



THE REFINERY CHURCH

March Devotionals

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: LOOK AT JESUS

TEXT: Hebrews 1:3

Written by: GBEMISOLA AYUBA

“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high...”

The first chapter of the book of Hebrews tells us about how God spoke in times past through prophets but now expressly speaks to us through His son (Jesus) who is the express image of His person. The phrase “express image” in the Greek is the word “*charaktēr*” meaning “an exact copy or representation”; in other words, Jesus is the exact copy and representation of God, not Elijah or Moses.

Jesus is not just another prophet who came to tell us about God but He's God's very statement and testimony about Himself and this is why we do not judge/determine the character of God by the deeds of the prophets but by that of Jesus.

The gospel tells us of how Jesus healed all the sick brought to Him, fed a large multitude, raised the dead, and other wonderful deeds. We have no record at all of Him killing anyone, inflicting sickness, disease or pains or condemning anyone. That's our God! He's a good, good God as seen in Jesus.

Are you seeking to know God's character? Look not at Moses or Elijah, just look at Jesus. He's the testimony of the Father.

Further study: John 1:14-18

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 2

TOPIC: YET I WILL REJOICE

TEXT: Habakkuk 3:17-18

Written by: ADEKOYA FEMI

“Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”

It is mostly assumed that failure is a result of man's indolence, which is most times true. But, there are times we give all our best into an endeavour and failure still results. The prophet, Habakkuk, tells us about a state of hunger and famine in the land even after much labour and toiling (in Vs 17). He depicts a farmer who has laboured enormously and yet gets no reward for his labor.

However, instead of sitting and complaining or cursing the ground or the weather condition, he declared; “yet I will rejoice in the Lord... God my salvation.” He chose to consider and rejoice in the fact that God is his Saviour despite the predicament.

See beloved, our rejoicing is not in our surrounding occurrences or predicaments, our joy and rejoicing is in Christ; in the Salvation of our God. Our joy and rejoicing is eternal; it cannot be stopped for it not of this world. Our rejoicing is non-stop! We rejoice again and again! Even in the face of tribulation, hardship or persecution, our rejoicing is only in the Lord. As the man in Christ, no matter what may come your way, your resolve is "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord"!

Further study: Philippians 4:4

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DAY 3

TOPIC: SUPERMAN

TEXT: Hebrews 1:14

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”

I have seen quite a few movies and I still do. One of the fascinating genres of movies I've seen is the one that pictured a human-being with so much power beyond the natural ability of man. It is no doubt that many can relate with this type of movie. I know of kids who want to be Superman or Spiderman or what have you. The kids conceive this notion possibly because of the strange powers 'Superman' has been portrayed to have possessed. Moreover, such powers would enable them protect people and defend themselves against danger; so they thought.

If we think deeply on most of the scenarios where angels were described in the Bible, they somewhat resemble our 21st century 'Superman'. They do very strange and powerful things beyond the natural human ability. For instance, an angel rolled away the mighty stone at Jesus' tomb, an angel rescued Peter, Paul and Silas from the prison cell without any man's assistance, angels disappear and pass through walls... This is just to mention but a few. In as much as angels have supernatural abilities, what is more profound is that all the powers and abilities of angels are there for the benefit and service of man; most importantly, the believer in Christ.

Today's text states unequivocally that angels are ministering spirits. They are servants. They were purposefully created to serve men; not for men to be in awe of them or worship them. Isn't this amazing? God gave all those super abilities to angels for our benefit and enjoyment.

Beloved, as much as you revere angels in your mind, never forget that they are your servants. A servant is meant to serve, hallow and worship his lord and not the other way round. Enjoy the service of angels today. Rejoice for your God has set angels to keep and protect you in all your ways (Psalms 91:11)!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 4

TOPIC: GOD'S LOVE DEMONSTRATED

TEXT: ROMANS 8:32

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“He that spared not his son but delivered him up for us all; how shall he not with him also freely give us all things.”

It is such good news to know that God's love was demonstrated to us while we were yet sinners (Romans 5:8). We did not do anything to merit His love but He chose to love us and gave up His son to die for the sins of the world.

When you are tempted to question God's love for you because of the hard times you might be going through, just fix your gaze on Jesus, who the Father gave up for you when you did not deserve it. Our text also admonishes that if God did not hold back Jesus from dying for our sins, that He will not also hold back any good thing from us.

Beloved, God loves you so much and cares for you such that He demonstrated His love for you by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. And He is saying since He did not spare His own Son but delivered him up to face torture, scorn, and sin-bearing death. If that can be done, then He will freely give to us all that Christ bought for us.

This same God who sanctified, justified, purified, perfected forever and glorified you through Jesus' sacrifice, He is also able to clothe, feed, protect and deliver you. Let this truth sink into your heart; God is good all the time and whatever your needs may be, He is able to supply them through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 5

TOPIC: LIVE BY FAITH

WRITTEN BY: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

TEXT: GALATIANS 2:20

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

The above text is an affirmation of the realities that presently exist as the aftermath of Christ’s finished work. Thus, the Apostle Paul affirms in the above texts that we enjoy our present position because of where Christ is right now.

He says for example that we live because Christ lives in us; therefore, we are alive because Christ is alive in us. This means who we really are is premised on where Christ is, what He has done and not who we are or see in the flesh.

Believers therefore should not pronounce what is contrary to the position Christ occupies in us. We are to establish for ourselves what has now become our reality in Him. For example, Christ at His glorification has purged our sins (Hebrews 1:3), therefore we are not to affirm contrariwise, saying we are not yet free from the guilt of sins. Rather, we are to affirm that we are free.

That is why the Apostle Paul said “I live by faith of the son of God”. Our continuous affirmation is of faith alone in the Christ who gave himself for us and not in our situation in the flesh.

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DAY 6

TOPIC: YOU DON'T HAVE THE SPIRIT OF FEAR

TEXT: 2 Timothy 1:7

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

Satan is very skillful in making God's word seem very impotent and untrue. He brings very unpalatable situations that make our minds begin to doubt God's word and abilities within us. He does this till we are engrossed and overwhelmed with fear such that we become so timid to do God's word or use His abilities in us. We must however be sure that God's word and abilities are always potent.

Our text is a part of Paul's admonition to Timothy. He was a young pastor who was getting overwhelmed. Paul needed to charge him up not encourage fear or timidity; rather, Timothy should stir up the abilities of God he received by the laying on of hands. In this same manner, there are times that we just seem not to have the strength to continue what God has committed to us, it just seems as though there is despair everywhere without any trace of God's help. In such situations, we must hearken to Paul's instruction.

You must recall that God hasn't given you the spirit of timidity or fear. If God hasn't given you, then you don't have it! What you rather have is the spirit of power, love and sound mind. Let this sink into your mind, put it in your mouth and begin to make tremendous progress by God's spirit!

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DAY 7

TOPIC: THE WORKS OF GOD

TEXT: John 9-1-3

Written by: OKEKE IKECHUKWU MARK

“And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.”

The text above clearly reveals what the work of God looks like and also makes it clear what cannot be said to be the work of God. Many have come a long way in their Christian walk to believe that there are certain ways God deals with them, especially when they have refused to obey some specific instructions given by God over their lives; thus, when things go bad, they attribute it to God.

Just like the friends of Job, the disciples of Jesus in our text quickly assumed that the predicament of the blind man was as a result of the man's sin or that of his parents, since it was a peculiar case (blind from birth).

Jesus' response to the disciples' inquiry clearly gives an understanding of the character of God in dealing with man. The disciples wrongly traced the cause of this man's ailment to his sin or his parents' sin, but Jesus quickly shifted their attention to the “DEEDS” of God which is always good (Acts 10: 38).

The workings of God are His natural dispositions to man and they are only good. Dearly beloved, before you hastily attribute the evil things or disappointments happening around you to disobedience to God's instructions, it is important that you understand that the works of God are made manifest in the good things He does. Anything short of this is a pure misrepresentation of the personality of God.

Even if God will want repentance from you for disobedience or wrongful actions, He will only dispense His goodness to bring you to repentance.

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DAY 8

TOPIC: GOD NEVER LEAVES

TEXT: Hebrews 13: 5-6

Written by: ADEMOLA IBITAYO

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

The text above clearly states the truth that God has said He will never leave nor forsake you. In this reality lies great satisfaction that as a believer, you're never alone. Sometimes the mind gets filled with so many thoughts, concerns, worries, fears of how you would handle certain situations of life. Such disturbed minds bring about that feeling of being alone.

However, dear believer, the word of God is true. You are never alone for God has said He will never leave you nor forsake you. God is your helper. In this reality is contentment or satisfaction and boldness to confront any fear, concern, and worries about that career, family, relationship, health, finance, and ministry. Always remember, you are not alone.

Confession: “God never leaves me, nor forsake me.

God is my helper.

In this I am satisfied and bold

I am never alone.”

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DAY 9

TOPIC: IT'S A TIME TO FLEE!

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 6:18

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.”

Flee. That’s a single word the believer must master to be a master of his body. Sexual desires in themselves are not evil, for they were put in men and women by God Himself, so that they may be consummated in marriage. However, we are not to abuse this desire. Outside marriage, it is a sin to consummate these desires. Paul, in the text above, lets us know that there are times a believer should not be seen praying but running.

The word “flee” in contemporary English translation is quite very similar to the phrase “fly away”. That is, when it comes to that desire which burns in the heart of every man, you are to fly away when faced with the temptation of walking against the written word. You aren’t to stay here and say, I can pray this away. No; that is clear disobedience to the written word. You are not to pray it way, but fly away from it. There are no two ways to it— fornication and adultery are not your nature in Christ, and the believer should not be seen walking against his very own nature.

Now, it is possible that you might have fallen short of this in times past. What then should you do? First, do not slip into condemnation, for that is not of God. Know with all certainty that God loves you and forgiveness has been freely given you in Christ. In addition, you must not begin to have expectations of evil as some form of punishment for your misdeeds, for Christ has borne the punishment for your sins forevermore. Yet still, you must learn that vital, instructive word— flee! Brother, sister, flee. Run, run, and keep running!

Let not the devil use it to war against you in your conscience. Let not the enemy fight you in your mind, making you lose awareness of who you are in Christ. Brethren beloved, it is safe to flee in this matter. It is safe to run away.

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DAY 10

TOPIC: THE SUPERNATURAL IS VOICE-ACTIVATED

TEXT: Acts 14:9-10

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“7 And there they preached the gospel. 8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: 9 The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, 10 Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.”

Paul was at Lystra, preaching the gospel with a certain impotent man and others listening to him. He perceived that the impotent man who had never walked all his life had faith to be healed and commanded him with a loud voice to stand upright on his feet! The man leaped and walked immediately.

A keen examination of this text shows that Paul started the whole process by preaching the gospel. The gospel is so called the word of faith (Romans 10:8) because the gospel births faith in men as they are made to see the goodness of God. This man was so imparted by the words preached that Paul could see he was ready to start walking. Paul then commanded him to stand upright. You could see that this man was so full of faith from his reaction. Rather than looking for someone to help him stand upright, he jumped up (not considering that he had never jumped before). He neither considered the possible pain he would feel if he jumped up nor did he question if he would be able to stand upright. No, he didn't.

As Paul began to preach, he ministered faith with his words and as he said to him to rise up and stand, such words went with power! Power to strengthen the bones, tendons, muscles etc. You have to realize that the abilities of God are right within you. You activate them from within by speaking! Don't stop speaking God's word and the supernatural will abound in your life and ministry!

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DAY 11

TOPIC: CLEANSED BY JESUS' BLOOD

TEXT: Hebrews 9:13-14

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

There remains no more sacrifice for sins after the sacrifice of Jesus at the cross. His sacrifice was perfect enough to cleanse our sins once for all. Hence, there remains no more punishment for sins either they be present or past sins.

Jesus did not only die for our sins, he was glorified and gave us His Spirit to dwell in us as a guarantee that we have been eternally forgiven of our sins. And because of this, there is therefore now no condemnation left for those who believe in Him.

Child of God, God is entirely for you and never against you. No sickness, broken cars or failed appliances, nor lost job, or even marital strife and wayward children are signs of His wrath. Our heavenly Father lets us know that no matter the orchestrations of the enemy, none can be successful against us, for we are more than conquerors through Christ that loves us (Romans 8:35-39).

So when your conscience tries to condemn you for any shortcoming, refer it to the finished work of Christ on the cross that sets you free from sin. The blood of Jesus has purged you from sin to serve the living God. Take advantage of this freedom by upholding only good works.

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DAY 12

TOPIC: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

TEXT: Psalm 23:1

Written by: ADEKOYA FEMI

“THE LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

We may not fully grasp the utterance of the psalmist if we're not of who a shepherd is. A shepherd is one whose job is to tend to the sheep. He has total responsibility for the flock and he is concerned with their well-being. He leads the sheep out to where there is pasture and water and he provides them adequate protection from danger and adverse weather conditions. He is one who sees to the fact that his sheep lack nothing.

It's really interesting to learn why the psalmist declared boldly "the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want". With this statement, he meant since the Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need. Such a profound statement reveals confidence in God's care. In the verse following, he declared the certainty of God's care via His provision, leading and protection.

Beloved, do you know you're God's sheep? (John 10:14). He gave himself for you and you believed in His salvation. Be rest assured that God cares for you! As God's sheep, you don't have to worry, for the Lord is concerned about you. Be confident that your needs are met already for the Father is your shepherd. He is a good shepherd! Live as one who has the Lord as his shepherd. Say to yourself "the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want"

Further study: John 10:14-16

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DAY 13

TOPIC: YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 6:20

Written by: Gbemisola Ayuba

“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's”

In the earth realm, it is believed that every individual has a mind of his own which enables him to make choices and decisions about his life based on his discretion. This is not outrightly the case with the believer because he does not belong to himself. We do not own our lives, because we're a purchased possession, bought with the precious price of the blood of Jesus.

Hence, we can only live our lives in accordance to the desires and dictates of our Lord.

As much as we're enabled to make choices and decisions, we must never forget that the actual ownership of our bodies and spirit is for the Lord, so we live only for Him.

Further study: 1 Peter 1:17-19

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DAY 14

TOPIC: FORGIVENESS IS WITH THEE

TEXT: PSALM 130:3-4

Written by: OKEKE IKECHUKWU MARK

“If thou, LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared...”

The text above depicts David’s understanding of God. He had an insight about God’s personality towards men. This was his sincere thought during his supplication to God in prayer. As much as every sin is against God, God isn’t the one destroying man for their sins.

By the revelation of the Spirit, Paul the apostle exposed death as the consequences or wages of sin. *“If thou should mark inequities...”* implies that God doesn’t mark sins. It also debunks the boast on self-righteous in order to be accepted by God. David further said something remarkable; *“but forgiveness is in thee”*. That is, in God, all we will find is FORGIVENESS.

God is not in the business of marking or recording your sin. The new testament, in the blood of Jesus, speaks only forgiveness, for He has said, “I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more” (Hebrews 8:12).

Beloved, don’t ever think God is in business of hunting you because of some sinful habits. As much as you ought to constantly grow in the fruit of the spirit, never forget your identity in Christ. Rest in His love as you appreciate the work of the Spirit of God in you.

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DAY 15

TOPIC: THE LOVE OF GOD

TEXT: 1 John 4:19

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“We love him, because he first loved us.”

Understanding God’s love is very pivotal for every Bible doctrine. This is because our affirmation of sound doctrine rests on the assuredness of God’s love. In the verse above, we will come to understand the correct position of what the love of God is: *“We love him, because he first loved us”*; it is not that He loved us only after we have demonstrated love to Him. Knowing this position affirms that the love of God for us is not earned by us.

He did not love us after we got born again. As a matter of fact, we could only be born again because He loved us and He gave His son, which brought salvation to us all. He didn’t love us because we showed some seriousness in the things of the Spirit; the reality is that we can only demonstrate the things of the Spirit because He first gave us His Spirit.

God’s love was neither bought nor earned; we only respond to His love. This is the right position; this way you come to the position that God can withhold His affection from you because you haven’t earned it enough. That way, you would not think that you are not enjoying certain goodness because you disappointed God.

Clear yourself of all these assumptions; God loves us in spite of us. Stay with this reality. The only reason why you can respond to His love is because He loved you first and has always loved you.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 16

TOPIC: HOW TO HANDLE HEARSAY

TEXT: Genesis 3: 11-13

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.”

The first interaction between God and man was seen in the creation story. The whole of Genesis chapters 1 and 2 reveal how God first related with man. He showered the first human beings with so much love, affection and care. Before creating man, God made provision for his food and shelter, and all that was expected of man was to rule, dominate and enjoy the free gift of creation. This is incredible. This shows the constant nature of God; our God is a good God.

Our focus today is to learn something intriguing from the way God addressed the disobedience of Adam and Eve. From the scriptures, it is noteworthy that Adam was quick to hold Eve responsible for their misdeed. Despite the fact that God was all-knowing, He still gave both parties the opportunity to speak for themselves before arriving at a conclusion. Many may not have taken note of this, but it is profound that God did not act on the hearsay of Adam; He also listened to Eve’s version of the story.

For healthy relationship and livelihood, it is not good to judge issues and situations based on hearsay. It is expected that more diligence is shown to get the true facts probably from the horse’s mouth. The attitude of judging people based on what has been said about them is not good enough. So many relationships have been destroyed based on false accusations that were not properly investigated. Brethren, as we relate with one another, let us investigate issues well and hold on to the truth at all times.

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DAY 17

TOPIC: WHEN HE SHALL APPEAR

TEXT: Colossians 3:4

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”

There are unmistakable statements of truth in the epistles which no debate whatsoever. The verse above is one of such; it needs not so many explanations. Written in simple and plain language, it is clear what the Apostle Paul says here unto us.

Many have been wrongly taught about the second coming of our Lord, and have consequently formed wrong thoughts on the subject. Wash away every impurity of thought concerning the second coming of the Lord today with the water of the written word. What did Paul tell us regarding his appearance? He lets us know that the Lord’s appearing is the appearing of the saints of God in glory.

One may dare to say that if the saint, made righteous by faith in Christ, does not appear with Christ, as He appears in His glory, then such appearance is most certainly an illusion, for we all shall appear with Him in glory. Take a pause; mull over that; smile; laugh; and then rejoice! Jump out of your seat! There is no fear here now. There is no dark thought of uncertainty! Christ is our life, our hope, our joy, our certainty of the resurrection. Again, I say, when He shall appear, we shall appear with Him in glory. Hallelujah!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 18

TOPIC: GET TO WORK

TEXT: Ephesians 4: 28

Written by: ADEMOLA IBITAYO

“Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”

The text above is very instructive. Apostle Paul states that he who stole should steal no more but rather labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needs. The man would not be involved in stealing if he does this.

It is beautiful to know that we pray and have answers as believers, nonetheless, there must be corresponding actions to have our needs met. Any mind-set that makes a man feel he can't labour or do anything good with his hands is not of God.

What do you have? What can you do with what you have? It is inappropriate as a believer to expect that you would have needs met when you are doing nothing. Some people have the habit of talking about how bad things are but would not pay attention to what good thing they can do for needs to be met. We have instructions to work.

Dear believer, you are so blessed and favoured. You can enjoy the goodness of God through that good thing you choose do and have your needs and the needs of others met. God remains faithful to prosper you in that which you have chosen do. As we labour, we have and give to him that needs.

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DAY 19

TOPIC: YOU HAVE BEEN FREELY FORGIVEN

TEXT: Romans 5:8

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

In our world today, there are lots of evils and wrongdoings that exist in our relationship with people. Somehow, most people expect to have a reward or judgement for things that they have done wrongly to others. Such phenomenon is called “Karma”. Such is also resident in the mind of an unbeliever or an untaught believer who feels since he has wronged God in many ways, he is only deserving of judgment or punishment from God. Such people feel that they do not merit good things from God since they are not good enough.

The gospel however presents God in an entirely different light. While it is true that according to the laws of men, an evil man is only deserving of punishment, God doesn't react in this manner. Rather, He doesn't allow evil men to get the evil punishment they deserve because Jesus already took the punishment for the sins of the whole world. Hence, an evil man can never see any evil from God as the right payment for what he has done, even though such man feels that he deserves it. God rather gives to such men the good things that they never deserve and He gives them for free!

As at today and for all eternity, Jesus has received the punishment for all the sins that have ever been committed and that will ever be committed. Apostle John says the same here:

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world.” 1 John 2:1-2.

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DAY 20

TOPIC: GIVE YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 5:15

Written by: Gbemisola Ayuba

“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again”.

Most times, when some believers preach the gospel to unbelievers, they ask them to “give their lives to Christ”; but from the epistles we see that an unsaved man is dead in sin and trespasses and therefore has no life to give to Christ (Ephesians 2:4-6); thus, shouldn't be required to give his life to Christ to be saved. Rather, he should be told of the life he needs to receive by faith in Christ Jesus (John 3:16).

But after receiving this life Christ gives freely, he ought to give that life in dedicated service to God. This is how we give our lives to Christ: in service to Him.

Further study: Romans 12:1

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DAY 21

TOPIC: REASONABLE SERVICE

TEXT: ROMANS 12:1

Written by: OKEKE IKECHUKWU MARK

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

Our life in Christ here on earth is a call to service, as much as it a call to sonship by the gospel we have believed: Jesus’ death, burial, resurrection and glorification. The believer is wired up spiritually in a way that he possesses all that is needed to carry out every good work which he has inherited in Christ, as planned by God.

He has the ability to do good and walk in that capacity always; he has the ability to love and walk in love. He is a living sacrifice unto God in his body for both the saints and the furtherance of the gospel to the saved and the unsaved. The Bible calls us many members of one body; thus, we are a family and it is expected of us as a culture to express a sense of responsibility in relating with one another as God has dealt with us within a capacity to serve.

In Romans 12, Apostle Paul gave strong words of instruction and exhortation to walk in love, to honor and prefer the other person above one’s self, to give towards the necessity of saints (which includes your pastors and leaders), to comfort, to bless, to be at peace and to overcome good with evil.

Let everything we do be unto love and edification. We are responsible for one another in our local assembly. Your constant presence and participation in church has a positive effect on the growth of your local assembly. Your giving has its effect on the work of the ministry; your attitude towards service (rather than always wanting to be served) has its own way of affecting the growth also. Let every part make an impact (Ephesians 4:16). Let’s all desire to be responsive to this call to service, this is the kingdom way to do great things and be great (Mark 10:43).

Further study: 1 Corinthians 15:58

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DAY 22

TOPIC: MY OFFERING

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 9:13

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;”

It is very true that many Christians have different reasons for giving their resources in church. Some give to receive back; some give out of compulsion and necessity; some also give out of fear and for many other reasons that may be. While some Christians give for the wrong reasons, some do not even give at all for many reasons as well. Hence the question, why should we give?

Apostle Paul commented that the resources given by the Corinthian church was an evidence of their subjection to the gospel. As a matter of fact, this comment was derived from the receiver's point of view. In other words, the Macedonian church testified to the fact that the Corinthian church is submissive to the gospel by the way they gave their resources. This best explains that the act of giving done by the believer in Christ is a proof that He has believed the gospel. Contrary to many opinions about giving, the main reason we give is because we are grateful for the gospel that we have received. The early church exemplified this in the way they conducted themselves and sold their properties to meet needs in the church such that no one lacked amidst them.

Dear beloved, while it is true that we receive reward for our giving and all the good works we do in the body, it must also be emphasized that our offering and giving is a show-off of our identity in Christ; it is a demonstration of our submission to the gospel of Christ. Because of this, seek to excel in the demonstration of your nature in Christ by giving more of your money, time, resources etc. for the propagation of the gospel of Christ.

Say this: I give because I am a believer. I do not give sparingly and grudgingly, I give bountifully and cheerfully.

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DAY 23

TOPIC: AUTHORITY IN THE NAME

TEXT: Acts 3:6-7

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. [7] And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.”

The above is a very good report; the lame walked by the name of Jesus, and this is remarkable! Such are things that become possible by the authority in the name of Jesus.

By this name, the Apostles worked mighty miracles in the midst of men. Is it healing? Is it casting out demons? Is it strange miracles? There is no limitation anywhere that the declaration in the name of Jesus would not dissolve. There is no limitation to the name. Glory to God!

Look what the Apostle Peter affirmed above; he says “*such as I have give I thee...*” Peter affirms the position of ownership; he says he has authority by the name of Jesus. All believers have this too; for we have been baptized by one Spirit. We can all demonstrate authority by the name of Jesus.

You and I can walk in authority in the name of Jesus, changing and establishing situations by the name of Jesus. We can make the lame walk, make the blind see, establish goodness on the earth, and see angelic ministrations all by His name. This is our reality at all times. Nothing ever changes. Hallelujah!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 24

TOPIC: THE LORD IS OUR REFUGE

TEXT: Psalm 91:1-2

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“He that dwells in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Every day, we turn on our television and radio sets, we hear of natural disasters, conflicts, diseases all around. We even hear of the death of thousands people ranging from men, women and children for no reason. Quite very often, there’s the tendency for us to be afraid for the safety of our lives and that of our loved ones. We ask questions like, is there a place to run to for safety from all the chaos rampaging the world?

The truth: yes there is! God promised us protection from all kinds of evil in the world. Whether it be a terrorist attack, a tsunami, an earthquake or a robbery attack, God says, we are not to be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flies by day; nor for the pestilence that walks in darkness; nor for the destruction that wastes at noonday (Psalm 91:5-6).

He went further in verse 7 of our Bible text to let us know that He has given His angels charge over us to keep us in all our ways. Child of God, more than ever before, you need to be conscious of this truth that you are not alone; angels have been instructed to watch over you and all that is yours 24/7.

That it happened to someone you knew doesn’t mean that it will happen to you. Renew your mind with the word of God and just like the psalmist said “a thousand shall fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand but it shall not come near you”. That should be your declaration in the face of evil occurrences.

As you go about your day, stay conscious of the angelic walking/working with and around you.

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DAY 25

TOPIC: TO EDIFY AND NOT TO SHOW OFF!

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 14:12

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church”

Paul, in the chapter from which the text above was quoted, thoroughly explained to the church the use and practice of spiritual gifts. The church in Corinth was one zealous about demonstrating spiritual gifts. Paul had written earlier on, affirming the fact that they were enriched in all utterance (1 Corinthians 1:5). The church in Corinth was one with a burning desire to manifest the gifts of the Spirit, which all believers have freely received as part of their rights and privileges in Christ. Every believer must desire to use and make a practice of the gifts which have been bestowed upon us all; this is good and acceptable in the sight of God.

However, much more, we learn from the Apostle Paul, in his explanation to us by the Spirit of God, the reason why we must desire to manifest spiritual gifts— it is to the end that the church may be edified. This lets us know that the demonstration of the gifts of the Spirit must not be done to show off, either it is done within the venue where the church gathers or outside it. We must always bear this in mind— our goal as we practice the things of the Spirit is to edify. If we lose sight of this, we will begin to compete, as though we were in a contest to determine who the “spiritual heavyweight” is; and much worse, we will begin to despise people who have been considered to be “spiritual low-levels”. An attitude such as this may make us not to enjoy the edification which ought to be part and parcel of our gatherings.

Dearly beloved, I reiterate in the words of the Apostle Paul, as you are zealous of manifesting spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. Let the edification of the church (and not a desire to show off) always be the drive that pushes you to want to demonstrate the gifts of the Spirit in the gathering of believers.

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DAY 26

TOPIC: GOD IS GREATER THAN OUR HEARTS

TEXT: 1 John 3:19-20

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.”

It's so saddening today to see that many believers cannot differentiate the works of the Holy Spirit, the human conscience and the devil, one from another. It is not uncommon to hear a believer say that the Holy Spirit convicted him or her after he or she committed a particular sin or did something wrong. Such statement is so common that an “average believer” thinks that the work of the Holy Spirit is to point our sins to us whenever we fail to walk in the Spirit (whenever we fail to walk according to God's word). A sincere reading of the Bible makes it clear that such work isn't the Holy Spirit's.

It is not consistent that the same Holy Spirit that ought to help us out of sins also has the responsibility to condemn us. Our text points to what is responsible for condemning us; our hearts! By this, Apostle John means our conscience. The conscience of man is the seat of his perception which gives an approval as to what is right and a condemnation of what it perceives to be wrong based on what man knows. Whenever we do wrong, our conscience judges us; little wonder the Bible encourages us to always maintain a conscience void of offence and to live with a clear conscience. By this, the Bible exhorts us not to deliberately do wrong things even when we know that we are wrong.

However, peradventure we sin, such that our hearts or consciences condemn us, Apostle Paul admonishes to reassure our hearts with the truth; God is love, and doesn't condemn us. We must never allow ourselves to sink into depression because our hearts condemn us, else Satan will take advantage of our consciences to condemn us the more.

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DAY 27

TOPIC: GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS

TEXT: 1 JOHN 5:14

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“And this is the confidence that we have in him that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us”

One of the challenges often faced by many when they pray is their uncertainty as to whether God hears prayers. The thought in some people’s mind when they pray is expressed thus; ‘if it is God's will, He will hear me, and if it isn't, He won't’. Lack of assurance in the ability of God to answer prayers often makes some people feel reluctant to pray or pray with doubt and fears. To pray in doubt is to limit ourselves from receiving from God (James 1:6-8).

Apostle John expressed an attitude to prayer. This is having an assurance that God hears prayers. This assurance gives us boldness to pray always. Some have misconstrued our scripture text to mean ‘when I pray, if I get my answer, it is God's will. If I don't get my answer, then it isn't God's will’. As said, this is mere misconception. The truth here is that it is the will of God that we ask, for this is in accordance with his Word. Therefore, when we pray we must believe that He hears us.

Dear beloved, God answers prayers. There would never be a time when God would ignore our prayers. And if we know that He hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we ask of Him.

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DAY 28

TOPIC: DO NOT CONFORM

TEXT: Romans 12:2

Written by: Gbemisola Ayuba

“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”

In the contemporary age that we are in, we discover that there are a thousand and one varying perceptions towards almost all issues in life ranging from relationship, to marriage, gender equality, money, sex, politics, career etc. and we're sometimes tempted to adopt some of these ideas because they're the trend or the popular opinions in the society.

However, as believers, we must recognize that even though we are in this world, we are not of this world. Hence, we are to always allow the written word be our guide in forming perceptions about issues in life. We must not allow the society, media or so called civilization blur our views on issues clearly written about in the word.

We're to live like men of the word and not men of the world.

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DAY 29

TOPIC: BOLDNESS IN SONSHIP

TEXT: ROMANS 8:15-16

Written by: OKEKE IKECHUKWU MARK

“For ye have not received the Spirit of bondage again to fear, but ye have received the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry Abba Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

Believers have no cause to fear anymore. This verse makes it clear that the premise on which we do not fear anymore is because we are God’s sons. It clearly shows that God’s children shouldn’t fear because we have received the Spirit of adoption who bears witness with our spirit that we are God’s children. This is our reality.

The believer should come from the place of understanding of his spiritual birth, that it is on the premise of forgiveness of sins, evidently solidified by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This should navigate the believer’s mind out of fearful living on how God deals with us. Even in chastisement, it is done on the premise of the Father’s love. This is good news to a believer in Christ, that in spite of the chastisement, there is no condemnation. A believer is not supposed to be fearful (of the rapture, eternity or of God himself).

Born of the Spirit, the believer is an eternal son of God; thus, one with the Lord and a partaker of the divine nature of God. He is sanctified, holy and righteous and there is always an effectual working of God in him. The believer may not feel like it, may sometimes swamp in the pool of regret over things that he didn’t do right or may be faced with certain life circumstances, but all these cannot make the believer lose the reality of God as his everlasting Father.

Fearful and doubtful thoughts cannot invalidate a believer’s reality in Christ. He is never lacking in the everlasting perfect love of God. John puts it this way *“Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world”* (1 John 4:17). This is something to be bold about!

Beloved of God, respond to the reality that exists in your spirit; dwell in the consciousness of this reality at all times and give no reason for fear anymore.

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DAY 30

TOPIC: SPEAK TO THAT MOUNTAIN!

TEXT: Matthew 17:20

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”

Mustard trees have been found in various locations throughout the world. Even though its seed is one of the smallest of seeds in the world, the trees can grow up to 20 feet tall and 20 feet wide. It is known that the mustard tree can thrive in the worst of weather conditions. Interestingly, the seed is only 1 to 2 millimeters and that is 1/64th of an inch.

Jesus used the example of the mustard seed being among the tiniest of seeds to explain to His disciples that it only takes a tiny amount of faith to “move mountains”. The mountains being referred to here are not physical mountains, of which if there are such in our way, we can speak to them and they’ll listen. But Jesus was referring to those seemingly insurmountable problems ranging from a health issue, a financial problem, a marital problem or even a spiritual problem.

Galatians 2:20 tells us that everyone who believes in Jesus possesses the faith of the Son of God. Therefore, we can speak to every situation to work in our favour. We can call forth things that we desire. We can heal the sick, raise the dead and cast out devils. We see mountains as plains before us. We are not afraid to step out in faith, because we have the faith of the Son of God resident in our spirit, and therefore, we work wonders.

The Bible is replete with men who through faith workers wonders in their time while on earth, just to mention but a few— the three Hebrew children who were thrown into a fiery furnace but came out unharmed, Daniel who stopped the mouth of lions by faith, Elijah who prayed that it will rain upon the earth after three and a half years of drought. All of these heroes of faith faced the mountains in front of them headlong and they overcame. Their hearts were fully trusting in God who was able to deliver them.

Brethren beloved, what is that mountain before you? Speak to it and it shall become a plain ground; for as it was for the heroes of faith that nothing was impossible unto them, so it shall be for you. In your day-to-day activities, resist every doubtful thought that comes into your heart; stand in faith with God for your victory is guaranteed. Speak to every mountain that tends to confront you and see them melt before your very eyes.

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DAY 31

TOPIC: DILIGENCE IN BUSINESS

TEXT: Proverbs 22:29

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

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

It is a fact that when we are diligent in our business, we will stand before kings. In the earth realm, hard work is highly rewarded.

The word “business” refers to “an occupation, work or trade”. The king Solomon tells us therefore that the man who is diligent in his work or trade is recognized among great men.

Diligence is a virtue and is honourable before men; laziness or mediocrity is not. We are therefore admonished never to take things for granted or with complacency.

Be valuable in your work; do your businesses with passion— think growth. Learn mastery in your work, and be passionate about learning. Give value to your career, business, academics, etc. Whatever you do on earth, do it well, paying attention to details, and men will celebrate you and your good works.

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