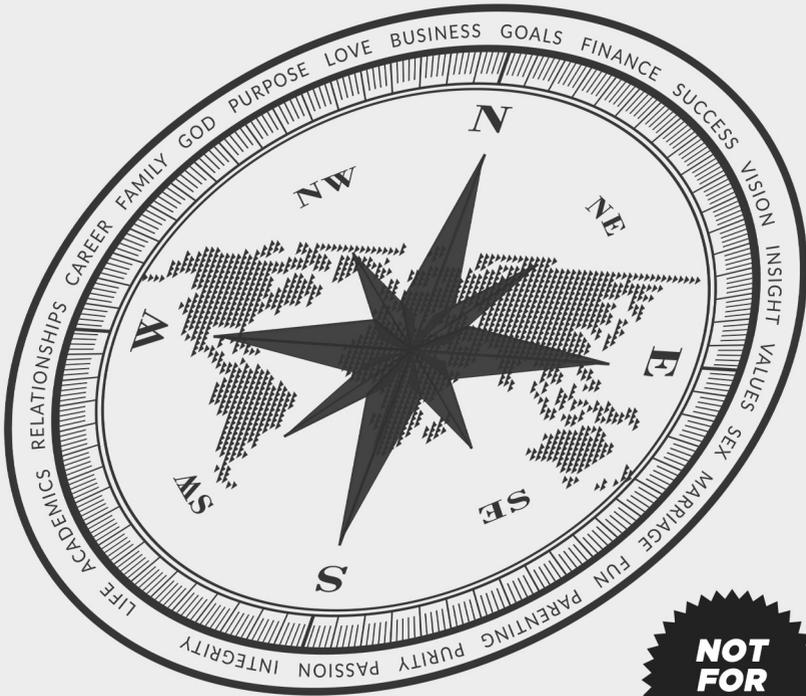
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Introduction

Every day has a lesson hidden in it. We can only draw it out if we are patient enough to look closely! Our pains can become a point of thanksgiving. Our smiles can become another's push for another mile.

What do you gain reading this devotional? There should at least be a practical thought that can make your day productive.

The story should lift your spirit. The letters should come to life. You can spot where you are in the middle of a simple story. But more, you can spot who you will be at the end of a thought.

I simply want to be a part of your story-
See you smile when you would normally frown;
See you grow instead of standing on a spot;

See you choose what is right without a fear of what might go wrong;
See you pursue life with a cause just like Christ who died on the Cross;

See you read up God's love letter to you as you beam with smiles each day;
See you love your dear ones and dare your limitations and obstacles;

See you run this race to end while taking each day with grace;
See you when time ceases to count and give you a high five that we finished the race with Joy!

I write because I love God and I love you.

Do not forget! The Compass Devotional is not a substitute to your Bible Study. It is only a complement of it.

The Lord bless you and multiply you all around.

Feedback

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **CHISOMAGA, ABUJA**

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

- **JUSTINA OYEDEJI, ILE-IFE, OSUN STATE**

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

TGod bless you, Pastor.

- **MICHAEL, GHANA**

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

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

- **TOLULOPE, IBADAN**

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

- **ESTHER AMOS, ENUGU**

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

- **DESIRE, UGANDA**

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

- **INILOUWA, OGBOMOSHO, OYO STATE**

Feedback

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

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

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

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

- JEREMIAH UGWULEBO, PORTHARCOURT

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

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

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

- REBECCA OSEYI, EDO STATE

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

- MARIE LAUREL, CAMEROON

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

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

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

- NANCY GABRIEL, NASARAWA

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

Thank you so much Sir

- OPE POPOOLA, UNITED KINGDOM

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

- OLUWABUSOLAMI, LAGOS

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

- DUDLEY CHIDZIVA, ZIMBABWE

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

- PATRICIA, ABUJA



The Righteous Must Be Bold About Their Values

Text: 1Thesalonians 4:7AMP

“For God has not called us to impurity, but to holiness [to be dedicated, and set apart by behaviour that pleases Him, whether in public or in private].”

Two of my dear Protégés had their pre-wedding photoshoot. It was quite lovely, but something rose in me when and where I saw them having a very intimate and seductive dance during the shoot.

I called them up and said, “What kind of dance is that?” They both said, “And our hearts did not agree with it. We just did it when the photographer requested we did”. I told them, “You should have resisted such a suggestion. It is your own wedding and your convictions and not that of the photographer”. They pulled down that part of their video shoot.

Friend, the righteous is as bold as a lion. Do not allow anyone to put you on the spot where they make you feel like you are “overdoing” things. The fact that it is popular does not mean it is right for you.

We are not called to tolerate sin. We are called to hate sin:

“Love is to be sincere and active [the real thing—without guile and hypocrisy]. Hate what is evil [detest all ungodliness, do not tolerate wickedness]; hold on tightly to what is good.” (Romans 12:9 AMP)

You are not married until you are married. You cannot be sleeping in the same bed and room in courtship. Cohabitation is not Christ-like. You cannot be rubbing private parts in a video shoot, it is not

Christ-like. Hate what is evil.

There must never be a hint of sexual immorality among us:

“But sexual immorality and all [moral] impurity [indecent, offensive behaviour] or greed must not even be hinted at among you, as is proper among saints [for as believers our way of life, whether in public or in private, reflects the validity of our faith].” (Ephesians 5:3 AMP)

An ambassador of Christ cannot and must never be an ambassador of lust. Let people call you names but it is better to stand with Christ.

When next anyone under the guise of a profession suggests immorality to you, do not be afraid. You are righteous. The righteous are as bold as a lion. Respond boldly. Take a stand for your faith and conviction in Christ.

CONFESSIO N

I stand for what is pure. I do not allow profanity in me. Lust does not reign in my vessel.



Be Free From The Trap of “Strange Men”

Text: 2 Timothy 3:15 NLT

“You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.”

A “prophet” told Irewamiri that she was going to get pregnant before marriage. If it happens, she should not be afraid. Irewamiri had a good moment laughing in her heart. She knew that could never happen. Why? We knew we were never going to drop the standard.

First, the standard of God has not changed. You can change the name of fornication to premarital sex, hook-up, or whatever fancy name the world gives it. You cannot change the standard of God.

“God’s will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor— not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways.” (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 NLT)

Second, you need to understand this: Doctrine regulates character. If you listen to “teachers” who excuse sin, you can never live above sin. You will excuse sin.

“Nevertheless, I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.” (Revelation 2:20 NKJV)

Men are seduced by teachings. Once seduced, they begin to commit immorality. Any teaching or prophecy that has no foundation in the fear of the Lord will lead your soul astray.

Third, one major way that the devil has entered into the life of a man is through character failure. Character failure operates like the proverbial man whose enemies seek

to roast him alive yet he keeps rubbing petrol on his body. He has made their work easier. If you will be free from strange prophets and their prophecies:

Be rooted in the Word of the Lord. You cannot afford to be ignorant of the Word of the Lord. Can the prophecy be backed up by scriptures? Is there a witness in your spirit man by the Holy Spirit living in you? Does the prophecy promote the Lordship of Jesus or it is just a salutation and exaltation of the flesh?

Also, build a solid character. If a “prophet” tells you that you need a second wife to secure your wealth, you would never do it when you know the Word of God, have the fear of the Lord and have no desire in the flesh already for wild flames. If you are seeking convenient options, the devil will offer you cheaper alternatives in destiny that have expensive repercussions. The price of compromise is always the soul of a man. Your soul is the highest commodity on the earth.

Finally, be rooted in a Bible-believing and practicing church where the word of God and prayer are foundational. If you jump from church to church and from mountain to mountain, you will end up opening your life, marriage, and family to “strange men”, “sharp practices, and seducing spirits. Beware!

CONFESS I O N

I hold fast to the word of God. I am not seduced and deceived by strange teachings. I don’t endanger my life to deception.



Drag Sorrow Out of The Equation

Text: Nehemiah 8:10 AMP

"...and do not be worried, for the joy of the LORD is your strength and your stronghold."

After quite some years of battling eye challenges, we returned home from a family event one evening to some sad news. Just like the blackness in the sky, all seemed to shut down when Mum told Dad she could not see any of us. It was not a fun day. But the next thing my mum did is quite instructive.

She proceeded on a fast to seek the face of the Lord. It was quite a bit of a long fast but she persisted. She eventually returned with scripture that changed the story:

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into diverse temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." (James 1:2-4 KJV)

Beloved, the first thing that you must never allow a crisis to do to you is simple – never let a crisis choose your reaction. Let scripture determine your response. If you allow the crisis to take the wheels, it will end in disaster. If you allow scripture and the Spirit of the Lord to guide you in crisis, the tables will turn and out of the crisis, a testimony will emerge.

Second, your response to the crisis is more powerful than the crisis in itself. Apostle James said that the total summation of whatever comes your way must be joy. You must bring that sorrow to the altar of sacrifice and let it rise as a sweet-smelling sacrifice to the Lord.

Sacrifices in the Old Testament had bitter

ingredients in them. Whatever is bitter must be laid on the altar. If you carry that bitter situation in your heart, it will lead to bitterness and your response will be poor. But if you lay it on the altar, you have removed the sting of hell, or like our generation will say "You have dodged a bullet."

Third, let joy become the fuel for your new season. My mum had to resign from her job as a lecturer but with joy and in her state, she began to help nurse two babies of young mothers while they were away at work. Today, that act has given her a thriving school that she still oversees. If you remove the sting in that crisis, the table can turn or a testimony can emerge. Every crisis can be a turning point depending on how you respond. If you panic and respond in fear, that can lead to greater sorrow. But if you lean on the grace of the Lord and follow through with the wisdom from the Word, it will turn around for your good.

I pray for you: In a crisis, you will thrive. In this nation, you will rejoice and see the goodness of the Lord. Your season of abundance is here. This is not the end!

CONFESS I O N

I am joyful always. My joy is not regulated by circumstances. I respond to challenges with joy. I overcome with the joy of the Lord.

Lesson From an Accident

Text: Ephesians 6:18 NIV

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

I cannot remember the gathering but I knew that some of the ministers in the church were asked to say a word about their pastor. A beloved one brought back memories when she shared about how I reacted after an accident.

After one of our services, they went on a routine trip of dropping folks in a neighbouring town. On their way returning, they had an accident. When she came to inform me in my office, I asked her, “Is everyone fine?” She said Yes. She was surprised that I was not shouting or angry.

Eventually, when I strolled out to see the extent of the damage, it was quite bad. But I insisted that the young man who drove should find some rest. Expressing gratitude to God. What she did not know was that I wanted to break a fast that Saturday and the Lord said, “Pray and fast till after service on Sunday”. It would have been worse. My daughter was in the car and the accident happened at the junction of our house. It would have left a terrible scar.

First, I would say to you that you should never joke with the prompt to pray. The Holy Spirit can be taking a hold of your spirit to intercede to avert evil or expedite good. If you discountenance an urge to pray, you do not know particularly what you missed. It does not have to be that evil did not happen, it could simply be that you missed out on something you will eventually require in five years or even ten years.

A dear teacher once had a prompt to leave the queue in his bank to go to another bank. The Holy Spirit instructed him to go in and open an account. He did not need it but he obeyed. Inside the bank, he met an old friend.

It seemed like a casual meeting. But some years down the line, the meet-up that day later yielded massive testimonies. Never joke with prompts from the Spirit of the Lord.

Second, your walk of obedience to the Spirit of the Lord will help you to respond in a godly manner in the middle of a crisis. You would have lost the energy or tendency to respond negatively. You will not explode, or begin a blame game. Why? The Holy Spirit in you will produce fruits of righteousness and peace. Your joy will also be safeguarded.

Finally, if you are in a position of leadership, please care genuinely for people. They are the unnamed yet priceless asset in your organizational register. If you have people serving you, care for them. Love them indeed. People are priceless.

Do not forget- Never joke with the urge to pray. You do not know what is on the way. Let the Holy Spirit produce a godly response in you and through you. Your response today can become a testimony tomorrow. Treat people who work with or for you well. They are people and not things!

CONFESS I O N

I am alert to the prompts of the Holy Ghost. I respond to divine nudges. I am helped by the spirit of God in the place of prayer.

DAY
05

Was It A “Testimony” or Your Test?

Text: James 1:19 NKJV

“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath...”

A younger minister once sat with an older minister at a conference. After exchanging pleasantries, the younger minister started sharing “testimonies” of God’s goodness to him and his ministry. The older minister did not say a word except to appreciate the grace of God upon the life of the younger minister. Even though, he perceived that some of the testimonies were coming out of the pressure to impress.

The younger minister eventually asked for the name and the base of the older minister. He generously availed him both. The younger minister searched out the name online and spotted how massive the ministry of the older minister is. His posture suddenly changed. He was shocked that the older minister did not say anything about “mighty things that the Lord was doing” through his hands. The older minister calmed him and smiled it all off.

You must learn how to build silently without trying to impress anyone. The pressure to make people know that something is going on in your life, career, or ministry is what is leading you into telling lies or exaggerating what the Lord has done. Build silently. There are folks whose lives are social media regulated. One pressure of social media is this—once you start putting everything about your life there, you will feel indebted to tell the people even if you are “heading to the restroom”. Do not start what you cannot finish. Build silently.

Sometimes one cannot but wonder—what would Isaiah have told King Hezekiah if he lived in this generation? King Hezekiah showed the visitors from Babylon everything in his palace and all that was in his treasury. Hear the words of Prophet Isaiah and the lessons there:

- Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah and asked him, “What did those men want? Where were they from?” Hezekiah replied, “They came from the distant land of Babylon.” Isaiah 39:3 NLT
- First, what is your relationship with the people you are telling everything to? Jesus told the crowd parables. He told his disciples the explanation of the parables. Never explain to those who only need parables.
- “What did they see in your palace?” asked Isaiah.

“They saw everything,” Hezekiah replied. “I showed them everything I own—all my royal treasuries.” (Isaiah 39:4 NLT)

Second, I know you want to be open but you must learn discretion also. Openness without discretion will make you cast your pearls before those who do not value it.

- ‘The time is coming when everything in your palace—all the treasures stored up by your ancestors until now—will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left,’ says the Lord. Isaiah 39:6 NLT

If you keep telling it all, you may end up losing it all. This is not to induce fear. It is to teach you information management. It is a major lesson in leadership. Loose mouths can never attain certain levels of leadership. Kings must have discretion.

Prophet Samuel told Saul he would be king of Israel and also that the donkey has been found. When his uncle asked him what the prophet said, he only told him about the donkey. Tell people only things that concern them. Hold back whatever is not for them. Be discreet.

The testimony you want to share may be your kingdom test of humility, information management, and confidence in God as he does mighty things silently with you. If you are David, will the whole nation have heard from Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram how you killed the lion and the bear? Can God do mighty things with you and you know who to tell?

Finally, when you are sitting before anyone who is loaded with wisdom, talk less. If you talk at all, let it be because you have questions to ask that will help your journey. Be discreet.

CONFESSIO N

I am discreet about my personal achievements in Christ. I do not glory in myself. I glory in Jesus. I am wise with the use of my tongue.



The Power of Parental Sacrifices

Text: Psalm 22:30 KJV

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

The Lord reminded me of something recently: There was a night when two strangers knocked on the door of our home. This was very late in the night. It was about 10 pm or after. They told my parents that they were ministers of the gospel who were stranded in town.

At the car park, they explained their ordeal and someone told them that if they can get to the house of Olatas, they would find a place to stay since they were ministers of the gospel. It was shocking. My parents played host to many ministers of the gospel who come to town for outreach, crusades and even student fellowship meetings at times.

That night, we accommodated total strangers. They informed our neighbours who came around to greet our visitors. They were precautionary safety steps. But that night, my parents stayed awake till the wee hours of the morning when our guests left.

Why am I sharing this? There is nowhere I get to that I get stranded. People have opened their homes for me. There are times that someone will say the accommodation I was given was not good enough and would book amazing spaces for me. I have enjoyed the favour of the Lord.

While meditating on this recently, the Lord reminded me of how my parents played host to ministers of the gospel in their own little way. I knew at that moment that the privileges I was enjoying were rooted in the sacrifices of my parents. Their sacrifice has become my testimony.

One thing I would love to emphasize today

is that sacrifices are generational. Every sacrifice is a seed. The sacrifice of Abraham can unlock the blessings of Isaac and Jacob. Hear the words of David:

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

The sacrifices of Jonathan became the blessing of Mephiboseth. Deeds are seeds. Good deeds or bad deeds have a generational impact. If men forget to honour sacrifices, heaven does not forget.

When sacrifices are remembered, help will always show forth. Can I say this prayer over you today?

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble; May the name of the God of Jacob defend you; May He send you help from the sanctuary, And strengthen you out of Zion; May He remember all your offerings, And accept your burnt sacrifice. Selah (Psalms 20:1-3 NKJV)

Are you making sacrifices?

CONFESSIO N

I am intentional about making sacrifices. I think and act generationally. Sacrifices open divine doors for me.



Those You Drop The Standard For

Text: Proverbs 25:26 (NLT)

"If the godly compromise with the wicked, it is like polluting a fountain or muddying a spring."

We needed a keyboardist in the ministry. At that point, a young man came into town to serve the nation. He could play the keyboard but we had two standing principles:

First, you cannot be an instrumentalist, no matter how skilled you are, if you have not been through our training school at a certain level in the ministry. Second, we often said that we were more interested in people's spiritual growth and not just their skills even if it is needed. It was and still is a tough decision to make at times.

This young man kept coming. He sat to listen to God's word. He also went through our training structures. What we never knew at that point was that he had to decide to stay even though he had the option of playing the instrument elsewhere for a token every week. Today, I am glad that we did not lower the standard because we were in need. Why? He is now a minister of the gospel serving the Lord fully in his calling.

Beloved, never let your need mount pressure on you to drop the standard. There are godly sisters whose pattern of dressing has changed so they can appear a bit more attractive. If anyone tells you that godliness is the reason why you are unmarried, they lied!

You do not have to expose your cleavage and show some thigh to attract a godly man. Look good but do not compromise. It will be far more painful when you drop your standard and you still attract no one or worse, you get used. The pain of regret is always intense.

If the trainer of a soldier drops the standard for him in training, will he also drop the standard for him in real warfare? Do not drop

the standard. Ask businessmen and women—they will tell you that the customers they compromised for are the ones likely to be full of complaints.

Some of those who are full of complaints are those who boycotted compliance. If compliance was in place, complaints would have been less.

God wants us to make heaven. He died for our sins. God will not drop the standard. He loves you but He hates sin. He says "Come as you are" but He will never say, "You do not have to change".

A dear friend worked with his father right after secondary school. He got no preferential treatment. He got scolded for late coming even when his dad knows what kept him late. There was no excuse. Today, he can do the work and lead the organization just like his dad.

If anyone is dropping the standard for you, they are not doing you a favour; they are messing up with your future. Whatever you compromise for will never bring lasting comfort to you.

Do not drop the standard! Raise the bar.

CONFESION

I cling to righteousness. I do not lower divine standards. I am adorned with godliness. I do not live in compromise.

DAY
08

Mummy's Cousin and The Diluted Soup

Text: John 10:10 (NIV).

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

My mum shared a funny story with us some years ago. They had gone on vacation with her grandmother. Grandma would always prepare very rich "egusi" soup for them. It was always thick and full of fish. Once it was time for lunch while grandma was away, they would dish their meal and savour the delicacy.

But something strange began to happen: the standard of Grandma's egusi soup began to drop. They would come back to a watery-like soup and tiny pieces of fish. They managed it for a while thinking Grandma made a mistake but when it became a pattern, they voiced out and made a discovery.

Their older cousin would get home before them, he would feast on the rich egusi soup and the fish. When he has taken the best portion, he then adds water to dilute the rest. The reason why it was no longer rich was that a thief has entered the mix. The thief did not steal it all, he took a part and diluted the rest.

First, the devil is also a thief. However, he is a unique kind of thief. The devil does not steal from you by taking away everything abruptly. He steals by diluting the original that God has prepared for you.

The strategy of the devil is not to necessarily stop you from praying, studying, or being consistent in church. He waits right after you have done all that to dilute all you have done. So, after you have prayed and fasted, he comes to tell you to turn stones into bread.

How does this 21st-century devil do it? He will offer you the option of binging on unedifying social media content. You will laugh at close-to-porn skits and even shake your head in disgust at times but that is the diluting going on. You have turned stones into bread. Your hunger is legit but you have satisfied it through the wrong means.

Have you ever wondered how fast you can switch from a sermon that blessed you on a Sunday service to songs that do not edify your soul? He will let you listen to the sermon but he will dilute it with lewd lyrics that feed your soul while you just nod your head to the rhythm.

Watch closely: Do you remember the parable of the wheat and tares? A farmer sowed wheat all day. He went to sleep. When he woke up, he discovered that there were tares on his farm. He said an enemy has done this.

Kindly note that the enemy did not uproot the wheat. No! He left it there. He only sowed tares amongst the wheat. Have you ever eaten sweet beans and crunched on a tiny stone before? Exactly! You will most likely spit it all out. Is it clear? The enemy knows that once it is diluted, it will all likely get lost.

When did the enemy sow the tares? While men slept. When did Delilah scrape Samson's Hair? After lulling him to sleep. When did Jael give a deadly blow to Sisera the army commander? When he slept.

Wake up! You cannot watch everything (skits, movies, etc).

Wake up! You cannot listen to every song.

Wake up! You cannot binge on all content.

Wake up! Do not take that diluted soup

Your life can be richer than this.

Your walk of faith can be stronger than this.

Your prayer altar can be hotter than this.

Your desire for godliness can be stronger than this.

What diluted soup are you taking?

CONFESSIO N

I guard the doors of my eyes and heart. I do not give room for mixture and dilution. My spiritual investments are not polluted. I awake and stand against satanic infiltration.



“Don’t You Have Your Own Weaknesses Too?”

Text: Romans 6:1-2 KJV

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid...”

I was greatly troubled when I invited the brother for a heart-to-heart discussion on an issue that I know was simply ungodly- it had no two words to describe it.

When I laid down what I believe would be a friendly godly warning on the matter, the response I got shook me to my bones. He looked at me and said, “Don’t you have your own weaknesses too?” I was shocked. Ah!

When you begin to see sin as a weakness, you will not be open to divine rebuke.

Sin is sin! The wages of sin is death. Weaknesses are laid aside. We mortify the works of the flesh. The nature of sin must be exchanged for the Spirit of Life in Christ.

You cannot improve on a dog till it becomes a man. Salvation is not a motivational self-improvement programme. No!

It is God’s redemption package from a life of sin. It breaks the stronghold of sin over your life.

If you keep giving excuses and calling sin a weakness, you will never escape the grip of death- the wages of sin.

Every time we sin, something dies in

us. Sin is limiting. There is a difference between weakness and wickedness.

Do not slip into hell from the pews of the church simply because you kept underrating the consequence of sin.

If it took Jesus to die for our sins, that is a serious issue that you must not take for granted. Stop justifying nonsense. Sexual purity goes beyond “We did not have sex” but you did everything else. Can you hear yourself?

Stop tolerating sin. A guest well-treated will stay longer than intended. Get the room of your life too hot that sin will take a walk to places where things are taken cool.

I am not taking things cool.

Sin is sin!
Hate sin! Hate Sin! Hate Sin!



I do not condone the pleasures of sin. Sin does not reign in my body. I live above sin by the power of the Holy Ghost that is at work in me.



That Mistake Is Not The End!

Text: Luke 15:18 NKJV

“I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you...”

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, be 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.

CONFESSIO N

I enjoy my Father’s boundless love. I am lovable. I do not abscond fellowship with God. I enjoy His supplies.

Do You Have Enough Fuel?

Text: Ecclesiastes 9:8NKJV

“Let your garments always be white, And let your head lack no oil.”

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

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

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

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

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

And beloved, you have supply in the Word of God. The Word of God feeds and strengthens the soul. Feed on the Word. When challenges come, you will be able to stand. Jesus did not start

reading the scriptures when the devil was tempting him. It came out because it was there.

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

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

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

Read what Paul told the church in Rome: “Don’t burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don’t quit in hard times; pray all the harder.” (Romans 12:11-12 MSG)

Do you have enough fuel or are you burning out?

CONFESSIO N

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



How To Know You Are Growing (I)

Text: 1 Peter 2:2 NLT

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

My younger cousins wanted their mum to give them a new baby. They told their Dad what they wanted. Their Dad told them that he has to feed their Mum with enough "Eba" (that is thick Garri). My cousins began to give their father their "Eba" every time they eat and beg him to feed their mum well.

Innocence is a quality of babyhood. A baby is innocent. It would be strange to point to a baby and say, "She stole my bread yesterday". Every believer must not lose that innocence. The devil has no hold on you. Shake off that sense of condemnation.

But ignorance is not innocence. The fact that you are innocent does not excuse you from growing in knowledge. Your innocence can be taken advantage of if there is no effort to grow in knowledge.

You must seek to know God through His Word. Knowledge is a prerequisite for strength and exploits. If you do not know God and His Words, the devil and circumstances will cheat you in broad daylight.

It takes growth to say, "We know the God we serve is able to save us and He will save us" and with faith say, "Even if he does not save us, we will not compromise".

Whatever you have come to know about God cannot be a tool of intimidation by the devil anymore- If you know God provides, lack cannot harass you. If you know God heals, sickness cannot have a say. What do you know about God?

You must grow in your knowledge of the ways of God. What is the purpose and plan of God for your life? It takes growing to see the pit as a process, a sack letter from "Potiphar Holdings" as a plan of God, a time in prison as the hand of God, and a lifting to the palace as the purpose of God.

It takes growth not to seek vengeance. Do you

know how strange the words "you meant it for evil but God turned it around for good" sounded to Joseph's brothers?

Growth in God's kingdom is not measured by how long you have been in church. You may be 40 years old in church and remain a "feeding-bottle hustling baby in the crèche" about spiritual matters.

If you leave the church because someone offended you, you are a baby! If you still cry and throw tantrums when corrected, you are a baby. If you run for pleasure but run from prayer, you are a baby.

If you spend hours watching movies but you cannot sit with the word, you are a baby. You wake up to beat traffic so you can make it to work but your Church service days are one for long hours of sleep, you are a baby.

You cry that no one has visited you but you do not attend small group meetings or visit anyone also, you are a baby! If you know the lyrics of songs but can rarely mention a complete verse of the Bible, you have work to do.

If you always want to be on your own and you become quiet on your spouse and friends, you turn moody at work and people walk on eggshells around you, you need to grow up! As a matter of fact, cut off that demonic atmosphere fast. It is not helpful.

Babies are innocent! Knowledge is essential for growth. You cannot be a master except you know the basics. Are you growing?

CONFESS I O N

From now on, I give attention to my growth. I am intentional about gaining strength and stamina. As I feed on the word, I enjoy nourishment from the word.

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How To Know You Are Growing (II)

Text: Proverbs 25:28 AMP

“Like a city that is broken down and without walls [leaving it unprotected] Is a man who has no self-control over his spirit [and sets himself up for trouble.]”

I kept telling Danielle not to scatter the pack. Well! She did a clinical finishing of dismantling the pack and all the contents. Just when she was done, I asked her to begin to arrange all that she scattered. She looked at me soberly. She did not know what to do.

Friends, it takes more effort to build than it takes to scatter. You can scatter in 20 minutes what took twenty years to build. Brethren, self-control is a critical part of the growth process.

You must exercise self-control when it comes to your tongue. Your mouth can wreck your home. Anger can burn down what it took a lifetime to put together. You keep giving everyone a piece of your mind yet you want to see peace all around. Can you see what your mouth has cost your marriage?

You must exercise self-control when it comes to material things. You can either be enslaved by fear or greed. It is either greed to have more or fear of losing what you already have. Both will keep you from giving which is a kingdom mandate.

If you are a seed of God’s kingdom, do not overcompensate yourself by using “were you there when I suffered?” to cover up your craving for material things. Have you ever thought that the extra you have is actually meant to be a blessing to another?

You must exercise self-control when it comes to the opposite sex. Do not dig your own grave by hugging every bosom in view. Can a man or woman scoop fire into

his or her bosom and not be burnt? Would it be pure if we can pick what goes in your heart on a screen?

Exercise self-control by learning to sit with the Word to study and pray daily. Do not be in a hurry to stand up or rush prayers. That is your School of self-control. If you can sit to study the Word and pray for one hour, you are mastering the art of self-control. You are subjecting the flesh to training by the spirit.

Why do you think David said, “Your word have I hidden in my heart that I may not sin against you?” Private devotion increases private consecration and helps to build much-needed self-control. If there is an attack on your personal devotion, you are already losing the battle of self-control.

Do you know that a man that lacks self-control is like a city whose walls are broken down? Anything can access it. Guard your walls. Rebuild the portion that your mouth, materialism and momentary sexual looseness have pulled down. Give the devil no space!

Prevention is better and far cheaper than cure!

CONFESSION

I have self-control. I am not a loose cannon. I subject myself to the instructions of the Holy Spirit. I live a spirit-controlled life. I am not an orphan in the spirit.



How To Know You Are Growing (III)

Text: Hebrews 10:36 NLT

“Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God’s will. Then you will receive all that he has promised”

As the doctor treated the bullet wound on my back, he said to me “You will feel a small bite on your back soon. Endure the pain. We will be close to finishing the stitching”. I felt the small bite but let out a deep groan. It was painful but I knew it will soon be over.

One of the proofs of growth is endurance. You will have a promise of a seed and you will have to patiently endure even though everything is telling you to sleep with Hagar and birth an Ishmael.

When a woman takes in, she knows that it is a journey of nine months. She does not pray that God should shorten the time. A baby born in 4 months is an abortion.

No matter what you do, some things must be endured. God makes all things beautiful in their own time. If it is not beautiful yet, be patient. Keep giving your best. Its time will soon come.

One of the attributes of a wise man is the ability to understand time and master process. If you know the season you are in, it will be easier for you to endure.

A student can endure training and a regimented lifestyle because it is a season of life. He will endure sometimes unfavourable conditions and tough teachers. What season of life are you?

The question that Elisha asked Gehazi is simple but weighty. He asked him, “Is this the time...?” If you can ask yourself constantly whether the time is right for a decision, you will operate better in life.

When we are at the right place at the wrong

time, we will see what we are not meant to see and do what we are not meant to do. David and Bathsheba are great examples. Proper placement and the right timing are protection on the journey of life and destiny.

If you do not want to see Ishmael taunting Isaac, then you must endure. The pain of regret is more than the pain of enduring the process. Your inability to endure can leave a generational scar.

When I stepped into Eruwa, I had a small card on my table where I wrote the words of Jentezen Franklin: “Others have been where you are now and did not quit, why should you?”

Friend, if you cannot fly, run. If running seems hard, walk. If you cannot walk, crawl. If you cannot crawl, ask for help! But never quit.

My pastor taught me that the reason why a lot of people fail is simply that we do not stay long enough on one assignment to see it succeed.

Endure the pain. Endure the process. Master the timing. Take one step at a time. Do not abort the process. Be strong. It will turn out well.

CONFESSIO N

I endure the pains and sacrifices for greatness. I stay through and keep at the vision and promises. I have the staying power through the spirit of God.



How To Know You Are Growing (IV)

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.”

In 2013, I was on the bus returning from Uyo to Ibadan. A corps member sat by my side. We began to talk. Then she began to talk about an organisation called TOUCH. She said glowing things about the person who started it as she was told.

I asked for the name of the person who started it. She said, “I think it is one Pastor Temi”. I was sitting right beside her. She discovered a few hours into the journey that I was the one. We had a good laugh.

One of the qualities of a mature person is a godly report- people have great things to say about him or her. Before they chose the seven Deacons to serve in the early church, one of the prerequisites was to be men of good reputations.

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. Acts 6:3 KJV

When Paul got to Lystra, he found Timothy and “he was well spoken of the brethren in Lystra and Iconium”.

As a matter of fact, Paul said that he takes the pain to do what is right in the sight of God and man:

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

Stop using “God sees my heart” to cover up your terrible reputation.

Hear the words of Samuel: “Look at me! Do you have any complaints to bring before God and his anointed? Have I ever stolen so much as an ox or a donkey? Have I ever taken

advantage of you or exploited you? Have I ever taken a bribe or played fast and loose with the law? Bring your complaint and I’ll make it right.”

The people responded “Oh no, “never. You’ve never done any of that—never abused us, never lined your own pockets.” 1 Samuel 12:13-4 MSG

What is your testimony at home? Have I told you a story my Pastor shared about the Elder who beat his wife, locked her up at home and led “I see the Lord” on the pulpit? The pastor told him, “When you finish seeing the Lord, see me”.

What is your testimony at work- productive or lazy, approachable or touchy, upright or otherwise? What do your clients and customers have to say about you? What do your neighbours have to say about you? If your pastor visits and introduces himself, would they be shocked that you go to church?

One of the signs that you have grown is simple- people have great things to say about you. What is your testimony? What do people have to say about you? Those things count.

CONFESSIO N

I am a blessing to all around me. I reflect the character of God in all places and at all times. I live a life of great testimonies.

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16

The Voices In The Crowd

Text: 1Kings 19:7 NKJV

"...Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee"

It had been a pretty tough and rough weekend- I was emotionally down in those early days of ministry. I locked myself up in my room to just lean in on God for a restoration of my strength.

Just a few hours later, there was a knock on my door and a voice saying, "Mummy is calling you. Bishop _____ is around".

As I stepped into Mum's office, this dear father says to me, "Your mum just told me that you have left all to serve God in Eruwa. I am excited".

He then began to pour out words of prayer and encouragement. The heaviness over my soul melted as the tears also rolled.

I knew God sent me a word in the midst of it all. He sent me one of his fine soldiers of the faith.

Friend, one of the things that keep us going and enduring in this spiritual race is the quality of the witnesses in the grandstand watching and hailing us.

We are surrounded by a huge crowd of witnesses. The quality of the encourager has a huge impact on the quality of the encouragement.

Think about it: Your business seems to be in the downturn and then you get a mail from the leading businessman in your country saying, "I admire what you do". Your spirit will be lifted.

Friend, do not give up. There is an invisible cloud of witnesses. They are not mean men or women at all.

Think of Abraham hailing you on telling you that you can do it.

Think of David screaming and saying, "Yes! That's how we do it. We get the forehead of

that giant. We run towards that challenge" Think of Paul saying to you, "Pick up yourself. I was worse off. I started later than others but I still attained the prize".

Think of Mary saying to you, "If God says it is possible, it is possible".

Think of Rahab the Prostitute screaming, "Your past is not enough to keep you down. There is Salmon around the corner. There is a Boaz in you. There is a David in your Boaz and there is a Messiah right down the line. Keep at it"

The quality of your encourager determines the volume of your strength.

The people cheering you on are not small fries. They are a big deal.

This season, do not be discouraged. Remember Hebrews 12:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. Hebrews 12:1 NLT

CONFESION

I do not give up on God's purpose for my life. I enjoy the blessings of soul lifters. I have the strength of the Lord to forge ahead. I MUST fulfil destiny!!!



Jumping Trees

Text: Psalm 92:13 NKJV.

*“Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
Shall flourish in the courts of our God.”*

A young man came to me once after one of our services. He said that he felt led to be a member of the church. He said, “It was the Spirit that led me to come here this morning. As a matter of fact, I left my church to come”. I thanked God for his life but then asked him, “What role do you play in church?” He was in assisting the leadership of one of the units. I said to him, “Thanks for coming today. We would be glad to receive you here on one condition- would you kindly approach your pastor and tell him what the Spirit told you? Come back after you have met with your pastor. God bless you”. I did not see him afterwards.

I could relate with him because I used to be like him in my early days as a believer (He was even better off). I had no church where I settled (back then on campus). I could be on my way to my regular fellowship and then “one spirit” will just blow me to another one that I heard their sound on the way. I fellowshiped as the wind blew. It did not help my growth in any way. I thought that was being led by the Spirit.

First, God is not a God of disorderliness. He is also not the author of confusion. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. Let all things be done decently and in order. 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40 KJV

People who behave that way have not come to understand the place of the Local Church and the role of a Pastor in their lives. There are two things the Lord will bless every believer with: A Spiritual Family (The Local Church) and a Shepherd (A Pastor):

Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion: and I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. Jeremiah 3:14-15 KJV

God will bring you to Zion (a picture of the

church) and He will give you Pastors according to his heart.

It is pride (that flows from ignorance) to say “I belong everywhere. I don’t have a church. I go anywhere as the spirit leads me”.

Even by nature, when a child is born, his identity is traced to a family where he is nurtured and trained. He is also taught how to be responsible. The family cares for him also.

Can you imagine your child brought home a potential spouse and you ask about his identity and family and he or she says, “I am a human being. I don’t belong to any family. Being a human being is enough. There are times I am a part of your family and there are times I can belong to another family. But just know I am a human being”. Will you allow your child to marry a vagabond? Definitely not!

One of the important decisions you must make this season is to be rooted in a Church as led by the Spirit of the Lord. Stop confusing yourself. Stop jumping around.

Only trees that are planted can be fruitful. Trees are not made to jump from place to place. They cannot survive that way. You are also the planting of the Lord; you are not wired to jump around.

Jumping trees have no fruit.
Jumping trees have withered leaves.
Jumping trees lack nutrients
Jumping trees cannot get pruned.
Jumping trees end up lacking life
Jumping trees dry up.
Are you a jumping tree?

CONFESSIO N

I am not a spiritual orphan/vagabond. I am blessed with a spiritual family. I enjoy nourishment for growth from my family. I blossom and flourish.



Are You Fighting A Battle That Will Impact a Generation?

Text: Psalm 18:34 kJV.

"He teacheth my hands to war so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSIO N

I am a terminator of evil patterns and trends in my family. I am anointed of the Lord to set a new order. I win every generational battle. I gain grounds and mileage.

Stinking Lunch Plates

Text: Hebrews 4:16 NIV

“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

I had some weird behaviour as a teenager. I was lazy. My school uniform gets washed a day before or very early on the day I need it. I would spread it on the standing fan so it can get dry quite fast.

That is not as weird as what I do with lunch bowls. We used those tall grey plastic packs used for medicines those days. We had a lot of them because a relative owned a medicine store.

Whenever I returned from school, I would leave the pack in the bag. In the morning, I would discover it was still there. To avoid detection, I would slide it under the bed. I would pick a new one to use. When the coast is clear, I would dig two or three from under the bed.

Can you imagine the stench from unfinished meals like beans? It was irritating and nauseating. By the time I wanted to wash the pack, I am blocking my nose. There were times I just threw it all away. I repented the day Dad discovered unwashed packs underneath my bed. I changed my ways.

Beloved, when you get exposed on the path of wrongdoing and the stench of your conduct fills the air, there are times that it is mercy that is speaking. Mercy is preserving you from judgement. But if you keep messing up and you take pride in the fact that you cannot be caught or you have not been caught, and you keep perpetrating wrongs, be careful! Judgement may be around the corner.

Achan dug a hole in their tent and kept accursed things there. Here is his confessional statement: When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it.” Joshua 7:21 NKJV

At the end of the story, the covered trench consumed the entire family. Who knows whether

the wife and children saw it but kept quiet? There are times when you must never be silent. If your spouse is hiding a stench that can consume your home, scream. Why? A house of fire will not just consume the man or woman, it can wipe out an entire generation.

When God wanted to have mercy on David who was attempting hard to cover his stench, God sent Nathan the prophet. Why? His stench was already consuming his family. His son raped his daughter. Another one took the life of the rapist in a calculated and evil plot. His stench was spreading. Only the mercy of God kept it from becoming worse.

A little leak will sink a great ship. What you cover up can eat you up. Think about it this way:

If you come into your home, and spot a snake in your kitchen, you will not go to sleep saying it is just a snake. Can you imagine that you turn your back and the snake slithered into a corner you are unsure of? Will you just sleep? Will you just go to bed saying ‘It is just a snake’? Most likely not. You turn the whole place upside down till you deal with the snake.

Do not build on pseudo-peace. Do not manage the stench. Soon, it will come out and it can end up consuming the entire family. Husband and father, what are you hiding? Gideon hid a child out of wedlock who returned to kill all his children.

Deal with that stench!

CONFESSIO N

I repent of packaging my weaknesses. I receive strength from the Lord to change. I will not cover up what will consume me. I do not endanger my destiny with a secret stench. I obtain mercy.



'You Don't Have To Like Your Pastor'

Text: Jeremiah 3:15 KJV

"and I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."

I was at a conference for ministers of the Gospel. One of the panellists was asked a question about how he had been able to sustain a life of discipline in Ministry. His answer has not left me. He said, "I have a Pastor".

You will not understand the weight of what was said until you think about the fact that the person answering is a Pastor. A dear father would always say to us, "Every pastor needs a pastor".

Friends, the things you call little are quite powerful. Let me say to you that you should not stay in a church where you do not trust your Pastor to hold you accountable.

You can fulfil destiny with the wrong tailor or even the wrong barber but you cannot fulfil destiny with the wrong Pastor. The one who speaks into your life will determine the course of your destiny. If you are in an assembly where you cannot be questioned, you are in the wrong place. If you are in a church where you cannot be corrected, you need a change of address. You will not go far in a place where your emotions are massaged and your weakness is worshipped.

A woman told her Pastor that she does not like him. The Pastor responded that "You do not have to like your coach. Let us just ensure that you finish well in life and destiny". Do not just stay where you are liked; stay where you will be trained.

Pastors must learn to confront. We owe the people that responsibility. You see

someone wearing that skimpy skirt, confront her fast! When you see the brother hanging around another girl asides from his wife, ask questions fast. Pastors are not called to please men. We are called to raise men.

Be the right kind of sheep. Lay in the field and eat. Do not mess up the field for others with gossip and other strange attitudes. If you do not want to eat, leave the field for others. Must you spoil the church because you do not like someone or even the pastor?

Paul wrote to Timothy as a young Pastor that the church is the ground and pillar of truth. He mentioned that there is a way of conduct in the church of the Living God. He told Timothy to ensure that he does his job as a Pastor without fear or favour.

"but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." I Timothy 3:15 NKJV

Pastoring is tough work. Pastors will give an account of how they pastored. Do not make it harder by messing up the field.

CONFESSIO N

I open myself up to growth systems. I will not stray away without guidance from the path of destiny. I enjoy the blessing of a Pastor.



Until You Realise That “You Are Pregnant”

Text: Ephesians 1:18 ESV

“Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.”

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

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

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

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

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

A driver can drive roughly when the owner

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION

I am not ignorant of the demands of destiny. I have an understanding of purpose. I do not tread the path of purpose carelessly. I will deliver to my world safely!

I Can't Find "Rainbow"

Text: Isaiah 49:15 GW

"Can a woman forget her nursing child? Will she have no compassion on the child from her womb? Although mothers may forget, I will not forget you."

Just after midnight, I was just settling down to spend some time in prayers and study the Word when I heard the shuffling of tiny feet and an attempt to open a door. I stood up and approached the door to the girls' room.

As I opened the door, I saw Danielle half-awake right behind it. I asked, "Baby, is all well? Why are you awake?" She said to me, "I cannot find 'rainbow'" I was in awe. I simply said, "Go back to sleep". Who is Rainbow? "Rainbow" is the most senior of all the teddy bears at home. I had a good smile.

It dawned on me that this is why a believer needs not to live in worry- a five-year-old wakes up to check on a teddy bear but our God does not slumber or sleep.

Was this the secret of David that gave him so much rest in crisis? David went through tough times. He had moments when even trusted people tried to kill him but he survived it all.

I lift my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you— the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the

moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalms 121:1 – 8 NIV

You are not on your own. There is nothing happening around you now that can swallow you. Hear this- Do not allow the devil to keep you in that dark corner of sorrow or discouragement. Push him off. The hand of God is stretched towards you. Tap into grace. Leave the ring and let the Lord take it over.

A mother may forget her suckling child but God will never abandon you. You are the helped of the Lord. God has healed that person who has been struggling with lack of sleep (Insomnia). Sleep like a baby from now. Glory to God.

Rejoice. Rest, and again I say Rejoice!

CONFESSION

God is in charge of my life. I do not feel insecure. I am conscious of God's presence around me. I enjoy the love and care of Abba Father.

“That Is Not The Temi I Know”

Text: Romans 6:4 KJV

“...that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

During my university days, a dear brother met one of the young ladies who was a friend of mine (those undefined friendships) and asked her if she was not going to Pastor’s house (my parents were pastors). She first responded by telling him that no one was around except Dad and Mum. He then mentioned that “Temi is back now”. She told him, “The Temi that came back is not the Temi that I know”.

(I had my fair share of actions I was not proud of as a teenager. But I had an encounter on campus that changed everything about me—addictions dropped off, lustful desires and actions perished and I caught the flame of the Holy Spirit. There was a significant change in my life).

If you know the days when songs like, “I Enter the Holy of Holies” and amazing worship songs by Michael W. Smith were hitting the airwaves, Yes! It was those songs that stirred my hunger for prayer and the Lord in me. I would plug in the Walkman and worship all through the day.

Beloved, one proof that a man has met with Jesus Christ is that there is a change in his life. If you met Jesus Christ and your life remained the same, something is not right.

There was a woman who would sneak to the well to fetch at an odd hour when she would meet no one there. She was living a life she was not proud of. She was a serial adulterer. She has tasted five shades of men. She even had a new guy now. She met Jesus at the well and everything changed. She became so bold that she brought the city to Jesus. Joy hit her heart. Fear disappeared. She could face her future with fresh gusto.

There was a man who was notorious for kickbacks and overcharging people. He was a government official in charge of taxes. Jesus did not even speak to him about returning what he stole. Just one dinner with Jesus and he pledged to return four-folds to anyone he has stolen from.

There was a man who came into the city as the soldiers were leading Jesus Christ out to be crucified. They forced him to help Jesus Christ

with the cross. The moment he carried the cross, his direction changed. He was heading towards the city now he has to follow Jesus all the way. He abandoned his own plans.

That singular honour is a picture for us till date— if you ever met the Lord, your direction must change. What will likely change?

There will be a change in values. A man who has met Christ has Christ-branded and Christ-endorsed values. If it has no Christ in it, a man in Christ will not be found with it.

Definitely, you cannot doubt that Paul met Christ. The man who was a murderer had a total shift. He left us volumes of counsel admonishing us about our values:

But that’s no life for you. You learned Christ! My assumption is that you have paid careful attention to him, been well instructed in the truth precisely as we have it in Jesus. Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything—and I do mean everything—connected with that old way of life has to go. It’s rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you. Ephesians 4:20-24 MSG

I grew up every day seeing an artwork at home that says: “If you were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to prove it?”

Do you have proof that you are a believer? Or it is just in your heart? Can you buy or eat an orange that has a sign of rottenness outside? No! Will you buy a product that will expire tomorrow? No! Think about this and work on your values. Does an expired product show the true state of its manufacturer? Are you a true representative of Christ?

CONFESSION

I walk in the newness of life in Christ Jesus. I do not carry the baggage of the old lifestyle. I represent the character of Christ at all times.

DAY
24

My Parking Error and The Avoidable Crash

Text: Philippians 2:5 KJV

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

As I returned from work that evening, I spotted my neighbours (doctors) in front of their house. Instead of driving home, I drove to the front of their apartment which had a little slope. I got out of the car and began to gesticulate with my neighbours.

In the middle of our conversation, I saw the car descending the slope. I ran after the car but could do nothing. Fortunately, just before it ran into the fence of another neighbour, some blocks and a little heap of sand served as speed breakers. The car came out with just a little dent. I was thoroughly shaken but also grateful. It was my Mum’s car.

When I got into the car, I realised my errors. I did not engage the gear to park and the arm brake was also not pulled up fully. In my excitement, I almost created a disaster.

Beloved, disasters are not necessarily sudden. Some are made up of several acts of neglect that eventually snowballed into a crisis. There are decisions that have immediate consequences but there are some that are systemic- they build up like time bombs and explode at critical times. For instance, in a case of moral failure, whatever brings a man down followed him to the top. An act of indifference that looks inconsequential can become the enemy’s Greek gift that burns a city while men are asleep.

Take Father Abraham for example- In a season of famine, he went to Egypt. He returned with so many possessions including Egyptian males and maidservants. All the servants were fed, raised and nourished under his watch. But the day the enemy will sow the seed of an alternative to God’s plans and instructions, one of the Egyptian maids came in handy.

What are you feeding today that can burn down your home, business, career or ministry tomorrow?

Listen beloved one, your thoughts, your words and your actions are seeds. Careless thoughts

can become careless words. Careless words can become careless actions. Careless actions can activate the time bomb that destroys all you have built. So what do you do? If you want to win, deal with it fast while it is still a thought.

Lead your thoughts now to the obedience of Christ. Thoughts are like soldiers. Deal with rogue thoughts. Deal with thoughts that are not loyal to God’s plan and purposes for your future. Judge the thoughts now. That’s the real battle. Rogue cells become a threat to the body. Rogue thoughts become a threat to your destiny.

casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 2 Corinthians 10:5 KJV

Your thoughts must be captured. Never allow them to stay on neutral. Do not allow your mind to go on a voyage of strange things. Never allow your mind to travel into dark places. Call it back. Mind your mind. Never leave it on neutral. If you let it roam, your life will be full of strange mixtures.

Finally, if a friend gives you a car you love as a gift and customised it to suit your taste. It is brand new. But he then tells you, “Ore mi (my friend), I know how much speed thrills you. This car travels at top speed. You will love it. Since you love speed, I told the manufacturers not to put brakes. This is my gift to you”.

What did your friend give you? Are you catching cruise with your life without brakes? Friend, check your brakes. You are on a slope!

CONFESSIO N

I am not careless about what I feed on. I do not give room for strange and rogue thoughts to fester. My mind is daily renewed.

DAY
25

If You Carry a Vision and There is a Setback

Text: Proverbs 11:14 NKJV

“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”

In the second year of ministry, we needed to formalise a process. We had spent quite some money and we awaited a positive response. We waited and heard nothing. After a while, I got a message that we have to start all over again. I was broken. I knew how valuable the money of God’s people is. It pained me.

I returned home that evening and Irewamiri was in the kitchen. I sat on our freezer like a piece of weak vegetable. I broke the news to her. I did not know when water began to drop from my eyes. I felt so weak. She came to me and said, “Darling, money may be lost but we must not lose our joy. We will try again and God will do it”. I did not know when I began to smile. We got it sorted eventually faster and cheaper.

Beloved, it is not good to be alone in a season of setbacks but much more, the quality of the person(s) by your side is also very important. The quality of the person by your side will determine the quality of the counsel you get. It is also one of the determinants of the eventual outcome of that season.

The interesting thing is that you would have chosen the circle of people that will be around you before issues arise. If you have chosen men who lack wisdom, your outcome in such moments will reflect the status of your company. Blessed is the man who is surrounded by wise counsellors, the quality of his life will be great. The man surrounded by the wrong counsel will have a journey in life full of repairs. There are repairs that are costlier than the building.

A season of a setback is a sensitive season. You are at your most vulnerable state. A butcher can cut and a surgeon can also cut but the butcher kills while the surgeon gives another chance to live.

If you are surrounded by butchers, rather than wisdom, foolishness will flow. In place of a walk in the love of God, bitterness, hatred and

resentment can take over your soul. Where you are meant to be encouraged, you become overwhelmed with negative words and thoughts flowing out of negative suggestions.

But when the Lord has blessed you with surgeons, you will have voices like that of Naaman’s servant who will say things that will move you a step closer to your answered prayers.

And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, “My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, ‘Wash, and be clean?’” So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. (II Kings 5:13-14 NKJV)

If you are surrounded by voices that sow discouragement, your journey in destiny will be prolonged. Start making an intelligent choice now. Pray-in men of counsel and understanding into your life.

David had killed giants, but there was a day when David was almost killed by a giant. What saved him? He had a giant killer by his side. Who are those by your side – Giant killers or vision killers; prayer partners or passion killers?

CONFESSIO N

*My setback seasons will not destroy me.
I have the divine strength to forge ahead.
I enjoy the gifts of men and encouragers.
My vision will not die in my hands.*



No Evil Will Come Near You

Text: Psalm 121:7 NKJV.

“The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul.”

My Dad reminded me of something very unique and reassuring: He used to drive a Nissan Primera. He would normally park the car under a cashew tree in front of the house.

One evening, it was quite stormy. It did not occur to any of us that he should move the car. When we woke up, we saw what amazed us. The heavy storm broke off branches of the tree. There was a branch right by the left of the car. There was another one to the right.

But the one that was really humbling was a branch that was really close to dropping on the windscreen but was held by another branch just before it wrecked any damage. The car was right between it all untouched. We were grateful to the Lord.

Beloved, there is something called rest on every side. Let me give you a scriptural idea of what it looks like: But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor evil occurrence. (1 Kings 5:4 NKJV)

In the name of Jesus, you will enjoy rest on every side. There will be no adversary and there will be no evil occurrence. This is how the Psalms put it:

A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand, But it shall not come near you. (Psalms 91:7 NKJV)

There are a lot of people plagued with fear because they lack insight into God’s protective plans for them. Strangely, there

are things the devil knows about us that we are ignorant about. Hear this great insight from the devil about Job (and by extension you):

So Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. (Job 1:9-10 NKJV)

Beloved, as you go out today, be conscious of divine presence. There is a hedge of protection around you. It is also around your household. Do not panic about your child. Do not panic about your properties. How about the works of your hands? It is also blessed. What about your possession? It is increasing.

Do not allow fear. Fear is the enemy’s ally. It opens the door for him to operate. When fear knocks on your door, let faith open it. There will be nothing standing at the door again. Fear cannot stand faith!

There is rest for you on every side. Believe it!

CONFESSIO N

I enjoy the covenant of preservation and security. I am insulated against any evil. I enjoy rest on every side!

DAY
27

Weird Instructions That Produced Wonders

Text: Ephesians 5:17 NLT

“Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.”

A dear teacher shared a story once: Some years ago, he was in the queue at his bank to withdraw from the Automated Teller Machine. The Holy Spirit told him to go to another bank to withdraw the money. It felt weird. First, the other bank would mean extra charges. Second, he would have to join another queue again.

He obeyed the Holy Spirit. He went to the other bank ATM. He joined the queue. When he was almost in front, the Holy Spirit told him to leave the queue and step into the bank to open an account.

“Ah! Lord, I don’t need another account”. His head interjected. But he obeyed the Holy Spirit. He went into the bank. As he interacted with the Account Opening Officer, someone called him by his old nickname. He was surprised. It turned out to be an old friend he had not seen in many years. They exchanged pleasantries and contacts.

Everything seemed ordinary. Some years later, the man he met in the bank was key and instrumental to the purchase of their ministry land and expansion of the property. This is a transaction worth millions. It took him years to know why the Holy Spirit gave those weird instructions.

Beloved, your head seems to have told you that the consequence of disobedience is always some real evil- not all the time. There are times when your disobedience is about the opportunities and relationships in the future that you actually lost.

Some of us will not know how weighty our acts of disobedience are until we meet the Lord face to face. Some feel like “Maybe it was my head after all” because nothing evil happened after you disobeyed the prompt to stay in a location rather than travel. Do you know whether you

extended an opportunity by another 10 years? Why do you think Eve was confident to hand over the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil to Adam? Nothing happened after she ate it. Everything looked just like before. It seemed like God was just restraining them from some great pleasure.

So, when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave it to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. Genesis 3:6-7 NKJV

But what happened when Adam ate it? The domino effect of the consequences began to roll in one after the other- nakedness, fear, guilt, sorrow, pain, the curse, death, and other consequences.

The fact that nothing happened that you can physically see when you disobeyed does not mean nothing actually happened. You are the one not seeing it.

What has disobedience cost you?

Do you know the opposite of obedience? Sacrifice. To obey is better than sacrifice. If you do not obey, there is something you are sacrificing whether you know it or not. What are you or have you unknowingly sacrificed? Is it a generation mouth-watering deal? Is it a relationship that will save your child in 50 years? Is it a counsel that will reposition your ministry forever? Watch it!

CONFESSIO N

I do not walk in disobedience. I am sensitive to the prompts of the Holy Spirit. I understand what the will of God is per time.

DAY
28

When You Are “Tekelled”

Text: Daniel 5:27 AMP.

“TEKEL’—you have been weighed on the scales [of righteousness] and found deficient...”

15 years ago, I drove my mum to church for a women’s meeting. While I waited for her, I decided to read and study in the car. I still remember the Green Nissan Primera (Station Wagon) parked under a cashew tree in the church compound. That evening, God told me eight things about my life’s journey. Some of them are just unfolding in this fifteenth year.

One of the statements has become the vision for the ministry today. But there is one I want to mention:

“Never judge your progress by what men say or how men praise you. Judge your progress by what I have asked you to do”.

Why is this important? The person who did not set the question or have the marking scheme can praise you while the one with the marking scheme is shaking his head in disappointment.

Do you remember the time God asked Moses to speak to the rock? Well! Moses had other plans. He struck the rock instead. Water still came out. The people celebrated their prophet but the one who called and instructed already wrote in his file—“Journey to the Promised Land terminated before Jordan. He will not cross over”. Intercession did not change it. Do the people hailing you know the standard requirements of your life’s journey and assignment?

A dear brother said that he realised in prayer that he was some years behind in God’s programme for his life. He picked it in prayer and decided to double up with a stronger sense of urgency. There are some latecomers who are still comfortable with premature celebration.

What we call divine speed is simply the stepping of a man whose movement is in total sync with God’s dealings and plans for his life. If you use external visible things to judge (we must have those things as a blessing from the Lord), you would think that Joseph in Potiphar’s house was closer to kingship than Joseph in prison. Meanwhile, Joseph in prison was closer to God’s

plan for him.

If you have a word from the Lord that you will be married by 2023 and you suffer a “post-introduction” break up in February 2023, in the calendar of God, you are closer to fulfilment because the man or lady that left your life may not be ready for marriage as it seems. If you stop brooding and trust God, you will realise that by November, you are a married man or woman. We understand God in retrospect.

Finally, do you know that there is a divine scale? There was a king called Belshazzar. He threw a party and used the golden cups from God’s temple to serve his guests. While he was drinking, a hand wrote on the wall: Mene Mene Tekel Uparsin (Daniel 5).

Do you know what “Tekel” means? Weighed! You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting. If heaven “Tekels” you, what will your test result be? If heaven “tekels” your marriage, will it be according to God’s expectation? When Jesus “Tekelled” the churches in Revelation, He challenged them all, especially one to return to their first love.

If you will measure up, know this and know peace: Honour God with your life. Belshazzar failed that test:

But the God who holds in His hand your breath of life and your ways you have not honored and glorified [but have dishonored and defied]. Daniel 5:23 AMP

Do not forget, there is something called “Tekel”. Be calm, be careful but consistently follow God’s plan for you.

CONFESSION

I am in sync with God’s plans and timing for my life. I live my life in line with God’s expectations. I am measuring up on the divine scale of evaluation. I will not deliver less!

DAY
29

Dear Father, Lead Like a Priest!

Text: Revelations 1:6 NKJV

“and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen”

I could not keep it to myself anymore. I drove all the way to Dad’s office and confessed to him I was in love with a young lady.

He asked for her name and description. He kept smiling. We prayed together and trusted God for His leading. Dad did not say a word. Two days after my wife said “Yes” to my proposal, I told both Dad and Mum as a birthday gift for him. He smiled again.

It was Mum who burst the bubble. Mum smiled and said, “Months earlier when your father went to preach in the Corpers Fellowship, he saw her and the Holy Spirit told him, “Eyi ki a n se iyawo omo re bi?” (Isn’t she the wife of your son?). I was the only unmarried son. He kept his fingers crossed till I told him. Yet he did not utter a word but he knew already.

I want to talk to men: You MUST be the priest of your home. Nothing must happen without your knowledge. If your wife is the one waking you up for family devotion and setting the pace, something is wrong with you!

As a priest, there are three things you cannot joke with; sanctification, sacrifices and service. As a priest, you cannot just be getting ready, you must be living ready. A priest offers both gifts and sacrifices:

For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so, it is essential for this One also to have something to offer. Hebrews 8:3 AMP.

It is good to spoil your wife and children with gifts but where are the sacrifices of your sleep so you can get on your knees; of your time so you can teach your children the word and of your fun so you can spend quality time with

them once in a while?

You must have charted the course of your children in prayer. Call them by name in prayer and prophesy over them. Bless your wife daily. Lay your hands on her before you step out.

What makes a man is far beyond finance and romance- you must be a man of prayer! Nothing must happen in your home until you permit it (not by stubborn conduct but by prayers).

Please, serve your family. A steward is required to be faithful. You are a trustee and you will be held responsible for how you treated your wife and your children. Are you abusing them or serving them genuinely?

Brother, if you are unmarried now and you are not learning to pray, you are living like a spiritual gambler saying “what will be will be”; you better wake up, and smell the coffee. Stop sleeping like a log of wood. Wake up at night. Blast in tongues by the Spirit. Take on the Word and confess it. Do not leave your future home to chance. Marriage is not a ludo game.

Fathers and fathers-to-be, take your place. Build finance. Learn Romance but Exercise your Spirit and take your place!

CONFESSIO N

I take my place as the priest of my home. I am not weakened by the Devil’s antics. I speak into existence what God has said concerning my home.



An Untrained Spouse is a Ticking Time Bomb

Text: Proverbs 9:9 BBE

“Give teaching to a wise man, and he will become wiser; give training to an upright man, and his learning will be increased.”

They had quite some issues in the early days of their marriage. They disagreed over quite a lot of things. It was obvious they loved each other but the issues just seem to be pulling them apart. It had become so bad that it was hard to even hold each other in prayer (that was the first time I noticed).

Some months later, the bonding is better. The wife could say, “I cannot believe it is the same man again. Something has changed”. The man said, “ Sir, you told us that the most important thing in marriage is training. The little we have learnt changed our story”.

There are people who loved themselves but still walked away from their marriage because of what they called “irreconcilable differences”. Often times than not, the irreconcilable difference simply means that one or both of the parties would not submit to the voice of reasoning. The Spirit of Counsel has been despised (if it was ever given a chance in the first place).

For instance, no man becomes a doctor by simply loving medicine. No! He submitted to training. Training means you keep at it when you do not feel like it. Training means shaping. Training requires humility. When you eventually become a doctor and people see the beauty, you know that it took not just your love but your submission to training when you did not feel like it.

Training is not emotional. Training takes you through processes and seasons without asking emotional questions. But the challenge is a lot of people walk into marriage without any form of training.

Some people are godly but not trained. A godly man must be taught. You can speak in tongues but still have challenges with communication. You can win souls but still have issues with your

in-laws. You can be a minister in church but still cannot handle matters regarding finances. You can have a good heart but remain unlearned. Innocence is not enough. Innocence means untested. With training, you get prepared for the test. Many counselling matters are simply issues that training will resolve.

The easiest form of training is learning from older men and women. They must be people who have been tested and proven to be genuine in their faith and their home. Listen to them.

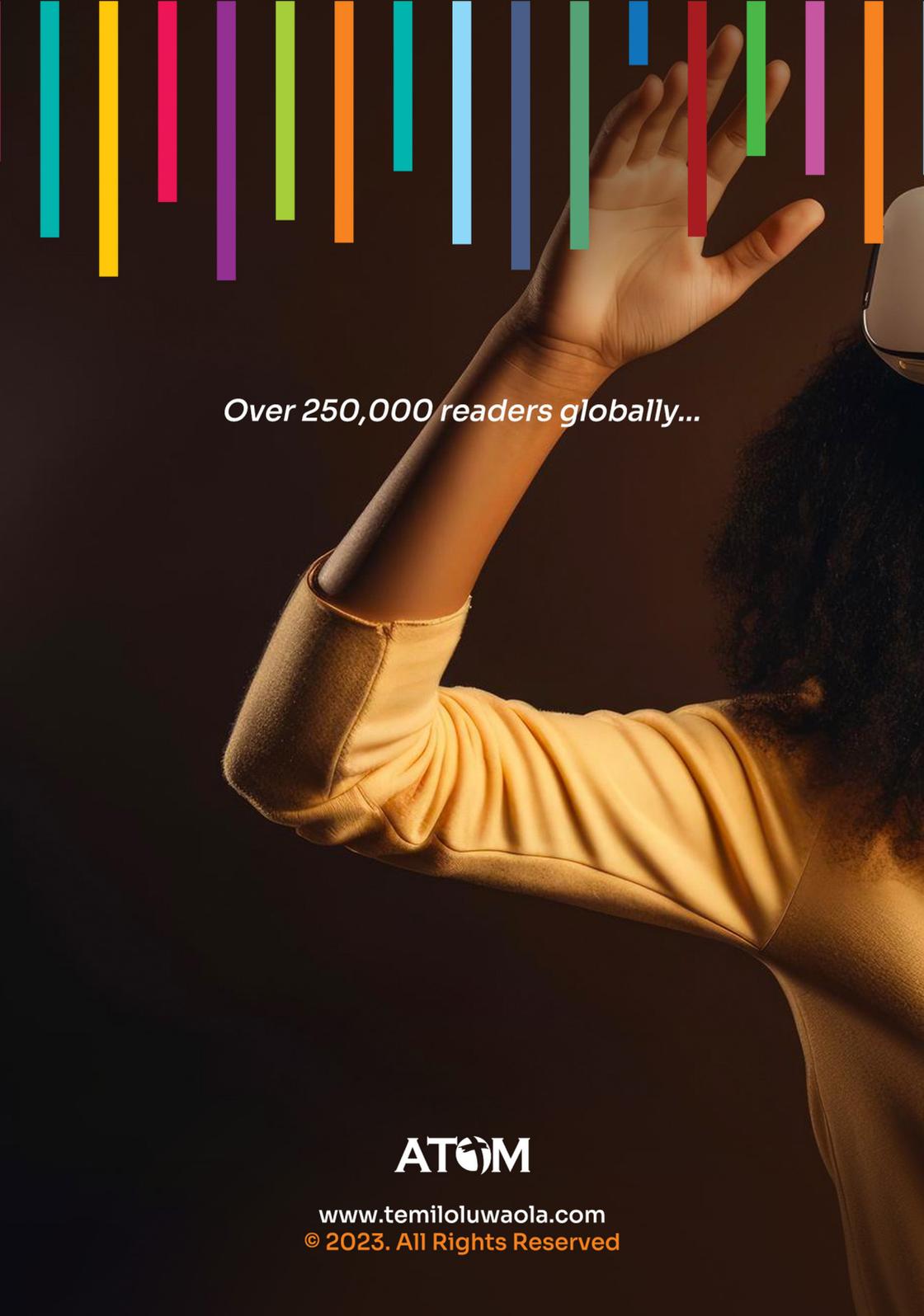
Paul told Titus to ask the older women to train the younger women. He asked the older Men to train the younger man (Titus 2). He even sets out a curriculum of what they should be trained on. This includes self-control, home management, kindness, submission, and soundness of speech (communication) among others.

Training makes you responsible. Training shows you how to be accountable and to whom you can be accountable. An untrained man or woman will show signs of irresponsibility and will not submit to be held accountable which can lead to what many call “irreconcilable” differences.

If you are blessed with sincere and loving pastors or mentors who invested in training you, show them appreciation. If you are the “self-made man or woman” or you are just innocent and you desire a marriage that works, ask the Lord to lead you to your trainers.

CONFESSIO N

I do not shy away from training and trainers. I stay resolute in my season of training. I do not back out. I am not half-baked. I am a resource refined through training. I submit to trainings.

A hand is shown from the side, reaching upwards towards a series of vertical bars of various colors (cyan, yellow, pink, purple, lime green, orange, light blue, dark blue, teal, red, green, magenta, orange) against a dark background. The hand is wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt. The bars are of varying heights, creating a bar chart effect.

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