



SEPTEMBER, 2018

THE REFINERY DEVOTIONAL

*Start your day with Christ
consciousness 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: TO AVOID FORNICATION

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 7:2

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband."

The above text can be rewritten in this manner; "let every man or woman have his own wife or husband to avoid fornication." This means that defrauding one's partner is tantamount to leading him or her to sexual immoralities.

This, therefore, validates the importance of sexual intimacy in marriage. For this reason the Apostle Paul gives clear instruction in verses 3-5 to the married to be diligent in meeting this particular need of their spouses.

We would also observe that he takes this matter seriously at heart such that he admonishes the married not to defraud their partners except by mutual consent.

He says "Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time..." That is, both partners must have agreed to stay off sexual intercourse for a period of time to observe fastings and prayer. Very importantly, he teaches that it shouldn't be for a very long time so that one or both married couples will not be tempted.

Now Paul was talking to believers who were full of the Holy Ghost, yet he recognizes the place of the human body. Paul isn't spooky; he knows that married believers can be tempted. Couples must recognize this too in their marriage— stop acting with some "mystical heavenly supernaturalness". You do not sin when you are intimate with your partner; rather, you are helping him or her not to sin when you are.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 2

TOPIC: RESIST THE DEVIL!

TEXT: James 4:7

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

The text above is clear. We have seen a script clearly written in the word. And we have seen our roles in the script. We are to act as the "almighty ones" where the devil is involved. He knows his role so well. He knows the role to play when we play ours. To resist is our role to play, to flee is his to act.

The powerful one is the one who exhibits resistance. The powerless one, the vanquished one, is the one who flees. To flee is not to walk away; it is to scurry away. If it said the devil walks away any time we resist him, one might be tempted to think that he yet has some power, that he is able to resist our resistance. But not so! The word "flee", by analogy in the its original Greek usage, means "to vanish". Thus when we, the "almighty ones", roar with strength from within us, the devil vanishes. He disappears. Hey man in Christ; the devil is afraid of you!

You (as every believer is) are the victor, the one with power and authority. Speak out; shout; use weapons from the arsenal that your lips are. Command, withstand, oppose the devil; act that godly role which the Lord has given us. Resist the devil today, and watch him disappear!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 3

TOPIC: GOD OF OPPORTUNITIES

TEXT: 1 Peter 5:6

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:"

It is often said that "opportunity comes but once". This saying suggests that where an opportunity is missed in life, it can never be regained again. "Opportunity", in this sense, means "a time or set of circumstances that make it possible to do something". This statement may be true when it comes to some certain issues of life. For instance, when a student misses an opportunity to write the Joint Admissions Matriculation Board (JAMB) examination, he cannot sit that examination the same year; he may only write in another year since that is the regulation guiding the conduct of the exam. In other words, from the example given, the opportunity to write that exam that year came once.

Owing to the grip this notion has on many, they have used it as a principle that guides their reception from God. When they lose any opportunity given to them by God on an issue, they give up thinking it cannot be regained. They erroneously conclude that divine opportunities come but once. Let us consider our scripture text again. It says God will exalt, elevate or honour in due time. The phrase "in due time" may suggest that there is a particular and fixed time for God to do this and once it is missed, it cannot be regained. This is however not true.

With proper Bible study, we can decipher and be convinced of the truth of God's word. The word translated to mean "due time" is "kairos" in the Greek, which means "always opportunity". In other words, if we read that same scripture with this meaning it would read thus: "...He may exalt and elevate at always opportunity." Hence, God is willing to exalt at every opportunity and possible circumstance. This is our God. He is not a God of one chance. You might have missed a divine opportunity, help or intervention in life. But, do not give up, trust God for help and He will make a way.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 4

TOPIC: OUR ANCHOR IS SURE AND STEADFAST!

TEXT: Hebrews 6:18-20

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“18 That by two immutable things, in which [it was] impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: 19 Which [hope] we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, [even] Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.”

Our text today reveals how far God went to ensure that He keeps everyone that has believed in Him saved to the end. It shows how God had to go to the extent of swearing by Himself (because He couldn't find anything greater than Himself by which He could swear). Also, He gave His promise of saving mankind (as many as would/will believe his promise) and successfully ensured that He fulfilled His promise against all odds and through ages.

God did this by coming in human flesh, paid the price required to rescue mankind and ultimately rose victorious as our High Priest. By this, God didn't just show His infallibility and integrity by accomplishing salvation; He also ensures that everyone that has believed remains secured eternally. This is explicitly expressed in the text above as the writer of Hebrews declares that we have a High Priest who has gone past the veil; anyone that believes in Him has a strong consolation. Notice that he is emphatic on the type of consolation that we have; not a shaky, feeble or weak one but a strong consolation. It is so called a strong consolation because Jesus who is our High Priest abides forever and He's the anchor for our soul. He is sure, unfailing and steadfast! Hallelujah!

You need to allow your heart to be fully established on this unfailing promise. The anchor for your soul is both sure and steadfast! Glory!

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DAY 5

TOPIC: CHRIST BECAME A CURSE FOR YOU

TEXT: Galatians 3:13

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree.”

Jesus' blood which was shed on the cross was sufficient enough to redeem us from the curse of sin; that is, it was sufficient enough to clear us from the consequences of our sins.

Jesus became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Christ (2nd Corinthians 5:21). In Him, there was no sin but because of the Father's love for the whole world, He took upon Himself our sins, and made us accepted in the beloved.

Child of God, the curse of sin has no hold on you any longer because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. You now have the forgiveness of all your sins, whether past, present, and even future. The Father has blessed you with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Walk in this reality: God has blessed and yet blesses you with all of His goodness.

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DAY 6

TOPIC: GODS' ACTION AND THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSE

TEXT: ACTS 2:4

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance"

From the texts above, we see something profound: believers spoke as the Spirit gave them utterance. We see clearly distinctive roles in the flow of the things of the Spirit. The Spirit gave utterance, the believers began to speak. Hence, the workings of the Spirit is of God while the expression of the workings is that of man. This implies that in the event that took place in Acts 2, the believers wouldn't have spoken if the Holy Spirit didn't give them utterance and the Holy Ghost wouldn't have been seen to be expressed if the believers were mute.

The account written above is same for every other demonstration of the things of the Spirit: giving a word of knowledge, healing the sick, working of miracles. The same roles operate; God does the working, we do the expression. For example, we will lay hands on the sick and God will do the healing.

In Ephesians 3:20, it is clear that God works in us. The word "works" is in the continuous tense, meaning there is no time God stops to work in us. Hence, God is always willing to work through us in healing the sick, in working miracles, in giving a prophecy. It is ours therefore to manifest these workings; intentionally healing the sick amongst us, consciously giving the prophecy to that brother and manifesting the workings of miracles in us.

We have this certainty that God works in us; hence, we are sure that when we lay hands, healings are bound to happen. So, let go of the barrier of not communicating the workings of God to others. Let's reach out; it is ours to manifest.

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DAY 7

TOPIC: WHOSE SIDE IS THE LORD ON?

TEXT: Romans 8:31, 33 & 34

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."

Yea, who shall bring a charge, however frail, against the born-again man? It is God who defends him! God is the silencer of thoughts that rage upon lanes of condemnation to vilify the man in Christ. Here is God, on the believer's side; and He has justified the believer. The justification of man is made possible in the death and resurrection of Jesus. He has justified the believer!

Take into account in your mind that God is on your side. Yes, we have hitherto sung a song that reminds us that we are on the Lord's side, and that is beautiful. But, much more, we must sing with great gusto, zeal and vibrancy that the Lord is on our side. We can only be on His side because He is on our side! God is for us. He is the defender. He is the protector. He is the deliverer. He is the justifier!

Saints, whose side is the Lord on? Tell me, whose side? He is our light and our salvation, our hope and joy, our comfort and comforter, our help, our assurance and boldness, our song, our message, our life, our husband and friend. He is on our side! We are not condemned! We cannot be! What/Who is it/he that condemns? It is God that justifies!

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DAY 8

TOPIC: LORD, WILL YOU?

TEXT: Luke 5: 12-13

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

"12 And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 13 And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him."

Our scripture text gives us an account of one of the numerous miracles Jesus did on earth. According to Luke, there was a man who had leprosy (a chronic and infectious disease that causes severe, disfiguring skin sores and nerve damage in the arms, legs, and skin). The man saw Jesus afar off and having heard of Jesus' mighty works and miracles, He believed that Jesus could heal him. However, he felt that although Jesus could heal him, He may not be willing to do so. Hence, he said: "Lord if you are willing, you can make me clean". This is more like asking in a pitiful tone that: "Lord are you willing to heal me? Will you do it? Will you heal me...I am unclean, a sinner...will you hear my prayer?"

The questions above are the puzzles in many people's minds whenever they expect a miracle from God. Sometimes, these unanswered questions in their minds debar them from even trusting or receiving a miracle from God. It is not a very good situation to know God can do a thing but to also doubt whether He would do it.

In response to the leper, Jesus touched him and said "I will, be clean". This is awesome! This man would have felt loved by the touch and the words that came out from Jesus. He might have expected worse but He got the best of Jesus. He received healing in his body because the man who healed him is able and willing to do so.

Beloved, God is able and willing to do all that we ask of Him. Let not your heart be troubled, hold on to His word today and receive your miracle.

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DAY 9

TOPIC: GREATER WORKS THAN THESE

TEXT: John 14:2

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater [works] than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”

Jesus’ ascension *and* enthronement is what gave us the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Again, Jesus’ promise to the disciples in this text is not exclusive to the disciples alone for He said; “He that believes on me”. The promise of the same works that Jesus did and even greater works are for every one that believes.

We have read about the various astonishing miracles that Jesus did. He clearly enforced the supernatural whenever the natural was not enough such that everyone in His days knew Him. However, while Jesus was about to leave, He stated without ambiguity that those who will believe in Him will do greater works. Little wonder the shadows of the apostles in the early church were healing the sick and materials taken from them were healing the sick.

It should therefore interest every believer to do the works that Jesus did and even greater works. We must never be so used to the natural that we belittle or even ignore the supernatural. For the man who has believed in Jesus, the supernatural is natural to him. He must expect it and always be eager to demonstrate it. He must be eager to heal all manner of sicknesses, cast out devils, order circumstances to conform to God’s will, etc. All these are freely given abilities at the New Birth. It is God’s grace that is constantly at work in every believer. Use your grace today and beyond; do the works of Jesus!

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DAY 10

TOPIC: IT'S NO BIG DEAL FOR GOD

TEXT: Jeremiah 32:17

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Ah Lord God! Behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm and there is nothing too hard for thee.”

God does not see or think as man does. He made the heavens and the earth by His own great power. There is nothing too hard for Him to do. Most often, we tend to see problems as too big for God to handle, but with God, there is no such thing as a ‘big problem’.

If we take a look at the miracles of Jesus, we would see that most times, if not all the time, His disciples always ran out of options as to what to do whenever a situation arose. But with Jesus it was not so; for nothing was too difficult for Him to do. Jesus being the express image of God showed us what the Father can and would do in every situation.

For instance, at the wedding at Cana of Galilee, Jesus provided the best wine for the party out of water. He instructed Peter to cast his net into the sea after he had toiled all night without any success, and he had a mighty catch of fish such that he had to call for help to gather the fish. In the wilderness, Jesus fed the 5,000 and 4,000 with a few loaves of bread and fish.

To the human mind, just a few fish would have been enough for Peter for the night or even that it should take more loaves to feed more people. But no, Peter had a net-braking catch of fish and it took fewer loaves and fish to feed more people. Beloved, that above is God’s way of saying there is nothing too big or hard for Him to do. If He could give up His Son to die for the sins of the world, then our needs are no big deal for Him.

As you go about your day, cast your cares upon the Lord, be they health-related or academic-related or even finance-related, etc., the Lord is capable of turning your situation around for good.

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DAY 11

TOPIC: FRATERNAL AFFECTION

TEXT: Hebrews 13:1

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“Let brotherly love continue.”

The phrase "brotherly love" is "philadelphia" in the Greek and it means "fraternal affection" and it generally means "love shared among brothers or kin". In this context, it speaks about the love amidst the community of believers. All believers are sons of God; God therefore is our father. Brotherly love thus comes from the consciousness of our identity as of (from) the same father.

The above text is a clear instruction. The word "continue" means "to endure or to remain or abide". This infers a never-ending show of love among believers in Christ in spite of all situations. That is, in abundance, we demonstrate love; when in lack, we demonstrate love. It means when we make corrections/rebuke, the mindset is love. Everything we do should be born out of love for the brethren. This means there isn't any room for unhealthy vices among the saints; no such malice, bitterness or even envy or pride or total disassociation from one another.

The Bible is replete with different shows of love among the saints; we find examples of sharing resources, sending relief materials to brethren in times of famine, giving to the work of the ministry, sending materials to those in prisons, correcting one another, writing letters, visiting one another, housing fellow saints and most importantly praying for one another.

In our texts today, we are instructed to ensure that the aforementioned virtues continue among us.

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DAY 12

TOPIC: NOW ARE WE IN ZION!

TEXT: Hebrews 12:22-24

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

The writer of the book of Hebrews exposes to us that where we are right now is Zion. Zion, the city of the living God, is our country home. It's our place of origin and residence. We are inhabitants and citizens of God's city. We are not foreigners or strangers. We are natives; a race of the God-kind; men born in Zion.

Zion is that place of an innumerable company of angels; it's the assembly of all of God's children— men who have been justified and perfected by the blood of Jesus, who is the mediator of the new covenant. Glory to God!

Psalms 50:2

"Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined."

David, foreseeing in a glimpse of what we now have, referred to Zion as "the perfection of beauty". He must have seen a place of immense beauty with people arrayed in great glory and majesty. He had no other words to use than "the perfection of beauty". If you say a thing is beautiful, you infer perfection about it already. However, David lets us know in his description of Zion that it is "the perfection of beauty".

Now are we in Zion; that very place that David foresaw. We are the vision and prophecy of David come to pass. We are in Zion where God shines, and we shine too (for we are His children). Go on today educating your mind about this. Grow in this knowledge. See yourself in a new light. Allow yourself swim perpetually in it, and there shall be a manifestation of the glory within in no small measure without!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 13

TOPIC: BE SKILLFUL

TEXT: Proverbs 22:29

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

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

One of the Bible stories I learnt while growing up is the story of David, particularly how he came in contact with King Saul. David was a young man as at the time he met King Saul. At this time, the King had a certain infirmity and there was the need for someone very skillful in playing the harp to attend to King Saul. The Bible recorded that David met this qualification, for he was indeed gifted and skillful in playing the harp (1 Samuel 16: 16-18).

It is one thing to have a craft or business and it is another thing to be skillful and diligent with that business. There is rarely a business or idea in this world that is exclusive to an individual. As a matter of fact, it does happen sometimes that the moment one is thinking of starting a business with a specific object, another person who had no foreknowledge of one's intention will just start up the same business with the same specific object. With this situation on earth, what makes the difference in what we do is the uniqueness and skill applied to it.

Brethren, it is profound that being dexterous in whatever we do makes more door of opportunities open for us in life. From the example of David, it is not doubtful that there were many harp players in his days, but he was singled out because he had developed the skill to play well overtime.

It is therefore important that we are not complacent in whatever we do. We must endeavour to learn more and acquire the sufficient knowledge required for our specific business. It is God's will that we excel in all that we do and one of the ways to excel is being diligent, skillful and creative with whatever we do.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 14

TOPIC: HOW TO STAY FREE OF OFFENCE

TEXT: Colossians 3:12-13

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also [do] ye.”

Apostle Paul admonishes the Church at Colosse to be active about staying free of offence just as he does in his epistles to other churches. He mentions that a believer must learn to forgive others just as Christ forgave him. A deep meditation on this text reveals the failure of morality in comparison with godliness which the believer is expected to manifest.

If he says that a believer should forgive others as Christ forgave us, then the question that we should ask is “how did Jesus forgive us?” Jesus forgave us by choosing to accept the guilt and the blame for our sin. Moreover, we were the ones that wronged, but He was the one that sought reconciliation. In the same way, as believers, whenever we notice an offence, we must be quick to reconcile even if we are wrongly judged.

Furthermore, when Jesus forgave us, He didn't keep any record of the sins. Rather, He gave us justification so that we can access the Father without any limit or inferiority complex. In the same way, as believers, we must not keep any record of wrongs done to us. After reconciliation, we must endeavor to live in peace as though we've never had wrongs with our neighbors. Again, this is beyond the strength of morality. Only the new creature has the enablement to do this. As a believer, you have all it takes to live an offence-free life. Live free of offences!

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DAY 15

TOPIC: PRAY ALWAYS IN THE SPIRIT

TEXT: Ephesians 6:18

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

The believer in Christ is instructed to pray all kinds of prayer always in the Spirit. He has been given the gift of praying in tongues and as such he's to exercise himself thereby. When we pray in the Spirit, we can never pray amiss. Selfish desires do not come into play because the Holy Spirit “makes intercession for the saints according to God's will”.

When we pray in the Spirit, our prayers are effective because they are always in line with the will of God. The believer in Christ has the Spirit of God and He alone knows the mind of the Father. He knows precisely what we need, so when we pray in the Spirit, we get answers to our prayers.

Beloved, your prayers are the more effective when you pray in the Spirit, for you always pray the will of the Father into manifestation concerning every situation. Make it a habit to pray always in the Spirit, child of God, for victory that is yours is made more manifest when you do so.

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DAY 16

TOPIC: FREE INDEED

TEXT: Romans 6:18

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

The phrase "made free" is the same as "to liberate" or "to exempt from the liability of sin". This is remarkable itself; however, the aftermath of this liberation from is more remarkable. The Apostle affirms that we became servants of righteousness afterwards.

The phrase "became the servants of righteousness", in context, is same as "to enslave or bring into (under the) bondage of righteousness". This is awesome! This implies that we are made servants of righteousness such that it is impossible to be under the judgement of sin again.

The Greek rendition of "righteousness" is the word "dikaiosunē", which means "equity with God", and by implication "guiltless, innocent, faultless, approved of God." It means we have received God's nature; the nature that is incorruptible and imperishable. How then can we be subject to or tainted by sin again? It is impossible! We are made free and for this we rejoice.

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DAY 17

TOPIC: EXPECT VICTORY ALWAYS!

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 2:14

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."

If the text above had said "God causes us to triumph in Christ", it would still have been good news. I mean, this is already a statement to be joyful about. However, a closer look at our text sends the mind into wild excitement. A certain word used by Apostle Paul fills the heart with much more joy. He tells us that God always causes us to triumph in Christ! Always. Always. Always! So, in Christ Jesus, we believers do not have an expectation of defeat, because God always causes us to triumph always.

Hence, we must walk through life with a mindset of victory. Triumph must be the rhythm of our hearts. We must configure our minds such that at all times, we always expect victory. We must expect victory at all times, because God causes us to triumph in Christ Jesus at all times.

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DAY 18

TOPIC: HAVE YOU CALLED FOR HELP?

TEXT: James 5:14

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:"

It is worthy of note that the epistle of Apostle James was written to Christians; persons who had received the gospel; persons who have the indwelling of the Holy Ghost. Despite this, the Apostle James instructed them to call for the elders of the church whenever they were sick.

First, without mincing words, the James admitted that it is possible for a believer to be sick. In other words, it is not impossible for a believer to suffer physical ailment owing to the fact that he has a mortal body. Just like it is not untrue that there are believers who are in abject poverty. Apostle Paul did not mince words when He noted that the Macedonian Christians gave out of their deep poverty (2 Corinthians 8:1-2). This is contrary to what many hold as opinion and doctrine today. They live in delusion and self-denial. When they are sick and you ask what is wrong with them they say "Nothing, I am strong". Although, they might have done this with a good intent in that they are acting in faith. But, faith is not denying our physical reality, it is holding unto our spiritual reality despite how we feel physically.

Hence, a believer who has no money or source of income could say I am poor but I believe God for provision. Furthermore, the instruction is for them to call for help. It is not for them to sit down and deny the reality of what they are going through. The phrase " to call" as used in this context, is to invite or summon. Hence, the focus is to invite someone to come over and help out. A lot of damages could have been prevented if believers and people generally are sincere enough to call for help. Do not sit down alone with the challenge; call your pastor, leaders, elders in the church, let them pray, let them give counsel, it is not against God's will to call for help.

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DAY 19

TOPIC: THIS TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 4:7

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

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

It is such a profound truth for every believer to always acknowledge that humans are frail entity without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Apostle Paul while penning down this particular verse was careful enough to use the word “we”. This means that he’s also included with those who are weak earthen vessels without the Holy Ghost.

As we minister by the power of the Holy Spirit; blessing lives with the gospel in our various localities and beyond, we must ensure that we consistently acknowledge that without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we amount to nothing. This alone reassures us that whatever is done through and by us is not of ourselves but through the self-generating power of God that indwells us. Hence, we trust God’s gift and the glory is always to God.

Another important thing to note is that although God’s mighty treasure dwells in us, our bodies are still considered “earthen vessels”. Other versions render it as “fragile vases of clay”, “common clay pots”, etc. These are to make it clear to us that our fragile bodies are only privileged to carry the treasure of the gospel. This informs us that we must pay enough attention to ensuring that our bodies do not break down as it is required to carry God’s treasure.

Dear believer, what we carry inside us is “this treasure”. God still needs our bodies to move around his power, grace and might; reaching out to the dying word and blessing the saints such that at the end, all the glory may be of God.

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DAY 20

TOPIC: HOW TO LOVE YOUR CHILDREN

TEXT: Psalm 127:3

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.”

Children are a reward from the Lord. That means they are to be cherished and valued. As a parent, you are to love your child/children unconditionally. Unconditional love is love with no strings attached. That is, no matter what the child does, the love remains. It's a kind of love that a child can always count on.

Children are smart enough to know when their parents love them based on their performances. They also know when they are forced to fight for their parent's love. The above kind of love is conditional and it is not advisable that such kind of love be practised in the home.

Each child should be loved equally by their parents. There shouldn't be favoritism of any sort; for this can only breed jealousy, anger and hatred amongst siblings in the home. Children who experience unconditional love often feel safe and secure. They focus more on responsibilities both at home, school and workplace. They also feel confident in relating to people and can stand up to a judgmental and performance-oriented world.

Every parent is to be a good model for their child. Telling them you love them is not enough; they have to see it in your actions. You are not to over-pamper them; rather via the unconditional love you show them, groom them to be better individuals to the family and the society at large.

It is also pertinent to know that it is your responsibility to bring them up in the way of the Lord (Ephesians 6:2). You are to be diligent with this task. Teach them to love the Lord, the brethren and their neighbors. When you sit to eat, teach them. Before they go to bed, teach them. When they rise, teach them. When you walk by the way, teach them. While you drive, teach them (Deuteronomy 6:5-9). In doing so, you raise up a godly generation for the Lord.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 21

TOPIC: TAKING ACTIONS

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 11:4

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap."

The above text is a good counsel for our activities in the earth realm, especially when making choices. It is good enough to watch out for risks before taking crucial steps in our life choices. The writer warns that being too conscious of probable risks, difficulties or challenges before taking actions could be a disadvantage in itself.

Focusing too much on risks or difficulties that may have happened or probable to happen may hinder us from taking crucial steps in this earth. Therefore, King Solomon admonishes us to place priority on what we set our focus upon our work or desires.

The message translation is much better in explanation, it says "Don't sit there watching the wind. Do your own work. Don't just stare at the clouds. Get on with your life." This the right psychology that must be behind the things we do here on earth; in our careers, in our marriages, projects, businesses and much more, our focus should be directed towards our goals or objectives regardless of whatever circumstances we may face. For example, rather than focus too much on failing in a business, it is rather profitable to take actions while taking enough steps to minimise risk. The crux of the above verse is that we don't allow the thoughts of tomorrow hinder us from taking steps today.

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DAY 22

TOPIC: DO NOT FORGET

TEXT: 2 Peter 1:12

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth."

A major pitfall for the believer in Christ Jesus is the tendency to forget the things he has heard and learnt. It is so very important that we keep in our consciousness our realities in Christ Jesus. Apostle Peter, in the text above, lets us see the importance of this. When we constantly put in remembrance the things we have learnt, we become established in the reality of those things. We become rooted, grounded, steadfast, unmovable, and unshakeable.

The phrase "these things" as used in the text above makes us know that there's a specificity to the things that we must keep in remembrance. We aren't to just keep anything in remembrance. There are certain things we must keep in remembrance. If we read in context, we'll realise that what Peter had spoken about in preceding verses was about their eternal realities in Christ Jesus. He had spoken about the fact that we have all that pertains to life and godliness, that we have exceeding great and precious promises.

Brethren beloved, we must never forget these things! We must never be like the man James described in his epistle (James 1:23-25), forgetting what manner of men we are after beholding ourselves through the mirror of the new covenant. Let us not forget these things. Let us keep them in remembrance!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 23

TOPIC: ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!

TEXT: Mark 10:27

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

"And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible."

This scripture has been often quoted without a proper contextual explanation. In fact, the statement "with God all things are possible" has turned a cliché that has been applied to life issues without understanding the context within which it was made. It therefore becomes imperative for us to consider this statement in context. This statement was made by Jesus as a response to a question. Let us consider the question;

Verse 26- *"And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, who then can be saved?"*

The response of Jesus is amazing. He said with men it is impossible but with God all things (salvation) is possible. God by his own will has made salvation possible for man. He made salvation possible by giving His Son Jesus to die for the sins of the whole world.

Many are still asking today, how can a man be eternally saved? The response to this is that by the works of man it is impossible but with God it is possible. If salvation were dependent on man's effort, it would apparently be impossible for man to be saved.

Dear believer, you are eternally saved because God made it possible by the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 24

TOPIC: PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 5:25

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“Brethren, pray for us.”

The fact that the apostles acknowledged that they prayed for their followers and also desired that their followers pray for them is clear enough to make us know that we as believers are expected to pray for one another. The Bible teaches that believers ought to pray in season and out of season; that is, without occasion. This means that prayer for other believers ought to be a major part of our prayers. Hence, we ought to always be there for the brethren knowing that a whole lot about them depends on our prayers.

Also, it is not a show of weakness to request that other believers or even your followers pray for you in any area of your life. It is actually correct to do such! Also, believers must cultivate the habit of praying for their spiritual leaders. We must recognize that they are humans also and with lots of weaknesses, pains and possible distractions. Our prayers will make them more effective in their commitment to the gospel and ultimately benefit us the more.

The earlier we realise that many lives are tied to our prayers, the more serious and consistent we get in praying for the brethren. We leave a lot to time, chance and the devil when we don't pray. Straighten up and pray more for the brethren than ever before!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 25

TOPIC: GOD'S WORD IS HIS BOND

TEXT: Hebrews 13:8

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.”

The saying goes that a man is only as good as his words. We live in a world where people make promises and fail to keep them. They say a thing today and do another tomorrow. If God were so, no one will follow Him not to talk of place their trust in Him. But glory to God, Numbers 23:19 tells us, He is not a man that he should lie, nor the son of man that He should repent, for He says and does what He says.

Peter says in 2 Peter 3:9, that God isn't slack concerning His promises as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering towards us, not willing that any man should perish but that all should come to repentance. Before the foundation of the world, God promised all believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, eternal life, and it's been fulfilled in the saints. This validates the fact that God cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

James further wrote that there is no variation nor shadow of turning with God. He never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). That is to say, the same God who kept His promises then, will keep His promises now and forever. The same God who did not lie then, doesn't lie now or ever will.

Abraham was fully persuaded that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. Apostle Paul also declared in 2nd Timothy 1:12 “for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day”. Beloved, even to the children of Israel, not one of God's promises went unfulfilled, despite the fact that they were a stiff-necked people. When it comes to God's promises, be rest assured that He's capable of fulfilling them. Either it be His plan of salvation, which is now fulfilled in the saints or His promise to live in the believer by His Spirit or His promise to raise you up at the rapture or even His promise to supply your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus, beloved, you can bank on His word; He never fails to keep them.

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DAY 26

TOPIC: REMAIN STEADFAST

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:58

“Therefore; my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

The above is a charge to believers to remain steadfast. The Apostle Paul admonishes us to remain steadfast, to be unmoveable, and to always abound in the work of God. The word “abounding” in our text-verse means “to excel”. Hence, Apostle Paul charges the Corinthian Church and, by extension, all believers to always excel in labouring in the work of the Lord.

The word “always” used in the above verse makes it very clear that it should be continuous. This means that at no time should we stop being steadfast; we should not at any time stop labouring in the Lord and excelling at it. This should be our earnest desire; we should not be weary or discouraged in labouring in the work of God, but should rather be given to labouring therein.

The Apostle Paul gives us the right understanding for earnestly serving God in his work, it is in knowing that our labour is not in vain in the Lord. Our labour in the Lord is not a waste of time or effort; it is not fruitless, rather it is productive in the Lord, it fulfills a purpose.

We are encouraged by this that our labour is not for nothing in the Lord: through our service, many will get saved, many will be established in the faith, many will be delivered from bondages, many will be comforted by us and much more than this, we will receive eternal rewards.

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DAY 27

TOPIC: FORGIVEN FOREVER!

TEXT: Hebrews 10:12

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;"

The man in the text above is Christ Jesus. The writer of the book of Hebrews draws our attention to the fact that unlike the sacrifices under the Old Testament that were many and offered repetitively, due to their ineffectiveness and futility, this man's sacrifice is one and was offered once, due to its effectiveness and potency. Something is worthy of note in this text, after Jesus offered this sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. The implication of this is that He will not have to offer that sacrifice again. And if He will not have to offer that sacrifice again, then forgiveness of sins, through His blood, is once and for all.

Therefore, as soon as a man believes in the gospel, which is the tale of Jesus' sacrifice for sins, he receives a once-for-all forgiveness of sins. In other words, he becomes an eternally forgiven person. Some cry "blue murder" today once they hear that the believer has been forgiven forever; that is, past, present, and future. This simple analogy will convince the gainsayer, enlighten the ignorant, and keep the mouth of the religiously obstinate one shut forever: We all were not alive over 2000 years ago when Christ died for sins and rose from the dead, yet we believe that as soon as we believed the gospel, our sins were forgiven. We clearly are in the future, many years after Jesus' death and resurrection. Thus, if Jesus didn't die for future sins, there was no way we all could have been saved.

Beloved, rather than fight against the truth of God's word, you should rather receive it, rejoice over it, and be full of thanksgiving for God's so great salvation in Christ Jesus! The quality of His sacrifice is the quality of our forgiveness. Is His sacrifice for sins eternal? So also is our forgiveness, which we have received in Him, eternal! Is it once and for all? So also is ours! Is it forever? So also is ours! Hallelujah! We have been forgiven forever!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 28

TOPIC: THE SPIRIT IS READY

TEXT: Matthew 26:41

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

"Pray, that you enter not into temptation..." Our Lord Jesus said this to His disciples in the garden of Gethsemane. Prior to making this statement, He had come earlier to check on them and found them asleep; of course, it was not appropriate for them to sleep at that time because they had an instruction to pray. Just like the disciples, it is not so uncommon to find believers feel tired and lazy to pray. The reason for this was briefly mentioned by Jesus in the latter part of our text thus; "...but the flesh is weak".

Today's devotional is not intended to expound or awake our consciousness to the level of the weakness of the flesh. Rather, it is to awaken our minds to the willingness of our spirits to pray. It is such a good news that although the flesh is weak, the spirit is willing.

Apostle Paul, in his epistle to the Galatians, elucidated that the Spirit and the flesh are warring against each other in the sense that their desires are not the same. He enjoined the saints to walk in the Spirit in order not to gratify the desires of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16-17)

From the foregoing, it is evident that the weakness of the flesh is an impediment to engaging ourselves in the act of prayer. But, we are to stay conscious of the fact that the spirit is willing. Another word for "willing", as used in this context, is "readiness". Hence, the spirit is ready at all times. We are to walk in this reality as we pray.

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DAY 29

TOPIC: KEEPING YOUR MIND RENEWED

TEXT: Romans 12:2

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

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

Paul admonished the Roman church to ensure that they renew their minds to the end that they may be transformed. Clearly, from this text, the way to be transformed is to expose one's mind to renewal. This happens when we open our minds up to the written word, correctly divided.

He commands them to take this position as against getting conformed to this world. This means that this world has information, ideologies and philosophies that are not helpful to our minds. They are not helpful in that they will distract our minds in from proving what is the will of God. We therefore must be aware that as believers, we must be ready to lay down every of our thoughts and examine them if they align with God's words. If found otherwise, we must always dispose them and seek for the wholesome counsel of God on such matters.

This ought to be practically ensured by all believers. Whatever are the belief systems entrenched in us based on the influence of society, culture, family, education and so on, must be deliberately uprooted if found contrary to the written word. This is God's way of transforming and consequently growing us.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 30

TOPIC: DO NOT BE A FORGETFUL HEARER

TEXT: James 1:22-25

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass; 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

James uses the illustration of a man who looks at his natural face in the mirror, might have seen some things he needed to fix on his face but rushes out the door and forgets what he saw and doesn't fix those things. The word of God is like a mirror that reveals to us who we truly are to us. It uncovers things and characters of our new nature in Christ. It wouldn't do us any good if we just take a quick glance at the word once in a while and rush out the door without paying real attention to what it says about us and exhibiting those things.

A forgetful hearer doesn't remember what he read or heard in/about the word because he doesn't regard it as important. He only ends up deceiving himself (verse 22 of our bible text). He doesn't seem to know how to apply the word to his life. A forgetful hearer blames God and people around him for any predicament that befalls him, because, he never spends time with the word for him to know.

To be doers of the word, we have got to give it more than passing attention. It requires deliberate focus and hardwork to apply it personally. It is the doer of the word that is blessed because he not only looks at the word intently, but he applies it to his life. He also doesn't come to the word for a quick fix for his immediate problems but continually applies the word to his heart over and over his entire lifetime.

Child of God, be an effectual hearer and doer of the word. Do not be like the forgetful hearer who takes a quick glance at the word and forgets immediately what he's seen and heard. Endeavor to apply the word continuously to your life so that it changes your conduct and character to be more like your heavenly Father.

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