

- AUGUST 2023 -

COMPASS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



Temiloluwa Ola

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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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

- INIOLUWA, OGBOMOSHO, OYO STATE

Feedback

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

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

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

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

- JEREMIAH UGWULEBO, PORTHARCOURT

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

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

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

- REBECCA OSEYI, EDO STATE

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

- MARIE LAUREL, CAMEROON

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

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

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

- NANCY GABRIEL, NASARAWA

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

Thank you so much Sir

- OPE POPOOLA, UNITED KINGDOM

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

- OLUWABUSOLAMI, LAGOS

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

- DUDLEY CHIDZIVA, ZIMBABWE

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

- PATRICIA, ABUJA

"ARE YOU PAYING ME?"

Text: 1 Corinthians 4:2 KJV

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

We once had a unit head in the church who began to show signs of a lack of commitment and divided attention. After reaching out on informal grounds and we noticed no change. I instructed that a memo be issued to know why the unit head was not available for a major conference and did not give any notice at all.

The response did not take time. The person that followed up for a response had an interesting episode. Questions like "Are you paying me?" spilled out easily. I knew something had deeply gone wrong.

Service in the kingdom of God must be done with the whole of your heart. If you expect any man to reward you, you sure have missed the Kingdom memo. Men are morally obligated to say 'thank you,' but no matter what they do, do not expect your reward from man and do not be disappointed when the appreciation is not coming forth.

Jesus made a very powerful statement at the end of a story about a servant who spent all day on the field serving. He returned to his master with more work waiting for him. The master did not even bother to say thank you. Jesus said:

"Does the true servant expect to be thanked for doing what is required of him? So learn this lesson: After doing all that is commanded of you, simply say, 'We are mere servants, undeserving of special praise, for we are just doing what is expected of us and fulfilling our duties.'"

Luke 17:9 – 10 TPT

Is it not interesting that this is coming at the end of a training session for the disciples on "How to Live above Offences" (Luke 17:1). Offence will surely come, but you must not become a slave to human appreciation.

So, who then has the reward of a faithful worker?

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work" Revelation 22:12 NKJV

"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23 – 24 NKJV

Do not waste your time getting offended by your pastor or unit head. Their "thank you" is limited. Who is the rewarder? Is it your pastor? Is it your husband or wife? Is it your boss? The Lord has your reward. Do not let a poor attitude deny you the fullest of it.

CONFESSION

I will serve the Lord with all my heart. I do not entertain offence in my service to the Lord. I look up to the Faithful Rewarder.



DAY 02

“I AM NO LONGER A VIRGIN; WHAT IS THE BIG DEAL?”

Text: 1Thessalonians 4:3 NLT

“God’s will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.”

Years ago, I still remember where we sat as I shared the gospel of Christ with her that evening. I admired her strength, but I noticed her mood swings. I had a prompt to speak to her about Christ. I did, but she had a question for me:

She called me my nickname back then and added, “I am no longer a virgin. What is the big deal if I now keep sleeping with other men I get to date?” It came like a thunderbolt. I kept quiet for a moment. I had not handled such a direct inquisition before. I needed the help of the Lord. My answer then is still my encouragement to someone today:

(Warning: This applies to both genders. There is a way we think virginity is just about females).

First, your sexual history is not an excuse for settling for less. The devil wants to lie to you that since you are no longer a virgin, you have nothing good to offer and nothing to keep again. Can you imagine a driver saying, “Since I have bashed my car in an accident once, then I will keep bashing it anywhere and everywhere. It is no big deal”. Do you see how deceptive the devil is now?

Second, God has not changed his standard, but He has supplied you with grace through Christ Jesus. God has called us not just to virginity but to sexual purity. The will of God is that we stay sexually pure. You can be a virgin and not be sexually pure. God’s standard is higher than that. God wants us to abstain from sexual immorality. So, you cannot be sleeping with “imaginary girls” and still be claiming purity. Once it is committed in the mind, it is the same as the actual act! That’s how high God’s standard is.

Third, your history does not mean you deserve less than the best. This is the trap! The devil makes you feel like you can no longer marry a godly man or woman because of your history. Do not believe that liar. Even Rahab the prostitute married Mr Salmon, who gave us Boaz, who married Ruth and gave us Obed, who fathered Jesse, who gave us David! Your best is in God. In God, your finest opportunities show up! If you permit God, He will heal your heart and set you up for the finest journey of your life. Do not look for someone with a similar “bad boy or bad girl” history, so you will have counteraccusations when things go south.

Finally, ask the Lord for grace.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58 NIV

Your patience will not be in vain. Your self-control will pay off.

Stand firm!

Let nothing move you.

You deserve the best!

You will have the best!

CONFESSION

I do not wallow in defilement and perversion. I stand for purity in Christ. I present my body as a living sacrifice to God.



OUR NOISY BLENDER AND THE LESSON FROM OLIVE

Text: Genesis 3:8 KJV

"And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day..."

Whenver we need to use the blender in the kitchen, it makes a good grinding sound. Anytime a young boy visits us, he would begin to cry at the sound of the blender. We started locking the doors or getting the boy far away first.

Olive also hates the noise. She would go to the kitchen and tell anyone using it that "the noise is much. Close the door," or she closes it by herself. It is worse when they are having their weekend television time. To concentrate, she will always shut out the noise. This is quite instructive for me as a child of God.

First, we are in a very noisy world. The noise is getting amplified by the day. There is the noise of politics and all the arguments. There is the noise of lewd songs and all the strange things it promotes. There is the noise of entertainment also. There is the noise of systems that are also broken. The Bible tells us the world is also noisy:

That's the only quiet, secure place in a noisy world, The perfect getaway, far from the buzz of traffic. Psalms 27:5 MSG

For instance, I took time to check the lyrics of some popular songs and I realised the poison that is being released into the atmosphere of people's minds. The noise is really loud. Second, God will not compete with the noise in your life. You will be the one to get away from the noise to get His voice. You will need to be conscious of it. Jesus said something about prayer:

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father...

Matthew 6:6 NKJV

You have to shut the door against distraction

and all the noise so you can focus on the Father. The noise will get louder in these last days, do not get carried away.

The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. 1 Peter 4:7 NIV

You will need to be deliberate with shutting out the noise. I know some believers who have taken social media breaks. They now "fast" social media so they can strengthen their walk with God.

There is a great work of seduction that is going on. It is not strange. What is strange is that the very elect, even believers, are being successfully deceived.

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, I Timothy 4:1 NKJV

When last did you take a personal retreat?
Are you now finding it convenient to defend what your spirit will normally resist?

Are you now grooving to music without sensitivity to what is being transferred?
Are you now more trend-focused than Christ-focused?

What noise do you need to shut out?
Deal with it now!

CONFESSION

I am alert to the voice of God at all times. I am not deaf to the voice of the Holy Spirit. I shut out strange and contradictory voices. I will not derail from the path of spiritual progress.

DAY 04

“LET US REMOVE IT. IT IS NOT USEFUL”

Text: Proverbs 11:14 NKJV

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

There was a rod that was on my car some years back. I think it was called ‘the stabilizing rod.’ There would be times I would be driving and would just hear the sound of clanging iron on the coal tar. The rod would give way without notice. I kept buying new ones.

One day, my mechanic in town told me, “Pastor, there is nothing the rod is doing there. Let’s remove it. I have removed it from other cars also, and they are all doing well. It saves you cost”. I agreed gullibly.

Some months later, I had reason to repair and overhaul the car out of town. When the mechanic checked the front wheels, he told me there is a missing rod. I narrated the story. He was in shock. He admitted that the rod of the brand was weak but that a stronger one from another brand would have done the job. He showed me how removing the rod gradually affected some parts of the front wheels. It would have cost more if it took longer to correct.

If it is cheap in the immediate, be sure and ascertain the ultimate price before you think someone is doing you a favour.

If someone offers to use a shortcut or scheme or fake results to get you admission to the University and you jump at it, do not forget that the same person can dig out the same proof to bring you down someday when you want to become the Governor of your state. Those who drop the standard for you are not doing you a favour, they are setting you up for failure.

Unfortunately, many are convenient with men who are more emotional about their destinies. Never be comfortable with those who allow

you do things as you want rather than do them as they ought to be done. Was there a teacher you hated in secondary school but appreciated years later in your university days?

David left Adonijah to do things the way he wants. He did not correct him.

Now his father, King David, had never disciplined him at any time, even by asking, “Why are you doing that?” Adonijah had been born next after Absalom, and he was very handsome.

1 Kings 1:6 NLT

He accumulated the weakness of always having his way. That was his albatross. He went to ask for Abishag. That was his death sentence (1 Kings 2:13-25). David dropped the standard for him. He probably thought he was enjoying it, but his future was also compromised and mortgaged. His desire for pleasure killed him.

There is no one who is dropping the standards for you that is helping you. Do not let anyone make you sacrifice the ultimate for the immediate. Deny yourself today. Pay the price for the best today. When things depreciate, you will spend more than the initial cost. I pray it will not be like the price of Adonijah!

CONFESSION

I discard counsel that is not consistent with my destiny. I am not a loose canon. I am obedient to divine counsel.

DAY 05

THE RIGHTEOUS MUST REFRAIN FROM GIVING EXCUSES FOR THEIR FLESH

Text: Galatians 5:13 NLT

"For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature..."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Let grace produce discipline in you. Do not allow the flesh to cover the dagger of sin. Let there be no hiding spot for the strange habits.

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

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

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

Christ has helped you, but you have a duty: So put to death and deprive of power the evil longings of your earthly body [with its sensual, self-centred instincts] immorality, impurity, sinful passion, evil desire, and greed, which is [a kind of] idolatry [because it replaces your devotion to God]. Colossians 3:5 AMP

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

CONFESS I O N

I hack to death any sign of fleshly manifestations. I live consistently in a spirit-saturated atmosphere. I am not enticed into lust and besetting sin.

DAY 06

IF IT IS NONSENSE, DON'T APPROVE OF IT

Text: Romans 12:9 NIV

"Hate what is evil; cling to what is good."

She posted a picture of a scantily clad friend and wrote a tag underneath it- "Fire Everywhere." I had to pick up my pastoral rod of care and correction when I saw it. It was firm talk.

As a believer, what is worse than appearing ungodly is approving what is ungodly. It has become a trend where Christians become promoters of that which is profane.

Paul gave us a warning about it years ago as though he was present with us today:

Though they are fully aware of God's righteous decree ... they not only do them themselves but approve and applaud others who practice them. Romans 1:32 AMPC

What you approve of is a picture of who you are. The person that approves of lewd lyrics is an ambassador of lewd lyrics. The person that approves nudity by calling it "Hot, Fire, Slaying, Pepper them" is an ambassador of nudity.

There is nowhere in the scriptures where the Lord approves of nudity and calls it fashion. One of the signs that the madman of Gadara was under the influence of demons was that he was naked. The proof of his deliverance was that he sat down fully clothed.

And they come to Jesus, and see him

that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. Mark 5:15 KJV

They met him sitting, clothed and in his right mind.

Beloved, your wedding day is not a nudity parade! If what is fashionable is what is profane, you need to have a check on your consecration. If your friend's birthday shoot is full of uncovered parts, look for an old but decent picture to use. Be well guided.

Do not forget Paul's words:

They know perfectly well they're spitting in God's face. And they don't care— worse, they hand out prizes to those who do the worst things best! Romans 1:28 – 32 MSG

If indeed you are a growing believer, some things must drop off! If indeed you have learnt Christ, it must be evident in how you behave and what you approve of. Next time, you say "Fire Everywhere", let's see that it is Holy Ghost fire and not the promotion of the profane.

CONFESSION

I steer clear of profanity. I uphold purity. I glorify God in my physical appearance. I do not endorse what is ungodly.



WHO (WHAT) DO YOU KNOW?

Text: 2 Timothy 1:12 NKJV

“...for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”

A set of seniors in secondary school decided to punish my friends and me. Unfortunately for them, we ran into a teacher that liked us when we were coming back from their classroom. We narrated what happened, and he sent for them.

He told them that we knew things that they did not know and that they should never lay hands on us again. That became our protection from their bullying.

What saved us from their bullying? Who we knew and what we knew.

Friends, the devil and certain life situations will harass you, except you are certain of who you know and what you know.

If you do not know Jesus, you will remain under the dominion of Satan and sin. But when you come to know the Lord, you are delivered from his kingdom.

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13–14 NKJV

Because of Christ, you become untouchable to the enemy:

We know that whoever is born of God does not sin, but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked

one does not touch him. 1 John 5:18 NKJV

Say with me: The wicked one cannot touch me! What is your own role? Keep yourself from sin. Why? Sin opens the door for the enemy.

Asides from knowing Christ, you must know what Christ has done for you. You must be knowledgeable. Why is that important? Even saints can be destroyed for lack of knowledge. (Hosea 4:6)

What do you know?
Who do you know?

If you do not know Jesus Christ, you become meat for the enemy! Enjoy Great Grace.

CONFESSION

I live by the knowledge of God's works in my life. I am not ignorant of the power of God inside of me. The Evil ones cannot touch me. I am unstoppable through Christ's power.



THE PATIENT WHOSE FOOT HAD TO BE AMPUTATED

Text: Galatians 5:16 NKJV

"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh..."

A doctor had to explain to a patient that a gangrenous foot had to be amputated.

He told the patient what Jesus said "And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish than for your whole body to be cast into hell." (Matthew 5:30 NKJV)

Whenever he shares the story of how the man's life would be saved by cutting off one of his legs, it was scary, but his sense of humour was undeniable.

There are things in a man's life that can limit man on the journey of life and destiny. Such a man will be limited if such things are not dealt with.

Saul was running hard in the wrong direction. On the journey to Damascus, the light that knocked him off his horse also left him blind. But he did not stand up without a sense of vision.

The opposite of faith is not fear, it is sight. We walk by faith and not by sight. If you do not get off your high horse and lose sight of physical limitations, you can never catch, let alone run with, the vision of God for your life.

Perhaps one man with "gangrenous" lustful eyes was God's anointed Samson. Samson's eyes put him in compromising postures and placed him in ungodly affairs.

Guess what- when the Philistines captured him, the first thing they plucked out was his eyes. After he lost his sight, Samson's vision was restored. He prayed that God should restore him to fulfil his life calling and assignment.

If you do not deal with your weakness, even if you have a vision, your weakness will drain you of strength to fulfil it. You cannot finish the race of a God-given vision with joy until the weakness is dealt with.

When you discover that you are already messing up, cut off that part before it messes up your life and destiny.

This is how what Jesus said is recounted in the Message Version:

"Let's not pretend this is easier than it really is. If you want to live a morally pure life, here's what you have to do: You have to blind your right eye the moment you catch it in a lustful leer. You have to choose to live one-eyed or else be dumped on a moral trash pile. And you have to chop off your right hand the moment you notice it raised threateningly. Better a bloody stump than your entire being discarded for good in the dump." (Matthew 5:29 – 30 MSG)

I pray: "Lord, may I be able to say like Jesus "It is finished." May I be able to say like Paul, "I finished with Joy." May I never have a tone of regret like Samson and ever say, "I am finished." Lord, help me. Keep me till the end. Let me not, after all, is said and done, become a relic in the dustbin of history.

What is your prayer?

CONFESSION

I deal with my weaknesses today. My life and destiny will not end in a mess. Today, I cut off from things that can cut me off the path of destiny. I have the grace to live holy.

DAY 09

YOU WILL REPEAT WHAT YOU HATED IN YOUR FATHER EXCEPT...

Text: Isaiah 51:2 KJV

"Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and

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

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

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

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

Two things will help you:

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

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

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

CONFESSION

I am not an extension of parental flaws. I cut off from the evil pattern recurring in my family. I set the pace for godly and righteous living.

DAY 10

DO NOT USE THE SPIRIT TO DRIVE YOUR OWN AGENDA

Text: Psalm 92: 13-14 NKJV

"Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing"

Some years ago, after we finished a major event, we had one or two people who wanted to see us. A young man came in and told us that the meeting really blessed him. According to him, he was about to head to his own church that morning when the spirit took him and brought him to ours. He said he did not even know how he got to us. We listened keenly.

After recounting everything, he said that he thought he should join our church's workforce. I appreciated his kind words but then asked for his role in his church. He was the Assistant Music Director. He definitely was gifted. I told him it was not a big deal. The Holy Spirit can lead you to our church, but please, kindly go to your pastor and inform him. Afterwards, you can come to us when you have gotten his approval. He never returned.

I knew by inner witness that one day the way "the spirit blew him" to us, he will be blown to many other places along the way. We would never be able to ask questions because it is the spirit.

I have been there before- as a young undergraduate, I will be heading to my fellowship and just sense that the "spirit" wanted me to go to another fellowship. I would turn around and go to the other ones. I was never rooted anywhere. Sincerely, I did not grow, and no one could hold me accountable for almost two and a half years. When I eventually found my feet, there was no blowing around again.

Listen! God is not an author of confusion. He wants things to be done decently and in order. "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints." (1 Corinthians 14:33 NKJV)

We are in the days of God's outpouring but we must learn submission also. No move of the spirit will leave behind the bride of Christ – the church. Christ will keep washing the church until she has no more blemish. The church is Christ's

gift to Himself.

Every gift in you that breeds pride because you "hear from the Spirit" is raising a rebel. An anointed rebel is still a rebel. A gifted rebel is still a rebel.

The gifts of Prophets and Teachers were flowing out of a local church in Antioch. If you will last in the move of the Spirit, there must be three things in your life:

First, a Base (The Local Church). Where are you planted? Who is your Pastor? Did you just shoot out as a star? Yet, there are wandering stars (Jude 1:13 NIV). They collide with others. They always cause issues. They operate out of their orbit.

"These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood." (Ezra 2:62 KJV)

Those who are not trained always pollute the priesthood. The polluted priesthood will defile a generation. Do not become a gifted weapon in the wrong place.

Second, there should be a Believers Company. A believers company is a small group that keeps you accountable and encourages you.

Third, there must be the Backing of the Holy Spirit in all you do.

Do not jump number 1 and begin to take pride in Number three. God is a God of Order and not disorder.

You are gifted. I agree. Are you trained?

CONFESSION

I am not a spiritual orphan. I am planted in God, in His house and among His People. The Spirit of God leads me in all my decisions.

DAY 11

IF GOD CAN HAVE YOUR LIFE...

Text: Like 12:15 NKJV

"And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.""

Irewamiri and I had to make a very wise decision early in courtship; we were going to save as much as possible towards our wedding and marriage. What led to that decision? She just finished serving the nation and all I had guarantee of every month as a Pastor was five thousand naira! We knew we had to be smart.

Every single dime any of us had was thrown into a savings account. One evening as I was praying, the Lord asked if we could give the savings as a seed. It was tough!

I called Irewamiri and informed her. She said, "Ah! Is it everything?" But then she added a very profound statement that made me love her even more, "If God can have our lives, why can He not have our money." That was how we gave it all to God. We must say that God showed up for us before and during the wedding and He still shows up till date.

Is there anything in your life and your hands that God cannot point to? Is there anything you hold so dear that would be hard to give to the Lord? That has become an idol in your life.

Your condition must never hold you back from giving to the Lord. Paul wrote about the Macedonian church and used their act to challenge the Corinthians. He said:

Now, friends, I want to report on the surprising and generous ways in which God is working in the churches in Macedonia province. Fierce troubles came down on the people of those churches, pushing them to the very limit. The trial exposed their true colors: They were incredibly happy, though desperately poor. The pressure triggered something totally unexpected: an outpouring of pure and generous gifts. I was there and saw it for myself. They gave offerings of whatever they could—far more than they could afford!—pleading for the privilege of helping out in the relief of poor Christians.

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 MSG

If giving is hard for you as a child of God, then you have not mastered nor learnt the importance of giving yourself first to God. If you have given yourself to God, it will be easy to give as instructed or commanded by the Lord.

"And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us." (2 Corinthians 8:5 NIV)

No maturity in the Christian faith will escape the curriculum of giving. Abraham had to pass the divine test of giving Isaac. Why? Isaac was not just an answer to prayers, he was a test for divine promotion and fulfilment of prophecies.

If we fail our tests, we must not expect to be promoted. Behind every test is a promotion. What tests have you been failing?
What idol are you holding dearly unto?
What can God not point to now?
Deal with it!

And if God has blessed you with a spouse who understands the spiritual principle and protocol of obedience to the Lord in all things, you must rejoice because you are blessed.

CONFESSION

My soul is not tied to substance and ephemeral things. I have a heart that genuinely gives to the Lord. I will not fail the test of Mammon.

DAY 12

ABOUT ACCUSATIONS, ENSURE THAT YOU DO NO LESS THAN THIS

Text: Romans 12:18 NIV

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

One evening, a young man reported a minister of the gospel to me. It was a grave accusation bordering on sexual infidelity. I requested to contact the person involved. Eventually, the minister reached out himself. His defence was outrageous, but I gave him that chance of a fair hearing.

The Apostle Paul wrote:

"Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses." (1 Timothy 5:19 NKJV)

Since it was just the young man who reported the minister to me, I reached out in wisdom to the minister without accusing him. But when he was done responding, he became the second witness of his own accusation. I knew something was wrong with his pattern, especially when he justified "romancing prostitutes to reach out to prostitutes." I was glad I spoke with him anyway.

If you hear an accusation and you run with it, you have only allowed gossip and evil to thrive under your watch. The psalmist mentioned that we should never allow this:

"I will get rid of anyone who whispers evil things about someone else; I will not tolerate anyone who is proud and arrogant. No liar will live in my palace; no hypocrite will remain in my presence."

(Psalm 101:5, 7 GNT)

The standard is never for you to tell someone else; the standard for you is to raise it first with the person. If you tell someone else, you have only fallen into gossip. If the person is your brother in Christ, reach out and ask questions. Do not allow the hurt to fester. There are people you are reacting to right now without asking them any questions.

Let us see it in the scriptures:

"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. (Matthew 18:15-17 NKJV)

See the pattern:

STEP ONE: If a brother sins against you, go and

tell him his fault between you and him ALONE. A lot of believers are more comfortable reporting or gossiping than confronting the truth in love. The right thing is to raise the matter alone with the person concerned. At least, love covers a multitude of wrongs. If he hears you, you have gained a brother. STEP TWO: If he does not hear you, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' You can only involve others after you have had a private conversation about it. Most people would jump to this part, and even the witnesses do not speak to the accused person most times. They just say "hmmm" or "ahhhh" and add, "So brother or sister is like this. It is well o"

STEP THREE: Tell it to the church. This is the next option. There are accusations that the whole church has heard except the accused himself. He just wonders why people are getting cold toward him/her. He is confused why someone who greets him or her warmly suddenly responds with his or her nostrils.

This is now many churches and godly relationships have been destroyed- gossip. Gossip is evil:

- It breaks healthy relationships and turns family members into enemies.

"A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends." (Proverbs 16:28 NIV)

- When gossip is confronted, disagreements would always die a natural death.

"Without wood, a fire goes out; without a gossip, a quarrel dies down."

(Proverbs 26:20 NIV)

Who are you reacting to now because of what someone told you without asking the person directly? Who has become your enemy because of the gossip you swallowed? Go back to the godly approach now.

CONFESS I O N

I do not give gossip a breeding space in my heart. I resolve matters with the wisdom of God. I am committed to living peaceably with everyone.

DAY 13

YOUR DEFENCE IS YOUR IDENTITY

Text: Galatians 5:1 NKJV

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

I was with a dear brother. We were having a private conversation over dinner at a hotel restaurant. While eating, three ladies wearing sequins (shiny apparel) with apparent slits approached our table and said, "We are offering free wine tonight."

The beloved one with me looked up and said, "We are pastors." That ended the conversation. They left immediately. He then turned to me and said, "Pastor, this is not free wine. There is more." I sighed, and we continued our conversation.

Your identity is a defence. If you do not know who you are and you do not live at the level of whom God has ordained you to be, you can end up as piecemeal for the devil and his tricks.

Don't disguise! King Ahab removed his royal robes and went to war like every other soldier. It was a random arrow from the enemy that hit and killed him. Jehoshaphat went to the same battle with his Kingly robes. He was a prime target, but the enemy turned and left him alone.

Don't disguise. When you disguise yourself, compromise becomes easy. When King Saul wanted to consult a medium, he went in disguise. I know the gospel of "let your results show you are a believer" is loud. But please listen, for Daniel; it was not just the result; it was also the character and his refusal to disguise. Everyone knew that he had hours of prayer. Everyone knew Daniel "carried Jehovah on his head."

The vice-regents and governors got together to find some old scandal or skeleton in Daniel's life that they could use against him, but they couldn't dig up anything. He was totally exemplary and trustworthy. They could find no evidence of negligence or misconduct. So, they finally gave up and said, "We're never going to find anything against this Daniel unless we can scheme up something religious." (Daniel 6:4 – 5 MSG)

Do not crave smooth talk. Be hungry for what is right. It can sound smooth but still not right. Hear Prophet Isaiah:

that this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy receipts...(Isaiah 30:9 – 10 KJV)

If your colleague at work has issues, be bold in telling them Jesus can do it. If they are brokenhearted, Jesus can heal them. If they are held captive, Jesus can save them. You are not a motivational speaker; you are God's ambassador. Motivation is needed in life, but every child of God needs to ensure that motivation does not replace the Word.

Motivation cannot divide the Jordan River. Motivation cannot bring the wall of Jericho down. Motivation cannot catch the revelation that walking around Jericho is the key to taking the city. Do not disguise!

Salt may not be obvious, but its identity is not in doubt. Yeast may not be visible, but its presence in a dough cannot be doubted. Do not disguise. Do you know that the question that the seven sons of Sceva could not answer was, "Who are you?" They were thoroughly dealt with.

Your identity and understanding of it determine what or who you attract. There are things they will never suggest to you because your identity is not shrouded in disguise. Can you imagine Daniel out to the bar? Or can you imagine the fashion designer of Mary telling her to dress with her cleavage exposed? Who are you?

Are you aware of your identity in Christ? Do you know who you are? Stop disguising!

CONFESSION

I am not ashamed to be publicly identified with Christ Jesus. I daily live out my divine purpose. I reflect Jesus everywhere I go.



DAY 14

“WHEN YOU CAN’T REJOICE WHEN OTHERS SUCCEED”

Text: Romans 12:15 NIV

“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”

My mentor taught me a profound life lesson, “If your friend buys a car or a second one while you have none, do not wonder why he cannot give you one. Buy him fuel as a gift for his new car.”

Why? It is a dangerous slope when you cannot rejoice at the success of others! This trick of the devil is as old as it can get. Cain and Abel both gave an offering to the Lord. The offering of Abel was accepted while that of Cain was not.

Cain’s response warns us: So Cain was exceedingly angry and indignant, and he looked sad and depressed. Genesis 4:5 AMPC

It is not always everyone angry that has a justifiable cause. Some are angry because they wish the success were theirs.

Cain, by his attitude, denied us the privilege of knowing the secret of Abel’s success. What stopped Cain from learning and asking a question so he could also give a better sacrifice the next time?

“If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin crouches at your door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.” Genesis 4:7 AMPC

Let us bring this home: If one random stranger gets blessed, you really don’t

bother. But when the person that you know their strength and weakness and whom you feel that you are better than gets blessed, Ah! The devil begins the envy and jealousy game on your mind!

When that third-class graduate gets a good job, what is your attitude? When that beautiful young girl drives a good car, what is the first thing that comes to your mind? When that lady you know her past sexual history gets married and pregnant while you are still awaiting proposals, does envy set in?

Do not be like Cain. Convert the temptation to be envious to an opportunity to get better or even, at best, glorify God!

Envy digs a pit, but love builds a bridge across it!

CONFESSION

I am not ruled by envy. I rejoice at people’s success. My moments of celebration will arrive.

DAY 15

MY PHONE COULD NOT STAY ON SILENT MODE

Text: Ezekiel 1:1 NKJV

"Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the River Chebar, that the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God."

I had sent a text message to a very important personality- a father in the faith. I knew he would either call back or send a message in return. My phone would most times be placed on silent mode.

However, because I did not want to miss his response or his call, I increased the call volume on my phone so I could hear wherever I was. I did not want to miss his call.

At that moment, the Spirit of the Lord ministered to my spirit: "That is exactly how sensitive and eager you must be when it comes to your relationship with me also. You must be postured to hear"

Friends, if your relationship with God is priceless to you, you would ensure that you are constantly in the position to not miss His prompts. Lack of preparation and low sensitivity is one of the major reasons why we miss out on divine prompts.

If you have ever missed out on a prompt and paid dearly for it, you will know the weight of what I am saying.

How does a servant await his Master?

"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him."

Luke 12:35 – 36 NIV

Be dressed ready. You will have no time to start preparing. You must be prepared for the Lord's prompt per time.

Keep your lamps burning. Ensure you do not run out of oil, especially in the night seasons. When it is tough, burn brighter.

How do they open the door when he comes and knocks? Immediately! So where do you think they were standing all along? At the door! They could not miss out on his first knock. They were right there to say, "Lord, here I am".

When Prophet Samuel visited Jesse's town. He had to tell Jesse and his sons to sanctify themselves before they come for the sacrifice. But when David was summoned, there was no

instruction that he should be sanctified first. The oil was poured on him. What's the lesson?

You are either living ready or getting ready. David was living ready but they had to be getting his brothers ready. If you are just getting ready by the time your divine opportunity calls, you are already late.

A lot of people do emergency consecration! You quickly ask God for forgiveness because you want to lead praise and worship on Sunday. Brother, Sister; what have you been doing?

It takes some people several prompts to know when and what the Lord is saying. Train your spirit to respond to the first prompt. Let the arguments in your soul reduce.

One thing that can hinder your walk with God is the strength of your flesh. If your flesh is too loud, you will resist divine instructions.

How do you position your spirit man to receive? First, you must be a child of God. His sheep know his voice and will obey Him.

Second, invest in the study of God's Word and prayer. Have a consistent time of personal devotion. That is basic training for all who want to know God more.

Third, live in the meditation zone always. Do not get carried away by things. Place your ear on His heart. Pick His heartbeat per time. Let nothing come in between that precious moment.

If God speaks in a whisper, would you pick what He has said? If he uses a still small voice, would your mind be calm enough to pick his prompt?

Are you ready to hear from the Lord?

CONFESS I O N

I stay and live in consecration unto God. I am intentional about pursuing God and his purpose for my life. I am attentive and addicted to the prompts of the Holy Spirit.

DAY 16

BEFORE YOU CRITICISE...

Text: 1 Samuel 30:21 KJV

"And David came to the two hundred men, which were so faint that they could not follow David...and when David came near to the people, he saluted them."

We finished a major meeting some years ago, and we had an appraisal meeting of the planning team. In the meeting, a team member began to fire on all cylinders about what went wrong. When he was done, I asked him, "Did anything go right at all?" He said, "Yes! But so and so was not rightly done." I said to him, "Before you point out a fault, always appreciate the effort."

The rule of appraisal should be:

What did we do well?

What can we improve on?

What should we stop doing?

We are in a season of taking stock, and a lot of people would simply be pointing out errors and what could have been done better; you can decide to be different. Focus first on appreciating what people did well before you turn the light on what went wrong.

This pattern is scriptural. When the Lord Jesus sent a message to the seven churches in the book of Revelation, it was an appraisal of the churches. The Lord would always begin with an appreciation of what went well before pointing out what can be improved on. Let's see one example:

He began with the Church at Ephesus by pointing out what they did well:

"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write...: 'I know your works, your labour, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars, and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.'

Revelation 2:1 – 3 NKJV

It was after they were commended that he gave a rebuke:

Nevertheless, I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

Revelation 2:4 NKJV

He then recommended a solution to the rebuke he had given and the warning of the consequence of not following his admonition: Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. Revelation 2:5 NKJV

He did not leave it that way. He again ended with a commendation:

But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Revelation 2:6 NKJV

Can you see the pattern there?

Begin with Commendation.

Point out what needs improvement.

Give an admonition on how things can be done better.

Close with a commendation.

Never let people leave you feeling less and with shattered self-esteem after you rebuke them. Let them leave with joy in their hearts that they have room to keep getting better.

If you are a boss, your team will get better. If

you are a spouse, your home will get better. If

you are a teacher, your student will improve. If

you are a parent, your child will get better.

Do not tear others down. Help build them up.

Let your words be graceful.

CONFESSION

I am full of commendation and not condemnation. I do not tear down people's efforts. I am committed to helping men rise.

DAY 17

"WE ARE NOT FRIENDS"

Text: Amos 3:3 KJV

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

A few weeks after Irewamiri told me "Yes," she went cold on me. She had come around to see me, and we were to discuss. But as we conversed, I realized that she was not free with me. I asked her calmly what the issue was. She said to me, "You are not my friend."

She was very right. She saw me only as "Pastor." We had no bond that could allow for a heart-to-heart conversation. From that day, I had to be deliberate in cultivating a friendship with her. I created fun intentionally to break down the barriers of communication. Our bond increased.

One of the things that can easily slip out of any marriage is the spirit of friendship. You can wear the same outfit and still not be friends. You can work toward the same goals and still not be friends. You can even work together in the ministry and still not be friends.

Some frustrated wives do not have friends that they can really speak to, yet their husband is also not a friend with them at home. In a marriage, you can talk about many things, yet your wife sleeps by your side with tears rolling down her eyes while you snore away. Fight hard for friendship in your marriage.

It is very hard for the marriage of two friends to actually break down. A true friend would always fight for the warmth of the union. Even the fight of friends would be a romantic scene to behold. You know it is about solving an issue and not throwing subs at one another.

Paul mentioned "deep-spirited friendship":

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ if His love has made any difference in your life if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart if you care—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Philippians 2:1 – 2 MSG

Many marriages have become professional unions. Many homes have become like boardroom meetings. It has a fullness of boredom. The life that flows in friendship is no longer there.

Dear husband, when last did you plan a time out with your wife? When last did you have time to just play as friends? When last did you create bonding moments? When last did you create memories?

Your marriage should be full of sweet memories. You are both investors in creating memories. Work hard at creating good ones and not bad ones.

Is your marriage now a professional union cemented by your relationship with your kids? When all your children leave home, would you still be friends? Work hard at it.

CONFESSION

I am a friend to my wife. We spiced up our marriage with friendship. Our intimacy grows, and our union flourishes.

GOD'S DIVINE TAILORING AND THE QUARRY OF CHARACTER TRANSFORMATION

Text: Philippians 2:13 NKJV

"for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

Irewamiri decided to sew a new garment for our daughter for her third birthday celebration.

When I announced to Olive that Mummy was sewing a dress for her, her face lit up.

Irewamiri then told Olive to try on the cloth to ascertain its fitness before finishing it up. When Olive got into the dress, she began to stroll around in it and did not want to remove it.

I told Olive, "Dear, Mum has not finished working on the dress. You will need to remove it. It is still yours, but will you let mummy finish working on it?"

This is exactly how the picture of God's dealing with us can also be at times. God prepares something for us, but at the same time, he prepares us for what he has prepared for us.

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10 NKJV)

God has things prepared for us. He has a home and a calling; he has assignments and inheritances that he has prepared for us. This first part is the easiest part of the preparation. As a matter of fact, on this part, "All things are ready."

But God has to then prepare the man for what he has prepared for the man- he takes us from Pharaoh's palace to Jethro's House and then to the burning bush to equip us with a voice and the signs that Pharaoh cannot overcome.

It is a disaster when an unprepared vessel wants to enjoy prepared opportunities. In building Solomon's Temple, only stones that were shaped in the quarry to the required sizes were used on site. They fitted perfectly, and there was

no noise from the hammer on site. The shaping was already done.

And the temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built. 1 Kings 6:7 NKJV

This is why a man who believes is not in a hurry. He allows the hand of God to work on him and shape him for what God has in store for him.

An apprentice or student who abandons the process is a danger to all-they have a semblance of a finished product but the character of raw unprocessed material. They are quacks in destiny and life assignments.

They can be called Christians, but they raise their hands to beat their spouse. They can be called a big title but with hearts romancing lust and greed. They become a pain to anything they touch.

I know you want a great home, but have you passed your quarry of shaping for great hearts, selfless living, kind hearts, and forgiving without waiting for an apology?

I know you want to raise the dead and call down fire like the prophets of old, but have you honoured Eli, and have you stayed through with Elijah?

I know you want to bring Goliath down but has pride been dealt with after you killed the lion or bear? Or has it become the alias of "your" ministry- Pastor Temi, the lion slayer?

God has things ready for you. The question is, "Will you be ready for him?"

CONFESSION

I am patient, and I persevere in God's dealings with me. I submit to the prunings, moulding and shapings. I will not leave disfigured. I will not miss my inheritance and reward.

DAY 19

ARE YOU WILLING TO BE THE ANSWER?

Text: Isaiah 6:8 KJV

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”

When I returned from service year and recounted to my parents that the Lord has called me into ministry full-time, it was initially a quiet drive around town as I narrated my encounters with the Lord.

The next day, my dad walked into the room and said to me, “I thought you were coming home to tell us that you wanted to travel out or maybe you were picking up a job in the city”.

He then added, “For years, we had always prayed that God should send young ones back to Eruwa for the work of ministry, I did not know my son would be the first fruit of the answers to our prayers.”

He then looked at me and said, “Son, the pain I feel on the inside is proof that God has called you.” Those were the words from my parents that released me to launch into ministry full-time.

A lot of people are not willing to be the answer to their prayers. They want God to use someone else to answer their prayers. Some Christian parents want the nations to be reached but are selective about where God should send their children.

It is easier to share testimonies when we get a job in the field of commerce. We scream and dance for joy. We are proud to say “He got a job in one of the top four companies in so and so sector.” Our prayer partners will rejoice with us.

But if it is about the call of God to the field of souls especially in the unreached places,

the response would be that of uncertainty. Some of our prayer partners will say, “Let us pray for clarity.” There are no shouts of joy. We become sad.

Are you ready to be the answer to your prayers? Jesus told the disciples to pray for the harvest of souls:

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” Matthew 9:36-38 NKJV.

Jesus Christ had compassion and prayed about it. He also asked the disciples to pray. That is where a lot of us would stop. But not Jesus. Guess what happened next: The prayer was no sooner prayed than it was answered. Jesus called twelve of his followers and sent them into the ripe fields. He gave them power to kick out the evil spirits and to tenderly care for the bruised and hurt lives. Matthew 10:1-4 MSG

They became the answer to their own prayers. Are you willing to be the answer or you are only paying lip service to the kingdom assignment? Will your heart obey when the demand comes for what your mouth is asking for?

CONFESS I O N

I submit to the will of the Father always. I surrender to the kingdom service. I am a kingdom ambassador of his glory.

DAY
20

YOU CAN LIVE ABOVE THAT WEAKNESS (AND SIN)

Text: Job 33:4 NKJV

"The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life."

As a teenager, I had issues with laziness and procrastination. I would watch plates piled up in the kitchen, and it would look like a mountain. I would run away wishing someone else would have done it before I got back. It was always still there. I would pile up clothes for days. There were times that I would pick up one of the used ones, perceive the smell and check if it could still be worn, at least for the last time because I had nothing else to wear.

How about my school uniform? It was always a matter of the last minute. It gets washed late at night on Sunday or midnight on Monday. I would wring it with a towel, spread it on a fan or "iron-dry" it. The little moisture left would be dealt with by the heat of my body.

Who knows these struggles? That was my life. I was so lazy that my mum's employees called me lazy. But God helped me. How was I helped? My change started when I began to obey the prompt of the Teacher- the Holy Spirit. Anything or habit or sin that has become a struggle for you is the one that you have refused to follow the prompt of the Teacher on.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit would keep nudging me till I learnt to wash my clothes in bits rather than piling them up. I started washing daily. I did the same with used plates. I overcame living a dirty life.

Amazingly, it reflected in my spiritual growth. My study and prayer life was also not clumsy. I began to enjoy order. I started growing. I loved my life. It impacted my academics also. I got better at time management. I was no longer jumping all over the place. I grew. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.
II Corinthians 3:18 NKJV

There cannot be a change in your life when you do not agree with the Spirit of the Lord. The change will come "by the Spirit of the Lord." The Holy Spirit is your Teacher.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. John 14:26 NKJV
He will teach you to say No to Ungodliness. This same grace teaches us how to live each day as we turn our backs on ungodliness and indulgent lifestyles, and it equips us to live self-controlled, upright, godly lives in this present age. Titus 2:12 TPT

Do you see that? He will teach you and train you to turn your back on ungodliness. You can defeat all forms of indulgence that you struggle with. At the same time, he equips you to live with self-control even on the days we are in. And if you are worried about situations you did not expect or bargain for, the Holy Spirit is also there as your on-the-spot teacher. He will teach you at that very hour.
"For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."
Luke 12:12 NKJV

In your hour of test or temptation or trial, you should listen to the Holy Spirit. You cannot be struggling with the Word and the Spirit of God and expect to see a change.

Will you obey all His nudgings from today?

CONFESSION

*I live a self-control life by the Spirit of God.
I am attentive and submissive to the Great Teacher. I live above every weakness.*

DAY 21

FAVOUR IS NOT JUST ABOUT YOUR WEDDING; IT IS ABOUT YOUR MARRIAGE

Text: Psalms 5:12 NIV

"Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield."

A young family was spending some time with us that morning, and we got into a conversation about their home. As we were about to end the conversation, I had a prompt to say to them, "The favour you enjoyed was not because you wanted to get married. People were not giving you gifts because it was your wedding day. No!"

Then I added, "Those gifts and seeds of favour can continue in your marriage. It should not end with the wedding. Do you remember you prayed and asked the Lord for favour for your wedding? You agreed about what you desired, and God showed up. It is not about your wedding alone. It can happen in your marriage."

We also told them, "But when does the challenge begin? Once you begin to speak in disagreement and you do not have the same words about things. If anyone is talking down on the other, your marriage will be as strong as the words of the weakest mouth."

Beloved, marriage is a covenant. It is clear that he who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favour from the Lord. Many people can testify about how much favour they enjoyed for their wedding. But the challenge is a lot of times; we think it is just about the wedding. No, it is not!

Find a good spouse, you find a good life—
and even more: the favor of God!
Proverbs 18:22 MSG

Marriage introduces a new level of goodness in your life. And it comes with even more- the favour of God. The favour

speaks for you everywhere you go. Proclaim it. Profess it. Live in the consciousness of it. You are not disadvantaged.

One will chase a thousand, and two will chase ten thousand. There must be an increase when a couple agrees on any matter. Disagreement reduces the divine allocation that is meant to flow into your marriage. A divided home front will lead to divisive words, and you cannot have more than what you are declaring.

Disagreement rooted in dishonour is a legal ground for the devil to operate in your space. Do not give the devil that foothold at all. Where there are no cracks, strange creatures have no space. But the moment there are cracks, the enemy has a field day.

Whatever you do not want to see in your home, speak against it as a couple. Whatever you desire to see, speak it into existence as a couple. Favour must not stop flowing on your wedding day. It must keep flowing in your marriage. It must not be about a day. It must be about the covenant and two people who understand it.

Yes! Your testimonies will flow in.
Yes! Your blessings have just begun.
Yes! Favour will not cease in your home.
Speak it into life.

CONFESSION

*I am a candidate of God's favour. The favour of the Lord speaks for me everywhere I go.
I enjoy favour every day of my life.*



“DARLING, LET’S GO INSIDE”

Text: Psalm 1:1 NKJV

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

We were having some bonding time outside the house. The weather was friendly and we were discussing. There were some artisans working on a site not too far from us. They began to use vulgar words and communicate with one another in an abusive manner.

I was not comfortable with the atmosphere but I was enduring it while we still talked. Not long afterwards, Irewamiri said, “Darling, lets go inside. The atmosphere is not sane.” I completely agreed with her.

There were two types of birds that Noah sent out from the ark in a bid to confirm if the waters have receded:

The first was the Raven. The raven would eat normal things but was also comfortable with garbage. When he sent out the raven, it kept going to and fro and did not return.

Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. Genesis 8:7 NKJV

The second type of bird was the dove. The dove was different from the raven. It kept coming back to the ark.

He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. Genesis 8:8-9 NKJV

Did you see why the dove returned? There was no resting place for the sole of her feet. It had no place to perch or stay. The dove would not stay in dirty places or things. The dove returned to the ark.

What are you comfortable with? The things you

are comfortable with reveals the kind of person that you are.

Are you comfortable with songs and jokes that promote obscene things?

Are you comfortable with nudity disguised as fashion?

Are you comfortable with gossip disguised as a need for prayer?

Are you alright with lies and exaggeration disguised as ‘testimonies’?

Are you comfortable with lies disguised as packaging? Are you calling yourself a well-sought-after conference speaker when you know it is not true yet you disguise it as “faith-speaking?”

When you have the Spirit of the Lord, there are things you will not be comfortable in. There are places you will not be comfortable to be. There are things you would not entertain in your mind. Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?” Matthew 9:4 NIV

Sanitize your atmosphere! We keep clean houses. Why then do we allow people to walk through our minds with dirty feet? Do not entertain evil thoughts. Deal with it now.

What should you think on?

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Philippians 4:8 NIV

CONFESSION

I dwell in the right spiritual atmosphere. I am not acquainted with profane things. I am living sacrifice unto God.

DAY 23

WE TRUSTED THE G.P.S

Text: 1 Corinthians 2:10 NKJV

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

We were visiting Lagos a while back and just as we approached Lagos, I engaged Google Maps. Even though we had been to that location several times, we did not want to rely on our personal experience.

Google Maps at a point said it had found a better route and asked if I would want the alternative. I accepted. It took us through a route I had never taken to that location before but I trusted it all the way and it got us home in good time.

There is leading by experience. God honours our experience. Experience can be a great map for finding our way at times on the journey in life. People look out for experienced hands. Why? Experience comes with a level of trust.

For instance, the crew trusted the captain of the ship over the counsel of Paul. Why? Paul was not a sailor. He was a prisoner. Who would rely on the counsel of a prisoner even if he says he heard from the Lord?

Paul advised them, saying, “Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship but also our lives.” Nevertheless, the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul.

Acts 27:9 – 11 NKJV

Experience counts but the experience can be limited. You must therefore submit your experience to the leading of the Spirit of God also. God may lead you through unfamiliar routes but you must trust Him to

get you there.

The leading of God is superior to our human experience. Your experience draws insight from yesterday. The leading of God has the advantage of knowing all things including tomorrow.

Economic advice can fail. A financial forecast can fail. We must be knowledgeable in all these things but we must equally know that there is a place of divine leading.

Solomon is a wise man. He told us to make plans but then he said that we should commit our plans into the hands of the Lord. Why? Only the Lord can establish our way.

CONFESSION

I prioritize the voice of God in my life. I live each day according to divine instructions. My path is guided by the light of God's word.

DAY 24

YOU HAVE A GREATER APPOINTMENT

Text: Nehemiah 6:3 AMP

"So I sent messengers to them, saying, 'I am doing a great work and cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave to come down to [meet with] you?'"

I was driving that evening through some of the interesting areas of the city to catch up with an appointment with my spiritual father. The GPS already told me it will take me about an hour to get to him.

Just some minutes into the trip, a tricycle rider decided to be naughty and squeeze himself into a tiny space between me and the next car. The fabricated iron on his tricycle hooked the car's bumper. Rather than patiently navigating. He began to pour out obscenities.

Without a sense of care, he pulled out the bumper as he drove away. Some of his mates were already forming a sympathy gang. Well! I had to choose between getting down from the car and getting delayed or driving off to keep to the scheduled time of my appointment. I smiled it off and chose the latter. I had a greater appointment to keep.

One of the ways the devil keeps men on the same spot is through the distraction of small irrelevant fires. While you are fixated on the supposed fire, he is stealing something greater. The devil aims to destroy but he begins by stealing- attention and other resources.

Before you get distracted, you need to ask yourself, "At what cost?" What will I be losing when I take on this matter? If you have an appointment with the President of a Great Nation and your neighbour decides to step on you on the way out, you will not start speaking with that neighbour or pick up a fight. You have a greater appointment

to keep.

Jesus showed us how it is done: Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2 KJV

Jesus had joy set before him. He did not get distracted by what men did to Him. His focus was strong.

Sometimes, the enemy had won the moment you got into the ring with him. Sometimes going on when the enemy wants you to stop is actually your victory. You cannot stop to respond to everything that throws a stone at you on the journey of destiny. You have an appointment with joy. Do not let the enemy use small fires to steal your attention.

Ask yourself: Is this worth my energy? What am I losing as I engage in distractive fights? Be careful of the fights you get into.

CONFESSION

I am not trapped by distractions. I move on in life's journey by the hand of God. My eye is single, and my body is full of light.



THE ARTWORK ON THE WALL (THE POWER OF GENERATIONAL INVESTMENTS)

Text: Psalm 22:30 NKJV

"A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation."

I was invited to speak in a meeting some years back. I was in the house of my host when he pointed to an artwork on the wall and said, "Your Dad and Mum gave me as a wedding gift. Those words are priceless. They shaped my value towards diligence."

At that moment, it struck me that "Can my children sit one day and people point to the value that I have added to their lives in the presence of my children?" For me, it was a sobering thought.

Let it be known this day that there are doors and opportunities you will access in life simply because of sacrifices that a generation before you paid. There are doors that your skill did not open but the goodwill of men who travelled the same road before you.

Some men are way more skilful than you are who have been sitting at the entrance while you keep company with kings- do not take it for granted. There may just be a gift that outlives the moment hanging on the wall that you had no idea of!

David asked a powerful question from his men one day:

One day David asked, "Is there anyone left of Saul's family? If so, I'd like to

show him some kindness in honor of Jonathan." 2 Samuel 9:1 MSG

Before you get too confident and develop a sense of entitlement, you need to sit down and ask "Who paid the price for the honour I am enjoying?" Make up your mind never to take such people for granted at all.

We must live our lives in such a way and manner that when our names are mentioned, it provokes honour, opens doors, invokes favour and shows credibility.

The simple question is "What is hanging on someone's wall or maybe heart that will open doors for generations coming after you?"

What will your children be grateful for? What generational investments are you making?

CONFESSION

I think and act generationally. I make generational impacts. I am a channel of blessing to all around me and afar off.

DAY
26

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY IS NOT ABOUT AGE BUT UNDERSTANDING

Text: Hebrews 5:14 KJV

"But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Many years back, I was visiting my uncle and aunt in the city of Lagos. They have amazing children. The youngest daughter was about four years old at the time. One evening, my aunt, her elder sister, and I were having an informal conversation in the girl's room.

My little niece stepped out of the restroom with a towel around her waist. We carried on our conversation without minding her presence. The next thing we heard was "Uncle Temi, can you please excuse me? I want to dress up!"

All of us were shocked at the audacity of this little girl. There was silence all over the room and I stepped out without saying a Word.

She had come to a level of awareness. She knows her identity as a woman. No matter what I think, it must be honoured.

It is the same for us as Christians. An ignorant Christian would remain a victim of the devil and his schemes. Anyone who lacks understanding would remain in captivity. The devil thrives where ignorance is bliss.

Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.

Isaiah 5:13 KJV

Hell gains more ground where men are ignorant of its schemes. Therefore hell hath enlarged herself and opened her mouth without measure...

Isaiah 5:14 KJV

A believer with understanding will always shut the mouth of the devil and thwarts all his schemes. It is not just enough to be saved, if you will walk in dominion and exercise spiritual authority, you must come to the knowledge of the truth.

Spiritual authority is not a function of age but a function of light. You can be 20 years old in the faith and remain in the creche of the Spirit fighting over space and feeding bottles. And you can be a year old in the faith and you are already breaking bones, especially the backbone of the devil and his schemes.

Some things are available to you because you are a child of God but they only work for you when you grow to become a Son! Go for light. Grow in understanding.

You can cast out demons.

You can walk in authority.

You can lead others to Christ.

You can lay hands on the sick.

You can; as long as you choose to grow.

Tell the devil today that he has no space around you. Go for light so you do not remain a lightweight in the things of the Lord.

CONFESSION

I am not a toddler in the things of the spirit. I grow in grace and in understanding of God's ways. I operate with spiritual authority.

DAY 27

DO NOT UNDERRATE LAUGHTER

Text: Philippians 4:4 NLT

“Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!”

My Mum taught me this spiritual lesson with her life: Mum lost her sight many years ago. In the early days of losing her sight, she wanted to sit down in her office. It was a chair with two arms. She felt the arm of the chair to get the right spot but unfortunately, she forgot to touch the second arm. As she attempted to sit, she sat on an empty space. She fell to the floor.

In her account, as she fell, the devil began to remind her of how hopeless her situation is now. She responded by laughing until she burst into praying in the Spirit. A pastor working in the ministry office heard the fall and ran to the door but turned back when he had the laughter and prayers saying, “Mummy is just praying.”

That laughter in the fall and at the devil produced light and strength to navigate that season. Today, that light has birthed an institution that is thriving. No other book would be apposite to tell us about laughter other than the Book of Job.

You shall laugh at destruction and famine, And you shall not be afraid of the beasts of the earth.
Job 5:22 NKJV

One way to kill fear is laughter. Destruction and famine may be staring at you right in the face but your response must be laughter. There is nothing that you laugh at that can succeed in intimidating you again.

Why do we find it hard to laugh at tough times? We are not loaded with understanding about the ways of the Lord. When we do not know the Lord and His ways, we enter into the realm of murmuring.

He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.
Psalm 103:7 KJV

You will never hear Moses murmur. He knew the ways of the Lord. If you murmur in the wilderness season of life, you will prolong your stay there. Laughter opens up your Spirit to light and instructions. Murmuring shuts you down.

But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. 1 Corinthians 10:5 KJV

The wilderness intends to overthrow you. Your assignment is to remind yourself of who the Lord is and what The Lord has said. Arm yourself with the Word before the wilderness season comes.

If your heart is not full of the Word and there is space for the devil to dump his thoughts, you will never be able to laugh at tough times. You will fall into the realm of pity. Do what you see God doing and you will get divine results.

He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.
Psalm 2:4 KJV

When last did you laugh at the devil? When last did you laugh at challenges? Laugh! Get back on your feet. You were born to confuse hell and all its demons. Laugh!

CONFESSION

I am not overwhelmed by negativities around me. I mock the devil through my laughter. I do not sulk. I rejoice always. Things are turning around for my good.

DAY
28

THE DANGER OF “DISTANCE”

Text: Proverbs 27:17 NLT

“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.”

When we were done talking that day, he said to me, “Thank you for calling me sir. I have been feeling very far, and I did not know what to do about it. This call has made a whole lot of difference.”

A relationship is serviced by communication. If you are not intentional with communicating, you will realize that intimacy begins to wane. If you do not become deliberate about prayer and study of the Word, your relationship with God will drop in quality.

I have had relationships that died a “natural death” because of the communication gap that was built. One of the things that begin to happen is that you realise that the longer it takes to reach out to such persons, the harder it becomes to reach out. Quality relationships can be lost to such patterns.

There are relationships you must never allow to wane- you must always give it your best. When the devil also wants to destroy a man, he ensures that he is far from voices that can hold him accountable and caution him in trouble.

The trouble of Samson did not begin with Delilah. Not at all! It began the day he started withholding important information from his parents. When he killed the lion, he said nothing. It was easier to go back to the same place to draw honey and lick it. It is always a “gradual” decline till it becomes a mess.

You are blessed when people who should hold you accountable still come into your space to encourage or warn you. There

are times it can be an uncomfortable conversation. It can be about a pattern of behaviour that they have noticed. Take it humbly as great feedback. Work on it!

No matter how busy I am, there are relationships that I will never take for granted and there are places and meetings that are a must for me. Why? They are voices of rectitude. They are places of instruction. They are people that stir me to deeper things.

If there are calls you must make today, do not postpone it till tomorrow. I ran into a dear one once. She was in shock. I was excited to see her. She kept apologising about how distant she had been. I led her to Christ and disciplined her as a young convert. Over time, there are patterns that I have seen that are not Christ-like. That is part of the strategy of distance. For some seeds to grow in your life, there are people that the enemy will isolate you from.

I know another person that also stopped going to church for months. I just did not love the gradual slope I was seeing with her moral standard. I knew something was wrong. Distance is a devilish trap when your spiritual health is concerned. Maybe you should wake up! Make that call today. Build that relationship again today. It is already dying. Go and water it.

CONFESSION

I am intentional about relationships. I am not a lone ranger in Destiny. I enjoy the blessings of men.

DAY 29

LOAD IT ON YOUR PRAISE

Text: Jeremiah 30:19 NKJV

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

We started out the year 2021 with a list of things that we desired to get done as a ministry. It was meant to be a normal year of trusting God for the seemingly normal things. But I developed a habit that year- I would wake up at night and praise the Lord.

The scripture that drove it was: Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Psalms 37:4 NKJV

Amazingly, my spiritual father gave us the same instruction at a meeting very early in the year. It was a great confirmation.

What I did not realise was that God does more than granting us the desires of our hearts. He actually gives us the desires of His own heart for us that our heart has not even captured.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 NKJV

One such night (it was an early Sunday morning), I received an interesting message from a friend that he senses that we have a major project we desire to get done in ministry and he wanted to sow into it.

Building was not in our view but I told him that sometime soon, we may likely begin to build. He sowed a huge seed to the work.

That was the beginning of a miracle that blew our minds.

How does this work for you as a believer this season?

First, build a culture of delighting yourself in the Lord. Do not allow the atmosphere around you to be lesser than a joyful one. Surround yourself with reasons for thanksgiving. Sanitize your environment with worship. Be deliberate about it. So set aside a time to do it. Have a personal "Hallelujah Challenge" daily.

Second, make sure you have a list of your desires also but be sure that God can alter that list with mind-blowing answers that were never on your list.

Third, load it on your praise. Be deliberate. Dance before the Lord. Play music and worship along. Watch the Lord do what He alone can do. The season may be interesting but load it all on your praise. A man of faith will never cease to praise. A man of praise will stir up faith!

CONFESS I O N

I am deliberate about thanksgiving unto God. I praise God for things seen and unseen, prayers answered and unanswered. I rejoice always.



“WHY SHOULD I BE SLEEPING IN THE MORNING?”

Text: Genesis 2:25 KJV

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

Danielle has a pattern, she would wake up very early. There are times that she would wake up when she hears us praying. This day, when Irewamiri saw the look on her face, she was prompted to ask whether Danielle would still love to sleep. Her response shook both of us, “Why should I be sleeping in the morning?”

First, it takes understanding and maturity to be aware that there is a time for everything. Once a man knows the importance of times and seasons, it makes the journey of his life more meaningful. He knows where to be at a time and what to do.

A “baby” is a time waster. He lacks awareness of times and seasons. He is sleeping when others are working. Such grows up to become a son which brings sorrow to the parents. As good as sleep is, there is a time when sleep should be taboo.

Know the importance of the season you’re in and the wise son you will be. But what a waste when an incompetent son sleeps through his day of opportunity!
Proverbs 10:5 TPT

Second, there is such a thing as taking the wings of the morning and there is such a thing as the womb of the morning.
If I take the wings of the morning...
Psalms 139:9 NKJV

Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth.

Psalms 110:3 NKJV

To take the wings of the morning means that you take flight once the day starts. It means you are not joking with the day. You take advantage of the morning to fly. You do not dwell on the failure or success of yesterday. It is a new day and you have to take it with seriousness.

The womb of the morning says to us that every new day is an opportunity to birth a new thing. However, the determiner of a great day is in the morning. A man who wastes his morning has wasted his day.

The life cycle of a man is divided into morning, afternoon, and night (M.A.N.). A man who lacks awareness and wastes his morning and wakes up in the afternoon already is running against time. That is why you see some men running with the urgency of a latecomer. They woke up very late in life.

What are you doing with your morning season of the day and your life? Catch the flight of the morning. Invest in the womb of the morning. It will birth greatness for you.

CONFESSIO N

*I awake early to the demands of destiny.
I am not a time waster. I am diligent in season and out of season.*

DAY 31

DO A FINAL CHECK

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NKJV

"Test all things; hold fast what is good."

We needed a hotel to use for our guests during one of our major meetings. We decided to check out one that we had never used before. We went there some days before the conference to do a random check. We concluded that it may not be the best but we could at least manage it.

However, just before we made the payment a day before the commencement of our conference, the team decided to do a final check- this time around, it would be at night.

It was not the same place we saw as manageable during the day- something had changed. The entire reception had the thickness of smoke. There were topless young men smoking from pipes and tubes and it was not even the weekend yet. We knew we would never use that place. We moved on.

It is the same with commitment to new friendships, new business partners or any other thing in life. Do not be in a hurry to commit yourself to anyone or anything without an adequate revelation of who or what they are.

One of the sincere prayers you must pray before putting your all into anything or anyone is "Lord, reveal this person to me." You cannot bank on your physical senses alone. It is a scriptural warning not to know any man after the flesh.

So, from now on, we refuse to evaluate people merely by their outward appearances. 2 Corinthians 5:16a TPT

You must exercise spiritual caution before you commit to anything or anyone. Let your discernment wake up. Even in friendship, you

must exercise caution. Do not let excitement overwhelm your discernment.

A righteous person is cautious in friendship... Proverbs 12:26a WMB

The righteous choose their friends carefully, Proverbs 12:26a NIV

Before you commit to anything or anyone, never joke with that restraint you sense in your spirit. Do not take the red flags for granted. If indeed, you are a child of God, do not be in a hurry out of excitement. He who believes does not make haste. When anyone is putting pressure on you to do it now, buy it now, say Yes to their proposal now or whatever it is, do a second check to confirm if indeed the hand of divine favour is on it.

There is a concept that the previous generation calls "buying a night product in a night market." It means you bought it in a hurry without an adequate check. When light dawns, you realise that what you bought was really "trouble."

If it unsettles you, check again.

If you are disturbed about it, check again.

If you sense a restraint, check again.

May the Grace of the Lord keep you from terrible mistakes that cannot be corrected.

CONFESSION

I am not deceived by physical appearances. I operate in spiritual discernment. I walk by faith and not by sight.



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