



JANUARY, 2019

THE REFINERY DEVOTIONAL

*Start your day with Christ
conscience and be refined unto all
of God's goodness*

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You are FREE to make your contributions and praise reports via my inbox on Facebook @ Harrison Ayintete.

Blessings!

DAY 1

TOPIC: WE PRAY!

TEXT: James 5:17

Written by: ADEMOLA IBITAYO

“Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.”

There are lessons to learn from this record concerning the prophet Elijah, a man who had similar feelings or affections as we have. He addressed a specific situation by praying with a serious expectation of result to such point that he was not going to stop until the result was evident (1Kings 18:41-45). Pay attention to the fact that it had not rained for the space of three and half years; not three days, not three months, but 3 and half years. He was bold to tell Ahab to get up, eat and drink because there was a sound of abundance of rain. Ahab did as he said and Elijah went on to pray and it happened that the result was not coming as expected. He could have given up or gone cold in his prayer seeing there was no sign of rain but he did not stop. He knew what he wanted to achieve and he made it a must for him to achieve it. That is a great boldness and confidence displayed by Elijah.

Dear believer, remember that you now have the Holy Ghost in you. Your prayers are effectual and they make tremendous power available (James 4:16b). Today, choose to be fervent. Choose to see results when you pray. Don't pray like it's just a means you're trying out. By your prayer, you transform situations around for good. Be deliberate about it. Don't settle for less. Pray through till you see the results you want to see. If Elijah could demonstrate such boldness, how much more would we who have received exceeding greatness of power that works mightily on our inside? We can be so sure of the outcome of our prayers. Ways are opened for us, we have provision, and help is made available supernaturally. We are confident because when we pray, God hears and we have that which we desire.

Therefore, WE PRAY!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 2

TOPIC: DON'T BACK OUT

TEXT: Genesis 26:22

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“And he removed q from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; r and he said, For now the LORD hath s made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.”

On God’s instruction and direction, Isaac dwelled in the land of Gerar and it was recorded that he was blessed in the land so that he became very great. In the scripture above, we are made to know that in spite of Isaac’s greatness in the land of Gerar, he wasn’t without oppositions and challenges. He was envied, the products of his toil (wells he dug) were taken away from him but the good thing to learn from Isaac in this passage is that he did not give up trying to dig wells.

The above lesson is very important for our dealings on this earth; in the ministry, in our careers, businesses and all of our pursuits, we are to be resilient. That is, we are to be unbending, strong, unyielding to challenges in this earth until we are able to achieve tangible results.

Don’t back out of the business because you failed once, don’t give up on the exam, remain undaunted in your office, in that career; and in all, don’t relent. In addition, just as Isaac and his men tried other lands, we may try alternatives, try other methods in our pursuits as far as we remain focused and we will achieve our desires.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 3

TOPIC: ABLE MINISTERS

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 3:6

Written by: GBEMISOLA AYUBA

“Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”

The believer is said to have been made an able minister of the New Testament; this means he has been made one with the ability to minister life.

The ministry which every believer has been given is the ministry of reconciliation and he has been given the ability to be effective in this.

Some believers erroneously believe that only those called into the five-fold ministry of pastors, teachers, apostles, prophets and evangelists have been empowered to preach the gospel but our text tells us that we all have been made ministers of the New Testament, given the ministry of reconciliation and enabled to minister life.

We all have been given a ministry; it is the ministry of reconciliation and are enabled to do this through the indwelling of the Spirit.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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Further Study: 2 Corinthians 5:19

DAY 4

TOPIC: GOD HAS GIVEN SUCH AUTHORITY TO MAN

TEXT: Matthew 9:8

Written by: OKEKE IKECHUKWU MARK

“When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.”

Prior to the statement made above, there had been a contradictory thought about the statement Jesus made the miracle he performed by the teachers of the law. Now, the Bible calls the man who has believed in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ “a joint heir with Christ” (Romans 8:17). This is no blasphemy but a fulfilled reality which has been wrought by Christ at His resurrection.

Jesus said *“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore.”* (Matthew 28:18-19)

The phrase “all power” used here in the Greek originals is the word “exousia”, which is the same word for “authority” or “ability”. Noteworthy is the fact that Jesus used the word “GO”, which is a word of command, depicting that it is an instruction for the believer in Christ to express this God-given ability in action as he preaches and makes disciples. Paul prayed that the saints may know the riches of the glorious inheritance in them (*Ephesians 1:18*).

Dear believer, do not be restrictive in the ability of God at work in you. You’ve got the Holy Ghost; you’ve got the ability of Christ resident in you, and that should be expressed by you. God has given the man in Christ such authority. Hallelujah!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 5

TOPIC: THE PLACE OF HONOUR IN RECEIVING

TEXT: Mark 6:4-6

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“4 But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. 5 And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed [them]. 6 And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching”

In the chapter before this text chapter is the record of how Jesus had just risen a dead damsel. Moreover, the synoptic gospels are full of lots of records of the many healings and miracles that happened in Jesus’ ministry. Despite the obvious manifestation of God’s power and goodness in Jesus’ ministry, His country people could hardly receive from Him. Obviously, the problem wasn’t about Jesus; it was about them.

Jesus explained that their problem was lack of honour for Him; hence, their unbelief in Him which consequently hindered them from getting blessed. It is therefore clear that why Jesus couldn’t do as many miracles as He did in other places was as a result of their lack of honour for Him.

The truth is that there is little to what you can receive from God through a man of God if you do not honour him. I encourage you to honour the man of God over you as the Bible teaches. This will help you enjoy God’s power flowing through him in administering God’s blessing to any ramification of your life.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 6

TOPIC: MEDITATE ON IT

TEXT: 1 Timothy 4:15

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.”

Meditation is a process that engages the mind. It is simply an act of thinking carefully about something. Man is created with the capacity to reason and think. A verse of the scripture makes it clear that as a man thinks in his heart so is he (Proverbs 23:7). This implies that the actions of a man are influenced by the thoughts of his heart or mind.

The word of God is expressly written for the believer to read, meditate on and apply. Apostle James likened a man who is a hearer of the word, and not a doer, as unto a man who beholds his natural face in a glass, goes his way, and straightway forgets the manner of man he was.

Many sometimes do not apply what they have learnt from the word of God to their earthly matters because they forgot. Forgetfulness could be due to lack of adequate meditation. Just as Apostle Paul instructed his son, Timothy, to meditate on the instructions which he had given him, the believer is also to meditate on the written word of God.

We are to allow the words which we have learnt about our reality in Christ fill our minds at all times; for we can only be transformed by the renewing of our mind which is done also by meditating on the written word. As you go on with today’s activity, let the word of God fill your mind.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 7

TOPIC: WHEN WE PRAY IN TONGUES

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 14:4

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“He that speaks in an unknown edifies himself; but he that prophesies edifies the church.”

God desires that His temple, which the believer is, be a house of prayer (Matthew 21:13). And as such, to everyone that believes in His Son, Jesus Christ, He gives His Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Praying in tongues is a valuable means by which the believer edifies himself. The word “edify” comes from the Greek word which means “to build something”. For instance, if one is to build a house, you start by laying the foundation, then install studs and construct walls, followed by the roof and every other structure to fortify the house. So it is with edifying one’s self via speaking in tongues. You charge up yourself little by little until there’s an overflow, when you speak in tongues. You only just build on your most holy faith, which is the foundation on which you were saved. It is clear from our text that every believer has been given the responsibility to edify/build up/charge/re-energize himself. For if it weren’t so, we would have been otherwise instructed in the epistles.

When we pray in tongues, it enables us communicate beyond the limits of our natural mind. It allows us communicate with God! Oh such precious gift from the Father that we have received, that we can have sweet fellowship with Him even when we do not fully comprehend the mysteries involved. Verse 2 of our Bible text tells us that “he who speaks in unknown tongues, speaks not unto men, but unto God: howbeit in the spirit he speaks mysteries”. When you pray in tongues, you are not only edified, you also pray beyond your mental capacity.

Beloved, praying in tongues is yours for the taking. Do not allow anyone talk down on this gift of the Spirit that you have received. Amazing things are wrought via this means of prayer, and we are instructed in Ephesians 6:18 to engage in this exercise at all times. Make it a habit to edify yourself via praying in tongues in the New Year; for in doing so, we not only edify ourselves, but mighty wonderful things to happen both within and outside the body of Christ.

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DAY 8

TOPIC: FAITH SPEAKS

TEXT: Mark 11:23-24

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”

In the text above, Jesus reveals something very vital about faith to us. We discover something about how to put faith to work. Notice, the verse above did not say, “if you have faith, then you will think or wish in your mind”, but “...you will say”. Pause and think about that; “you will say”. In other words, faith is primarily demonstrated by speaking. The believer in Christ Jesus must learn to speak the very things he desires into reality. God’s power is at work in the believer and the way he primarily puts it to use is by speaking.

The Apostle Paul lets us know this without mincing words. In 2 Corinthians 4:13, Apostle Paul, by the Spirit, writes:

“We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak”

The saints of old believed and therefore spoke. Hence, we can say the proof of our belief is in our speech. We believe, therefore, we speak.

Dearly beloved, say to that mountain be removed and be thou cast into the sea and it shall be so. The mountain may be in your business, your finance, your marriage, your health, your ministry— wherever and whatever the mountain may be, speak to it and shall be removed.

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DAY 9

TOPIC: CONCERNING PROPHECY

TEXT: 1 Timothy 1:18

Written by: ADEKOYA FEMI

“This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;”

The context of the today’s text is the apostle Paul instructing and admonishing his son, Timothy, in reference to the prophecies that he had received aforetime, so that he may be a good soldier (minister of the gospel) fighting a good fight of faith. This informs that for a prophecy to be fulfilled there is the place for the one who has received such prophecy to walk by it.

It’s not new that by this time of the year, various prophecies must have been declared and received as individuals or in a congregation of believers. Prophecies revealing God’s will for one’s life; ministry, marital, career and other aspects of life. The truth remains that when words of prophecy are declared the hearer/receiver has an important and active role to play in seeing the fulfilment. Prophecy comes with specific action(s), and this action is the part of the receiver in the fulfilment of prophecy. The receiver must have an attitude eager to receive and be ready to heed the instruction following.

Beloved, no word of prophecy said through the Spirit comes out void but you as the hearer can by your actions or inactions render it void or inactive over your life. Prophecies are not meant to be rationalized but they’re meant to be received with a heart of thanksgiving.

The onus is on you to receive them with thankfulness, believing that God is able to bring them to manifestation. If you have received a word of prophecy, the instructions must be strictly adhered to and followed to the letter; you don’t modify it, but stick to it.

Child of God, just as you have received words of prophecy, it is important you write them down, consciously speak them over and over again; put them on your lip. Reinforce your faith in the word and soon enough, you shall see them come to pass tangibly and experientially.

Further Study: Luke 11:5-10, 18:1-8

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DAY 10

TOPIC: NEVER FORSAKEN

TEXT: Deuteronomy 31:6

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”

The verse above is a very strong admonition; a very assured one at that: *“the Lord thy God will go with thee, he will not fail thee nor forsake thee”* It was an admonition that rested solely on the consistency of the character of God; that He will not fail thee, he will not forsake thee.

Thus, it is on the consistency of the character of God that we have strong courage and are not afraid. Let us paraphrase the strong words again and we would have something more profound like this: “God will never fail thee, he will never leave thee”. Hey; it means God is consistently faithful! He is always with us! This is a very strong affirmation; it means right now, He is with me and will not fail me. In what I do, wherever I go, He will not put me to shame; He is with me.

Aha! Glory to God! In the new creation, we have much more affirmation in that now, He indwells us. So, everywhere we go, He is right here in us, and with us. This means we cannot be confused or confounded. Hallelujah!

Beloved, this is the New Year; let this be your charge, let this be your strong affirmation; in all your plans, be assured that God is right there with and He will never fail you.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 11

TOPIC: KEEP YOURSELF IN REMEMBRANCE

TEXT: 1 Timothy 4:14

Written by: GBEMISOLA AYUBA

“Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.”

From the text above, we discover that via prophecies and the laying on of hands, spiritual gifts can be given to the believer. The word “given” here implies “to cause to be awakened and stirred up”. Thus, via prophecies and the laying on of hands, spiritual gifts can be awakened and stirred up in a believer. Many believers having received prophecies and impartations in spiritual meetings or gatherings are quick to rejoice at the receiving of such prophecies but also quick to forget such prophecies not long after such meetings.

Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy to not neglect the gifts and prophecies he received via the laying of hands but to meditate on them and give himself wholly to them as that is the way to profit via such gifts (1 Timothy 4:15). One major way to neglect or despise prophecies is to forget them.

As believers, we have the same responsibility to keep prophecies and other spiritual experiences in our remembrance; and a good way to do this is by putting them into writing and referring to them frequently, for by so doing we would be able to meditate and be reminded about the things said concerning us.

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Further Study: 2 Timothy 1:6

DAY 12

TOPIC: DO YOU BELIEVE THAT I AM ABLE?

TEXT: Matthew 9:28

Written by: OKEKE IKECHUKWU MARK

...When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

The obvious meaning of Jesus’ words is that faith sets the stage for the Lord to help us, and that unbelief hinders us from receiving from Him what we need. The blind men in this narrative believed Jesus could heal them and He did. Conversely, the residents of Nazareth, Jesus’ hometown, did not believe in Him and no great miracles happened there except for a few.

The blind men believed Jesus was a prophet who had miracle-working power and Jesus’ hometown acquaintances believed He was a man like them so He couldn’t be a miracle worker. We must not exemplify this kind of attitude. If a believer asks God for help but remains anxious and uncertain, it could mean that he has greater faith in the problem than in God.

Apostle James addresses such a person saying “let him who ask, ask in faith not doubting, for he who doubt should not expect to receive” (James 1:6). God’s character of giving has no variableness. It is gross deception to say one thing but in the heart doubt what has been said. Express your faith in a greater measure today. Rest confidently upon the character of God who gives without finding faults.

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DAY 13

TOPIC: STRONG IN FAITH

TEXT: Romans 4:19-21

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”

In the text above, we see that it is possible to be weak in faith. Notice the verse did not say that faith can be weak, but rather that one can be weak in faith. This is because the faith of the believer is the faith of the Son of God; it can never go down; it remains ever-potent and ever-productive. Now, more than that, we learn how to be strong in faith. Abraham shows us a stellar example of being strong in faith.

Abraham, though having the indwelling of the Spirit, demonstrates great strength in faith here. How did this holy saint do this? His focus was not on the issue of Sarah's barrenness and childlessness but on the ability of God. Every believer must learn this.

Many times, we have exalted the problem above the power of God; we have forgotten the efficacy of His divine ability; we have raised the challenge high and brought the Lord low. We must stop this at once! We must consider the power of God in all situations. We must be assured that He who has promised is able to perform!

We are only able to strongly walk in faith to the degree that we recognize the potency of God's power. God is called the “Almighty” because He is indeed all-mighty. With the indwelling of the Holy Ghost, with the Lord on my side, where is that wall that I will not tear down? Where is that mountain that will not be levelled? Where is that storm that will not hearken unto the voice of peace?

God's word spoken to me is all that matters. The power of God backs the word of God. Stand on the word. Stand in His power. Enforce your authority in Christ; it is your right and privilege in Him. This year, give no place to the devil, give no place to fear. Consider God's power mightily at work in you; let faith be stirred up in you. Let there be a release of power unto power. Arise. Stand. Be strong. You are more than a conqueror!

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DAY 14**TOPIC: GOD IS FAITHFUL****TEXT: Hebrews 11:11****Written by: ADEMOLA IBITAYO**

“Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.”

What happened to Sarah was beyond the natural happenings of life. She was to bear a child when she was past age. Being a human, she could wonder how possible it was to be pregnant with child at her age. Again, the strength to conceive is another thing to be worried about. But she deemed God faithful and she received strength supernaturally to conceive.

The rigours of the natural human life can fill the mind with a contrary information. Experiences of disappointments, delays, disease or illness, stories of accidents, death, and loss of any kind leave a very heavy weight of fear, doubt, uncertainty, worries etc. when they are allowed in the mind. The truth remains that God is faithful despite all of these contrary situations.

Dear believer, how persuaded are you about the faithfulness of God? How much of God's faithfulness have you filled your heart with? God is constantly faithful. He is unchanging. He is the Father of light with whom there is no shadow of turning nor variableness. He is forever faithful. This implies we can enjoy His faithfulness at all times. There would never be a time when God stops being faithful. That's an assurance we have as we live, that God is faithful; so we walk in divine protection and perfect health. Our needs are met. Everything that concerns us is kept good. Things get better and better. We are sure of this because God is faithful.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!**

DAY 15

TOPIC: GOD GOODWILL TOWARDS MEN

TEXT: Luke 2:14

Written by: OKEKE IKECHUKWU MARK

“...Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

The gospel of Christ is neither some sensual information nor a message devised by man. We have many people who carry this message around in a sensual manner. For instance, they assume that this message cannot be this simple, foolish, weak or have the power in its simplicity to save a man; so they present the gospel in a form that attack the character of the hearer. Some even use the fear of hell as a means of persuading men unto God’s good pleasure, instead of presenting God’s goodwill towards man in its simplicity.

The Apostle Paul puts it this way:” ***“it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”*** (1 Corinthians 1:21)

The gospel is designed in a way that it reveals God’s offer to man without any prejudice or requirement than just to receive it. The gospel gives the receiver of the same a new identity instantly at the acceptance of what God has offered in Christ. It doesn’t matter the character or the past or the current activity of the hearer, the moment he or she receives the gospel, such a person has received redemption through the blood of Christ, the forgiveness of sin and sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise according to the riches of God’s grace. (Ephesians 1:7-14).

This is the goodwill of God; that all who believe are accepted in the beloved. Praise God for His goodness!

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DAY 16

TOPIC: BE DILIGENT

TEXT: Proverbs 22:29

Written by: GBEMISOLA AYUBA

“Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.”

In the earth realm, one of the important virtues that bring about success and accomplishments in business and other endeavours is diligence. Diligence has to do with intense concentration and focus; it means a combination of carefulness and long-term efforts, determination or perseverance.

Our text says a diligent man would not stand before ordinary men but before kings, because his act of diligence would distinguish him from his other colleagues. Diligence is the ability to stay focused and put in continuous effort into an activity in spite of challenges.

As we go about our daily activities, in our academics, business and other endeavours, lets ensure we apply due diligence.

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DAY 17**TOPIC: LIVING WATER****TEXT: John 4:10-14****Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

“Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”

On a very sunny afternoon in the street of Samaria, Jesus sat at the well called “Jacob’s well”. Out of the exhaustion and hunger, he sat down awaiting His disciples to bring Him food. While waiting, He had a conversation with a woman at the well which led to Jesus’ willingness to provide another kind of water for the woman such that she will never thirst again.

“What kind of water quenches thirst forever?” the woman thought to herself. She thought it was physical water, but Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit. It is lucid from Jesus’ response that the Holy Spirit is given to a man irrespective of His race or ethnicity. The moment a man believes in Jesus, he receives the Holy Spirit who would reside in him forever. This was Jesus’ meaning of “never thirst” as used in our passage. In other words, anyone who has received the Spirit would never have a reason to ask for the Holy Spirit again because he or she has become an eternal abode of the Holy Spirit.

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DAY 18

TOPIC: TAKE HEED TO INSTRUCTIONS

TEXT: PROVERBS 19:20

Written by: ADEKOYA FEMI

“Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.”

Oh glory to God! It's a new year and we thank God for goodness in it for us all. Beloved, it's expedient to draw your attention to something very important that will aid your spiritual growth and your walk with the Lord this 2019 and even beyond.

As you go on this year, take a very important note of every instruction you have received or will receive via God's word or prophecies; don't take them with levity. Instructions are basic trainings, guidelines, directives, even correction that you receive from mostly those you look up to or even those under you, your godly associates and such like. These instructions make us and build us up even as we grow spiritually.

You can't just be unaccountable to your leaders and their instructions, leaders who are faithful to the work of the ministry and exemplary in character. What about your attitude to instructions? It must be with humility and singleness of heart, not with eye service. You must be able to listen with all reverence and honor, doing that which you received by instruction wholeheartedly.

Watch the kind of instructions you receive too. The kind of godly ministers and relationships that surround you will determine the kind of instructions that will fly around you. Beloved, what instructions you listen to and how you make good use of them will easily tell you how far you are going to get to in 2019. I say again, do not despise instructions!

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DAY 19

TOPIC: OF A CERTAINTY

TEXT: Philippians 4:19

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

One thing that we all do is worry. Circumstances of want and necessity fill our lives and we sometimes cannot see how we are going to make it. We sometimes are doubtful, unsure if God will really come through.

But we must always remember that God is faithful and is not slack concerning His promises. However discouraged or disheartened we feel, we must embrace the truth of God’s faithfulness. If we focus on our problems and troubles instead of God’s faithfulness, we are heading down the path that leads to discouragement, despondency and despair. We must trust Him and know that He is faithful to us His children; for He promised to never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5b).

The promise of God in our Bible text speaks of certainty; that He’ll supply and give to us without conditions. Also, because He withholds no good thing from us, when we find ourselves in circumstances of necessity, we have a sure word from Him that He will supply our needs. All these needs are supplied according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. That is, our needs shall be supplied according to God’s infinite and inexhaustible supply, according to His grace, mercy and fullness, which can only be found in Christ Jesus. For He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. Jesus is the perfect guarantee that all of our needs shall be supplied.

So child of God, in the midst of uncertain times and ugly circumstances, let your heart be fully focused on God’s word, trusting in His unchanging promises. Be rest assured of this one thing, that your heavenly Father shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

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DAY 20

TOPIC: FORGET NOT HIS BENEFITS

TEXT: Psalms 103: 1-2

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“1 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, [bless] his holy name. 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:”

The text above is a part of the psalms rendered by King David. He was giving instructions to his soul and every part of him to bless the Lord. This is suggestive of the fact that it is our responsibility as believers to educate our souls and ensure that it blesses God at all times. That is, it is within our power to ensure that we live our lives in full reference and adoration to God.

David goes further to say to his soul that it must never forget all of God’s benefits. The fact that he mentions this makes it clear that is not impossible for the human mind to forget all the great things that God has done. David seems to say that the fact that our souls forget all of God’s benefit is the reason why it doesn’t praise God. It is therefore reasonable to say that we must learn to reflect and meditate on all the great things that God has done for us, if we will remain full of thanks.

As believers, being thankful to God at all times is a culture that we have been instructed to imbibe. We will do this well enough if we do not allow ourselves to forget all that God has done; how He has forgiven our sins, saved us eternally, saved us from that ghastly car accident, healed us of that incurable disease, provided for us where there was no one else to help, and much more. We must learn to remind ourselves of the victories that God gave us in times past and allow them stir up thanks from within us.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 21

TOPIC: YOU CAN SAY TO THIS MOUNTAIN

TEXT: Matthew 21:21

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.”

By faith, Jesus informs us we can do the impossible by words of declaration. He affirms that what we decree will be fulfilled by faith alone. In other words, we can see things done for us by our declarations; we can see things change by our words of faith.

The character of Jesus makes it easier to meditate and believe those words because He never lies. We can take His word for a surety. So dearly beloved, you will do well to heed this admonition to demonstrate words by faith alone this time and going forward. Pray, study, get conscious of the supernatural workings of God by faith and you will experience tangible workings of His mighty power. Amen.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 22**TOPIC: KEEP AT IT!****TEXT: Luke 18:1****Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

“And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;”

We can learn a great deal from the parable Jesus gave of the widow and the unjust judge. If we look closely at the verses that follow, we will see that the widow refused to back down with her request. She desired that the judge avenge her of her adversary. Now, this unjust judge is not God our Father, as many have asserted. For God is neither unjust nor cruel as this unjust judge was described. We know and are assured that God answers us speedily. However, the character of this widow is what we examine today.

We are told that the judge refused her request on several occasions but she was relentless. She did not waver for a day. Her tenacity was what moved the judge to grant her request. This widow’s attitude towards her desire is worthy of emulation. Most times, we give up in the place of prayer. We might have prayed for a long time on a certain matter and we are yet to see the answers that we seek due to numerous earthly factors. Nevertheless, like the widow in our story did, keep at it dear child of God. In the New Year, choose to persevere, choose to be dogged and resolute with your requests.

Refuse to back down even when it seems there’s no headway, for God is orchestrating events to work out in your favour. James 1: 7-8 tells us that *“a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways, for let not that man think he shall receive anything of the Lord”*. In the place of prayer, beloved, let your heart fully trust in the Lord. Be single-minded when making your requests, for in due time like it happened to the widow, you’ll get your answers.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!****Further Study:** Matthew 7:7

DAY 23

TOPIC: YOU ARE COMPLETE IN HIM

TEXT: Colossians 2:9-10

Written by: ADEMOLA IBITAYO

“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:”

A common song says:

“Complete (twice), complete in Him, I am complete in Him.

Complete (twice), complete in Him, I am complete in Him.

It's not by works of righteousness but by His grace alone (thrice).

I am complete in him.”

Glory to God! That is your state as a believer! The word says you are complete in Him who is head of ALL principality and power. You are complete in Him in whom the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily. You have been made full and nothing of God is lacking in you.

This is not a feeling. It is the reality of your state in Christ Jesus. There is never a time you lack power. There is never a time you're without God's Spirit, His gifts and fruit. You're complete and lacking nothing in Christ Jesus. How beautiful it would be for you to agree with this in your heart and have it expressed at all times. There is such confidence you live with by this reality. Choose to walk in this reality in your life, let it be evident in your family, your work, your conduct and in your service to God. Strength is always available. Grace is always available. You've got favour and honour wherever you go and in whatever you do.

Confession: I am complete in Christ Jesus. There is nothing of God lacking in me. I choose to fix my mind on this reality and walk in it today and always.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 24

TOPIC: OUR HELPER IS ALWAYS HERE WITH US

TEXT: John 16:33

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

Right from the fourteenth chapter of the Gospel account recorded by John, Jesus began to talk to His disciples about the Holy Spirit which they will receive upon His resurrection. This He did in the next two chapters. As He was rounding off on this, He mentioned that He had spoken to them about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, His advantage and operations through them so that they may have peace in the midst of tribulations. According to Jesus, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the proof that He (Jesus) has overcome and it will cause His disciples to be courageous in tribulations, with absolute peace of mind.

As a believer, the devil will try all his best to stop you by bringing distresses and unpalatable situations. Your greatest advantage is to understand that your helper is the Holy Spirit and He will always make a way out of every situation, no matter how unpalatable the devil makes them. Little wonder David said in Psalms 23:4:

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou [art] with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

As we go about the work of the ministry and our daily lives, we must never forget that our helper is right here with us; any day, any time. Hence, we are never alone! There is absolutely nothing to fear; our helper is always around. Always!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 25

TOPIC: BE KIND

TEXT: Ephesians 4:32

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

One of the lessons I learnt about our Lord Jesus Christ while growing up was that Jesus is very caring and kind-hearted. Being a kid, the story about how He scolded the disciples when they obstructed the children from coming to Him melts my heart. I feel the love and compassion. On the night Jesus was arrested, it was recorded that Peter cut off the ear of one of the soldiers. This act could be considered as self-defence today; but Jesus rebuked Peter and healed the soldier completely. I am very convinced that the soldier would have also felt the compassion and love that Jesus showed him. Our Lord Jesus is full of love and compassion.

It is not strange to receive this kind of instruction in our passage from the Apostle Paul. The fact remains that the Christian faith is built on love; and by love, we show to the world that we are Christians. The believer in Christ has the nature of God. He has the ability to forgive and to love compassionately.

The parameter to measure the way to forgive is to consider how God forgave us all our sins. The only way to forgive the wrongs done to us by people is to evaluate the level at which we wrong God yet He forgave us all the sins. From the scriptures, we see that Christ forgave our sins even when we were yet sinners. He did not forgive some sins and hold unto some. He forgave all our sins. We should show kindness and mercy to people likewise.

Dearly beloved, do not give room for hatred and wickedness in your heart. Be kind and compassionate because God is forever kind to you.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 26

TOPIC: SEND HIM THE ARK

TEXT: 2 Samuel 6:11

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obed–edom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obed–edom, and all his household”

Obed-edom must have been a cast away person to be the choicest person to accommodate the ark when an evil had just happened as an aftermath of touching the ark of covenant; however, the evil expectation of the people for Obed-edom’s accommodation of the ark of covenant actually turned out for his good.

Take note that it was written that God actually blessed Obed-edom and his entire household; hence, is not outside of God’s character to bless or change untoward circumstances or evil societal expectations for good. Dear beloved, God’s thoughts for you is not the limitation of your own thoughts or people’s opinions of you. In bad situations, God is more than capable of turning them around for your good. Choose to see a miracle, choose to see God’s goodness in your entire endeavors and in your household, choose to see things happen for you by God.

In the seemingly bad economic times, choose to see God’s goodness! Now, noteworthy is the fact that the ark of covenant at that time represented God’s presence; so we can actually say that Obed-edom enjoyed God’s goodness because God was present in his household. The epistles reveal that we are the temple of God and so as believers we always have God’s presence with us. Dearly beloved, put your trust God every where you are; be assured of His goodness and see it manifest in your life. Hallelujah!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!
WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!**

DAY 27

TOPIC: YOU ARE A SON OF GOD!

TEXT: 1 John 3:1-2

Written by: ADEMOLA IBITAYO

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

The believer in Christ Jesus is a son of God. He is born of God. He can boldly call God “Father”. Some do not still understand the implication of this statement well enough and as a result they get fearful when they hear about the appearing or return of the Lord. The text makes it clear that it does not yet appear what we shall be but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him. Now that's a tone of assurance. He says “WE KNOW”. He definitely could not be speaking with fear and doubt in his heart.

The introduction of the text reads thus; “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God”. Dear believer, you have been made a son of God by the love of God. Not by your good works but by His love. It is in this truth that we have assurance and rejoice at His appearing because we know when He appears, we shall be like Him. Thus, we can say His appearing is also our appearing. We await that moment with great joy. There is no fear, for by His love have we been made sons. The one returning is not a tyrant but our Father. We are at peace and bold before Him. There is nothing to fear. He is our Father and we are His sons.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 28**TOPIC: STANDING STRONG IN THE LORD****TEXT: Ephesians 6:10****Written by: MAY AYINTETE*****“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”***

It is vital for your survival as a believer that you realize when you became born-again, you were drafted into God’s army. Daily you are engaged with an unseen enemy that seeks to destroy you. But thanks be to God, we have the victory over the enemy through Christ. Apostle Paul closes his letter to the Ephesians with this section on Christian warfare. He shows that this section of his letter is built on what precedes. He is saying based on your glorious position in Christ in chapters 1-3, and in light of the worthy walk to which you are called in chapters 4-5, our faith is engaged in serious conflict, because we are in the Lord’s army.

He piles up words of strength in our Bible text, from the words he employed in Ephesians 1:19-20, where he mentioned the “exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe”; that is, we who have faith in Christ Jesus. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and set Him at His right hand in heavenly places.

Also in Ephesians 3:16, Paul prayed that God would grant us “to be strengthened with might by His spirit in the inner man.” In other words, we are not strong in ourselves. Our strength comes from the LORD. Yet, at the same time, we must take the initiative to be strong in the Lord. This is illustrated in the life of David, after he and his men came home from battle and found that their city had been burned to the ground with fire and their families and possessions taken captive by the Amalekites. The story has it that David’s men were so embittered and threatened to stone him to death.

1 Samuel 30:6b tells us that “David, encouraged himself in the Lord his God.” It can be better put this way, “David, strengthened himself in the Lord his God.” He was almost down for the count, but he strengthened himself in the Lord his God, sought the face of the Lord concerning the matter and the Lord miraculously directed him to recover all that the enemy had taken from him and his men. That same strength is available to every believer. You may be at your lowest point. You may be discouraged. It may seem that God’s promises are not true. But no matter how much may seem to be against you, you can be “strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.”

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!**

DAY 29**TOPIC: THE PRAYER OF FAITH****TEXT: James 5:15a****Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL*****“And the prayer of faith shall save the sick...”***

The prayer of faith shall save the sick. This is as simple as it gets! The word “save” here is not same as “salvation through faith in Christ Jesus”, but “deliverance from sickness and afflictions”. Contextually, it is a word that implies “heal”. Thus, we can read the above verse as this: “The prayer of faith shall heal the sick”. Notice the word “shall”; it is a word of certainty. It means that the prayer of faith heals the sick. It surely heals the sick!

Now, what is that “prayer of faith”? It is the prayer of the believer made in the consciousness of the eternally active and efficient power of God at work in him or her. This is the prayer of faith! It is prayer done with the ability of God in focus. The prayer of faith will work. The prayer of faith will produce results.

Today, and beyond, as you confront that seemingly difficult issue, that sick person, that issue of lack, that demon-afflicted person, that contrary wind that threatens to toss your ship over, make the prayer of faith. Consider the power of God. The prayer of faith will save. It will heal. It will deliver the oppressed. It will set free. It will cause miracles to happen. Pray today, in faith, and see a mighty harvest of the miraculous!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!**

DAY 30**TOPIC: COUNT THE COST AND CONTINUE****TEXT: Luke 14: 28-30****Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

“28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have [sufficient] to finish [it]? 29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish [it], all that behold [it] begin to mock him, 30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.”

Jesus was explaining how that anyone willing to follow Him must not make the decision in a hurry, rather such persons ought to count the cost before making that decision and ensure that they stick with that decision once they make it. In between His admonition, he painted a scenario in order to drive home His point— this scenario is our text for today. Jesus explained that the reasonable thing to do before starting a building project is to count the cost and see if it is feasible to start and complete such project without stopping abruptly along the line.

Jesus’ admonition gives a clue to why many projects and processes have been stopped untimely and have remained so till today. Many have only barely started and they have had to stop almost immediately. Today, many will dare start a ministry work, enter into a relationship, get into a business partnership, etc. without counting the cost. Of course, this is not a call to avoid walking by faith because we must recognize that the same Jesus who instructed to walk by faith also gave the admonition to count the cost before commencing a project. In the real sense, we are able to walk more in faith when we have counted the cost from the outset and we are fully persuaded that God wants us to get a project done.

Whatever we deem fit to do, we must learn to stay through till we complete it or win. This is the attitude of winners. We must learn to pull through even when there are obvious or seeming oppositions as long as we are sure that God wants us to get such things done. Always count the cost before starting; to see if you should truly go ahead, and don’t stop until you are done!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!**

DAY 31

TOPIC: A MAN'S LIFE

TEXT: Luke 12:15

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”

In the scripture verse that we read, Jesus gave a warning to the audience before He continued in telling His listeners a parable to corroborate what He has said. Let us consider this statement in another translation.

“...Speaking to the people, he went on, ‘Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot’.” (MSG)

The best way to live life is to live in the consciousness that we came to this world with nothing and we shall leave with nothing. Notice that Jesus did not preach against possessing things rather, he is against allowing possessions to have a total hold on us as though our lives depend on those things.

Again, it is true that one can be carried away with the affairs of this world and be overwhelmed with his possessions; hence, the instruction is for one to be on guard, always mindful and conscious of the fact our existence is in Christ. Whether we have or not, we are complete in Christ. Our riches do not determine who we are, rather we determine how to use our riches and much more; we use it to the glory of God.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!