



The **REFINERY** **DEVOTIONAL**

MARCH 2018

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

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Blessings.

DAY 1

TOPIC: SERVING ONE ANOTHER

TEXT: John 13:14-15

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

"14 If I then, [your] Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."

Shortly before Jesus' sacrifice, he washed the feet of His disciples. One can only imagine how dirty those feet must have been as at the time He was washing them. Sadly today, many have imported this practice, as they assume that Jesus was literally laying down a doctrine of washing other's feet. This is not correct! Little wonder such practice was not recorded in the book of Acts and neither was it mentioned by any of the foremost apostles.

Our text reveals why Jesus washed His disciples' feet. He was rather teaching them service! He was teaching them love, humility, submission and service towards one another. This is repetitive in the epistles. In fact, this is one of the reasons for a local church; to help us serve one another. Paul mentioned this in the text below:

"3 [Let] nothing [be done] through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." (Philippians 2:3-4)

As believers, one of the responsibilities we have in Christ is a call to serve. It is simply out of place for us to claim and rejoice at the privileges that we have in Christ while we leave out our responsibilities. In reality, all the privileges we have in Christ are to strengthen us to maximally carry out our obligations in Christ. This is a charge to anyone who is not serving other believers at the moment; join a local assembly and serve others there.

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DAY 2

TOPIC: WHAT YOU MUST KNOW

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

TEXT: 2nd Corinthians 3:5-6

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; [6] Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”

The afore-stated verses of the epistles are very clear; they unveil a very vital piece of information to every believer about his or her ministry, having being born of the Spirit. It is very important for believers to know that they are made able ministers of the new testament by God. This is a statement of fact that every believer must consistently profess— we have all been made able ministers by God.

The word translated as “made” in the verses above is a Greek word which means “enable” or “qualify”. Hence, being a minister of the new covenant is none of your making but God’s making. Therefore, quit judging yourself on whether you qualify as a minister of the new covenant or not, because God has already qualified you. Our qualification as ministers of the new testament is by God’s sufficiency alone. The word “sufficient”, as used in our texts of consideration, was translated from the Greek word “hikanos”, which means “competent”. Thus, believers find their qualification as ministers of the new testament through (and in) God’s competency. So, what are you to fear? You have no inadequacy in God; rather, you have so much!

Dearly beloved, having understood the aforesaid, that you have no inadequacy as a minister of the new testament, you can carry out every assignment in the ministry with all boldness, being assured of the sufficiency of God! Preach the word, demonstrate spiritual gifts, and rejoice in the Spirit; for you have all power.

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DAY 3

TOPIC: GOD’S LOVE DEMONSTRATED

TEXT: Romans 5:8

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

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

The word “commendeth”, as used in the text above, was translated from a Greek word which means “to demonstrate, to exhibit, to show, to prove, to establish”. That is to say, God demonstrated His love for us while we were yet in our sins by sending Jesus to die for us. He made good on His love even before we made any move toward Him. He established His love for us such that Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross still avails for sinners.

Men’s love for people is many times a response to people’s show of love for (and to) them. That is how men love, but that is not how God loves. He does not love us on the basis of what we do or how we do it. He does not love us only so long as we love Him. He loved the whole world unconditionally and proved it by sacrificing His Son for us. Christ died for us while we were in a state of unbelief.

God’s love for us is not based on our circumstances. Hence, when you’re beginning to doubt or judge God’s love for you when certain things happen to you, meditate on the sacrifice of Jesus for you on the cross. Let your heart be rest assured that God loves you based on what Jesus has done. His (Jesus’) death is a demonstration of God’s love for man. And if God spared not His Son but him up for the world, how shall he not with Him freely give you all things? Beloved, let this truth saturate your mind always!

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DAY 4

TOPIC: END OF THE LAW

TEXT: Romans 10:4

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth”

The word “end”, as used in our scripture text, is the word “*telos*” in the Greek, which means “a definite point or goal”. It is a termination or conclusion of an act. It is natural to conclude that when a mission has been fulfilled, then there is no further need to continue such mission as there is nothing to continue any longer.

From the above text, Apostle Paul made it clear that Christ Jesus has fulfilled the intent of the Law. It is rather ridiculous to seek to obey the dictates of the Law of Moses as a means to be righteous in this present age. Doing so is to frustrate the grace of God (Galatians 2:21). Furthermore, it is important to know that the law was not given to the gentiles (non-Israelite nations) it was given to the Israelites. Hence, a non-Jew has no obligation to keep the law in the first place.

Beloved, no man is made righteous by the deeds of the law (Romans 3:20, Galatians 3:11). The righteousness of God is received by faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ Jesus. We do not attain righteousness by our ability to obey all the ordinances as given by Moses; rather Christ himself is our righteousness.

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DAY 5

TOPIC: LIVE A WORRY-FREE LIFE

TEXT: Matthew 6:25

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor yet for your body, what you shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?”

Many times, questions arise in our hearts such as, how to feed, clothe and meet various needs of ours. Sometimes, one may even conclude that God does not understand how or where it “pinches” us. But Jesus says to take no thought about the issues of life because our heavenly Father knows our needs and He desires to give us more than we ask or even think (Matthew 6:32-33, Ephesians 3:20).

Most people have made it a habit to worry over every single thing. They feel that when they are anxious or perturbed about a thing, then the solution comes. So they worry instead of praying to God about their needs. We are to be constantly conscious of the truth that our God is a provider. He cares for every area of our lives; our desires, feeding, clothing and health. Our text instructs that we “take no thought”; that is to not be worried or anxious or perturbed about life. Take note; we are not to sit idly and lazy about. The epistles instruct that we work that which is good that we might have to give (Ephesians 4:28). Hence, we are to trust God to bless the works of our hands.

If God could provide manna and quail for the children of Israel for 40 years in the wilderness, and neither was any feeble amongst them nor were their shoes or clothes ever worn out, then He can meet that need of ours. In the accounts in the four gospels, it’s recorded that Jesus fed the 5000 and 4000 men, women and children inclusive, with just a few loaves of bread and some fishes, and there were basketfuls of leftover. He healed people of sicknesses and diseases that had lingered for years. He even brought back to life people’s loved ones who were dead. So beloved, whatever issues you have got, God’s more than capable to supply the help that you so desire. Relax in His able hands and trust Him with your life.

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DAY 6

TOPIC: THE DIE IS CAST

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

TEXT: HEBREWS 10:10-12

“By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. [11] And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: [12] But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God”

The above verses are testaments to the fact that the offering of Jesus Christ brings to perfection what the former could not do. This means, while the offering of the blood of bulls and goats could not take away sins such that there is no remembrance of sins every year, the offering of the body of Jesus Christ did once for all time.

The implication of the above is simple; our sins are no longer brought to remembrance against us, for we have been sanctified by Jesus' offering for sins once for all time. The word sanctify was translated from a Greek word which means “to make holy; to purify”. Hence, it means that the aftermath of the sacrifice of Jesus is that believers are declared holy or purified for all time.

This means, for us, we have no record of sins charged against us anymore. What we have on our account is that we are holy. Now, look at Jesus' reaction after He made that one offering on our behalf, He sat down on the right hand of God. This means the event that has occurred and its aftermath can never be revoked or changed. It is done and dusted!

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DAY 7

TOPIC: GODLY CORRECTION

TEXT: 2 Timothy 3:16

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

"All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

One of the major themes taught and practiced in the Bible is correction! This fact can be found on several pages of the Bible, across both testaments. King Solomon mentioned quite a number of wholesome truths about correction. One of such is in Proverbs 3:12:

"For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son [in whom] he delighteth."

Without mincing words, he explains that one of the evidences that God loves a man is that He also corrects him. He further explains it in the light of a "Father-to-son" relationship. Everyone who has received the Father's love is a son; hence, he must be ready to receive the Father's corrections as well. This is what the Bible teaches.

Our text for today mentions the purpose of the scripture, given by the Inspiration of God; it is profitable for teaching, reproof (which means "giving evidence"), correction and instruction in righteousness. Hence, we can safely conclude that one of the reasons why the written word was given is for the sake of correction. Many have the mindset that God sometimes employs unpalatable experiences such as hunger, sufferings, sickness, poverty etc. as tools to correct believers. Such notions are not just against scriptures, but also defamatory. Such notions bear false witness against the personality of God. The only way God corrects us is through His word whenever we read, or His word in the mouth of other believers. This is obvious in the earthly ministry of Jesus, who is the express image of God. The only way by which Jesus corrected people in His earthly ministry was through His words only. Always be humble enough to receive God's correction; it's one of your privileges in Christ.

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DAY 8

TOPIC: FORGIVEN TO FORGIVE

TEXT: Ephesians 4:32

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

The statement above is very explicitly made: the man in Christ forgives because he has been forgiven. Apostle Paul, by the Holy Ghost, lets us know that the believer in Christ is the forgiven one. An observation of the tense used helps us to know that this has happened in the past. God is not forgiving the saint, nor is He yet to forgive him, nor will He forgive him in the future; rather, He has forgiven him. Notice also that this forgiveness is not because of anything the believer does. It is not because of his pleas, nor his wails nor his shouts, but for Christ's sake. Hence, we can say that only in Christ Jesus is the forgiveness of the believer available. Paul reiterates this same information in Ephesians 1:7 and Colossians 1:14, letting us know that we have forgiveness of sins in Him. Thus, in Christ Jesus, we are the forgiven ones.

Upon this information, Paul then gives an instruction: forgive one another. Paul is describing what must be the believer's walk (conduct) here. The believer forgives. He is not one who holds grudges or keeps malice, because he is tenderhearted and kind. One of the characters a believer exhibits in Christ Jesus is love, and love keeps no record of wrongs. We forgive, because we have been forgiven. A believer who refuses to forgive has refused to act out his true nature. He has chosen to act as though God has not forgiven him for Christ's sake. And that is nothing but a denial of the truth. To say you cannot forgive is to deny the truth that you have been forgiven; it is to act beside yourself. Unforgiveness is a stranger in Christian dictionary and parlance; it is alien to Christian communication, language, and culture. We forgive, because we are the forgiven ones.

Today, and beyond, let go of that hurt and pain. Let go of that thought that keeps making you hate that fellow who wronged you. That is not who you are; for you are tenderhearted, kind, and full of love. Forgive today and always, for you are the forgiven one!

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DAY 9

TOPIC: BE OF GOOD CHEER

TEXT: John 16:33

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

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

With all the chaos going on in the world, it becomes increasingly difficult not to be bothered about our survival and that of our loved ones. But, we are instructed to be of good cheer because Jesus has overcome the world.

To be of good cheer is to rejoice exceedingly. Take note that our rejoicing should not be based on some ephemeral things but on the eternal workings of Jesus. For it is God that causes us always to triumph by Christ and makes us to conquer at all times. Our rejoicing should stem from God’s ability to pave ways for us even in extremely dire situations. We are to rejoice because we have the victory at all times over the issues of life.

Joy is always resident in our recreated spirits. It is an expression of dominion; dominion over anything or anyone. We are to exhibit it irrespective of our situations. We are to rejoice because in Christ alone is our salvation sure. When we rejoice, the mighty working power of God becomes clear to us. Rejoicing de-emphasizes the activities of demonic forces and brings them to naught (Acts 4:31-37).

Beloved, you have an oil of gladness flowing in you. Make it a habit to rejoice at all times, because victory is always sure for you.

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DAY 10

TOPIC: SERVANTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

TEXT: ROMANS 6:17-18

“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. [18] Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

One very important thing to note about what Paul affirmed in his admonition on good conduct is that it is by obeying the doctrine we have heard (gospel of salvation) that we were made free from sin, and not by changing morals, nor by being sober, nor by confessing sins.

The Apostle Paul also affirms that not only were we made free of sin by the gospel; we also became servants of righteousness. The word “servant” here is a Greek word which means “to be in bondage”. Hence, by virtue of believing the gospel of Christ, we became slaves to righteousness. What this means is that we have been made subject to righteousness. The Apostle Paul teaches good conduct from this premise. He lets us know that having being made subject to righteousness, we can (and should) do righteous works. We can (and should) yield ourselves to the desires of our righteous nature. We can (and should) communicate goodness, forgiveness, edifying words, and exercising longsuffering in righteousness.

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DAY 11

TOPIC: THE BELIEVER'S ATTITUDE TO WORK

TEXT: Ephesians 6:5-7

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; 6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:"

The texts above leave no stone unturned with respect to what should be the believer's conduct in his secular work. The words "eyeservice" and "menpleasers", which were used by the Apostle Paul here, are words which describe service done only when one's employers are around. This means the said person is lazy, nonchalant, and indolent at work while his or her boss is absent, but wears a cloak of hardwork when the boss comes around. This is nothing but hypocrisy! A believer must not walk in hypocrisy in his secular work. He must execute his job to the letter whether his employer is present or not.

Apostle Paul discusses this seemingly natural issue from a spiritual premise. The believer's master is Christ; thus, he must do his secular work as unto the Lord. The words "good will" were translated from the single Greek word "eunoia", which means "kindness". Hence, the believer must do his secular work with kindness, as unto the Lord. This will mean he will meet his deadlines or ensure he reports to the appropriate quarters should he need an extension. It will mean the believer doesn't go about gossiping when he should be working. It will mean the believer does not engage in fraud or some dishonest activities at his workplace, but rather reproves such.

Dearly beloved, as you go about your secular work, always ensure you do it not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, with good will doing your service, as to the Lord, and not to men.

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DAY 12

TOPIC: GIVE YOURSELF TO READING

TEXT: 1 Timothy 4:13

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine”

Apostle Paul was a man who contributed greatly to the work of the ministry of the gospel of Christ. Without an iota of doubt, he is regarded as the “Apostle to the Gentiles”. He did not only reveal the salvation plan of God, that the Gentiles will be partaker of the kingdom of God, he also preached the gospel to the Gentile nations. In his letter to the Galatians, Apostle Paul explained that after his encounter with Christ on his way to Damascus, he went to Arabia and later returned to Damascus for about three years before returning to Jerusalem. Some persons believe that this was when he wrote all his epistles having been locked up in the cave hearing the voice of God. This belief has no biblical basis. However, it can be said that what Apostle Paul did was a thorough study of the old testament scriptures, which were written in scrolls. He stated himself that the gospel he preached was (is) according to the scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:1-3).

Furthermore, to corroborate our point that Apostle Paul wrote out of an understanding of what was written in the old testament scriptures, let us consider this example;

Galatians 3:16: *“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”*

Here, Apostle Paul explained the promise of God to Abraham (Genesis 12 :17, 13:16); and out of diligent study, he revealed that the promise was to “seed” and not “seeds”. Having great regard for reading, Apostle Paul instructed Timothy his son in the faith to give attendance to reading. It is worthy of note that Timothy is to read, exhort and teach. Although he is to do all but, reading comes first. To give attendance to something means to give keen attention to such thing.

Beloved, we have an instruction to devote our time to reading and studying the bible. We are assured of insight and revelation knowledge as we sit to study the scriptures with the intent to understand Christ.

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DAY 13

TOPIC: A MAN LIKE EPAPHRAS

TEXT: Colossians 4:12

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."

The man Epaphras; such a wonderful model for the saints to follow! Apostle Paul's testimony about this man was that he was always labouring fervently for the saints in prayers. This is a good slant for every believer to pick, learn, and make a practice of. Notice his labour in prayers wasn't just for the saints to have cars or build houses or dominate the business world, but that they would stand perfect, which is being complete in all the will of God. The word "and", as used here, is a Greek word that means "which is". Hence, the perfection spoken of here is being complete in all the will of God. Paul's prayers for the saints was unto this same end, that they may stand complete in all the will of God, being filled with the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:9-10; Ephesians 1:16-19). Not that praying that the saints be blessed materially is wrong, but that was not the focus of the prayers here.

In Ephesians 6:18, Apostle Paul's words are very instructive:

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"

Epaphras made a practice of this. He persevered in prayers for the saints. We must see to it that we make a practice of same also. We must labour fervently in prayers for all saints that they may be filled with the knowledge of God in His Son Jesus Christ, the eyes of their understanding being enlightened, that they may stand complete in the will of God. We must bear this burden in our hearts, that it may be said of us, as it was said of our beloved brother Epaphras, that we are fervent labourers in prayers for all saints. Brethren beloved, let us labour fervently in prayers for all saints!

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DAY 14

TOPIC: THE THINGS OF CHRIST

TEXT: Philippians 2:21

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ’s”

In our scripture text, Apostle Paul states that all seek their own and not the things of Jesus Christ’s. This statement is profound, and as such needs very careful study. The word “all” must always be understood in context when studying. Would this “all” include Paul himself too? How about Timothy, who Paul himself commended in the previous verse? Surely, the word “all” is not all-encompassing. Apostle Paul was stating that not all men seek the things of Christ’s; this is a very truthful saying. Another question which then arises is this: “what does it mean to seek the things which are Christ’s” in this context? Does it mean “to seek to demonstrate spiritual gifts, or praying, as these are both things of Christ? To understand this statement more perfectly, it is pertinent to read the entire chapter of our scripture text; but for the sake of brief explanation, only the pretext will be reproduced here;

“20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.”

Here, Apostle Paul commends Timothy for being a man who naturally cares for the state of the Philippian church. In other words, he is always mindful of the state of affairs of the body of Christ in Philippi. Reading this together with our scripture text, it is safe to conclude that persons who do not seek the things which are Christ’s in this context are persons who do not care about the state of affairs (which will include physical needs) of the body of Christ, unlike Timothy. In other words, the statement “the things which are Jesus Christ’s” here means the affairs of the church”. The believer is a member of the body of Christ. Hence, he is not to be so concerned about his or her own affairs alone. He must be burdened with a desire to ensure that other persons in the body of Christ are doing well just like Timothy, and subsequently Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25).

Dearly beloved, as you pray for the body of Christ, also endeavour to meet the physical needs of the brethren. Reach out to someone today, either via visitation, call, or text; ask about his or her state of affairs and be willing to help. God cares for us all and we must also care for one another.

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DAY 15

TOPIC: UNIFORMITY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

TEXT: ACTS 2:42-44

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. [43] And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. [44] And all that believed were together, and had all things in common.”

One of the very many things the present local churches today should learn from the early church is their uniformity. The early church consistently did their things in common. For example, they continued in the same activities; everything they did was shared by all; thus, there was uniformity in operation. For instance, when the Holy Spirit was given, the believers all spoke in tongues and prophesied. It wasn't that one was singing and another decided to rejoice while others prayed in tongues; not at all! Rather, they all did the same things at once, in one accord. This, therefore, means they were in order. This culture grew with the believers such that when more people were added to the church, they did not stop at doing the same things. We can be sure that this culture of the believers aided the work of the ministry, because they had favour with people and people were added to them daily.

One of the issues in a number of the present day local churches is diversity of operations. This attitude has led to disorderliness in the church; hence, a lot do not take the church seriously anymore. The local church needs to embrace uniformity, avoiding to do things anyhow. The above texts tells us what the uniformity of the church was about; it was about the apostles' doctrine, prayers and the breaking of bread. They did not just decide to teach another doctrine, or take up just any activity; they were very definite— the word and prayers only.

This culture was pivotal to the increase of the early church. It was written that they had favour with men. So, people could observe their uniformity of operations; people saw that when one prayed, they all prayed; they saw that they were consistently teaching the same doctrine— they weren't teaching contradicting sermons everyday— people also observed that they prophesied together. Thus, we can say conclusively that being uniform as a local church is very important to growth and people's perception of us. Therefore, the local church must grow in the culture of uniformity.

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DAY 16

TOPIC: BE GIVEN TO EVANGELISM!

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."

Every believer, as evidently seen in the texts above, has been given the ministry of reconciliation. We are all to be heralds (proclaimers, preachers) of the gospel of Christ. In other words, the work of preaching is not just that of the pastor, but that of every believer. Every believer must be given to evangelism, and very often.

Having said that, it's important also that we know what exactly the gospel is. The gospel is that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the whole world, was buried, and rose again on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). This is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16). This is the gospel of Christ! Anything short of this is another gospel. And it cannot save any man! The ministry which we have all received of the Lord is about what God did in Christ for the whole world. Our texts of consideration let us know that it is a ministry of reconciliation. In other words, we are not to go about shouting people's sins into their eardrums. That may seem a noble thing to do, when viewed naturally. Yet, it is far from what the Bible tells us to do. True nobility in preaching is to boldly proclaim what Jesus has done for the whole world. It's to announce with all tenacity that Jesus is the propitiation for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). Anything apart from this becomes ignoble, no matter what aura goodness it may seem to bear.

Today, and beyond, let us herald the gospel as we ought. It's the good news about the wonderful work of God in Christ. As we do, we will see whole cities turned unto the Lord, with great joy filling every heart!

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DAY 17

TOPIC: THE REASON FOR HIS POWER

TEXT: Acts 1:8

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Upon the resurrection of Jesus, He commanded his disciples to wait in a particular place for the power of the Holy Ghost. They surely got filled with the Holy Spirit as an evidence that the Holy Ghost now lives in them. It is worthy of note that Jesus told them what to do with the power that comes with the Holy Ghost. It was to help them in witnessing the resurrection of Jesus, which they did very clearly as recorded in the Acts of Apostles.

It is therefore obvious that one must receive the Holy Ghost before he can bear witness to the resurrection of Christ. Along the same line, it is not difficult to see that what the power of the Holy Ghost is meant for in the life of a believer is not some natural or frivolous things such as showmanship, money-making, talent-building etc. It is strictly for witnessing the resurrection of Jesus to the dying word.

We must all know that not witnessing Jesus' resurrection after receiving the Holy Ghost is also an abuse of the power in the same way as using the power wrongly. We must all stay conscious of the power of the Holy Ghost within us and be given to witnessing. The gospel is our work; we must all go out and publicize it with the power of the Spirit.

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DAY 18

TOPIC: WE LAUGH!

TEXT: Psalms 2:1-4

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision.”

The text above is quite a very profound one. David, in his second psalm, lets us know that God (who seats on the throne) laughs. This means, God who is our Father, does not seat on His throne sad, sorrowful, and gloomy. He who seats on the throne laughs! In the epistles, we discover that the believer in Christ Jesus sits on the throne of God. He has been made to seat in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6).

Moreover, the believer in Christ Jesus has the very nature of God, since he is born of God. What this very vital information about our identity communicates is that the characteristics of God are also the inherent characteristics of the believer. In the book of Galatians, the Apostle Paul lets us know that joy is a fruit of the Spirit of God (Galatians 5:22). In 1 Corinthians 6:17, Paul also lets us know that the spirit of the believer is one with the Spirit of God. Thus, it won't be wrong to say that joy is a fruit of the believer's spirit (since he is one Spirit with God). Joy is a component of the believer's spirit. It is an essential detail of his identity.

We do not look for comedians to help us laugh when we gather in church or in our respective closets. A comedian can at best make one happy for a fleeting moment. However, the joy resident in our spirits is eternal. There is a well of joy within us that never runs dry. So, when contrary winds blow as we sail through life, we don't give up or let down or roll under the carpet, but demonstrate the joy within. We drink of the well within, by speaking boldly about who we are in Christ Jesus, and then we burst forth into laughter as people full of new wine. We laugh because the greater one is on our inside. We laugh because we are the ones with power, dominion, and victory. We laugh because our all-conquering King has made us more than conquerors. So, what is a gathering of rabid winds before the believer in Christ? It is but as a toothless dog that barks. We laugh! We are on the throne now, where all authority domiciles. Our God laughs, and we laugh too, for the victory is ours, and the conquest is truly sure! Hallelujah! We are a people of laughter and so we laugh! This is how we demonstrate our victory and assurance in God: we laugh!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 19

TOPIC: OUR THANKSGIVING

TEXT: Colossians 1:12-15

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“Giving thanks unto the father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”

It is widely believed that giving of thanks comes when something special has been done. Even among Christians, many believe thanksgiving is done in order to cause God to do more. This is not in agreement with the truth of the scriptures. Our giving of thanks is done as an expression of gratitude to all that Christ has done and not as a means to get more.

From the text above, we see that thanksgiving is not to be done only when a miraculous thing happens to us or only when our material needs are met. We give thanks more for the spiritual provisions that he has made available unto us freely. We are to abound more in thanksgiving for all that we enjoy in Christ; and not only for the physical provisions.

We give thanks for the inheritance we have in Christ, for the spiritual blessings, for delivering us from the power of darkness, for His life given to us eternally. These and many more are our reasons for thanksgiving, as we bask in the goodness of God. Dearly beloved, give thanks always for who you are in Christ.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 20

TOPIC: GIVE ATTENTION TO HELPERS AND FRIENDS

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

TEXT: ROMANS 16:3-5

“Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: [4] Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. [5] Likewise greet the church that is in their house, Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.”

One of the very good attitudes that we learn from Apostle Paul was his dedication to sending regards to his friends and helpers in his ministry; this was very frequent in his letters. It testifies of his dedication and commitment to his friends or helpers.

The church must learn this attitude; believers ought to keep up with themselves. The Apostle Paul was a busy man; he had long periods of teachings and travelling engagements, yet he found time to keep up with the helpers and friends of his ministry. We should not allow our activities affect commitment to our helpers and friends negatively. Let us follow up consistently, appreciating our helpers and friends.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 21

TOPIC: GOD CARES FOR US

TEXT: Matthew 10:30

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

The text shows us that when it comes to the tiniest matters of our lives, God has knowledge of them. In context, the text was applied to Jesus’ disciples, that they had no reason to be afraid of men, nor fear anything that should befall them as they bear the testimony of Jesus to people; for their lives were under God’s care.

You might say; how can God be so concerned about something as small as the hair on one’s head? The reference to numbering the hairs on one’s head reveals the infinite detail of the loving care lavished by God upon His children. It also reveals that not the least hurt or damage would befall them.

Beloved, just as Jesus told His disciples to comfort them, we also are to be comforted that as we go about preaching the gospel to people about all that Christ has done. We should be rest assured that God has got all that concerns us all covered; and that includes our health, family, finances, academics, etc. God shows utmost care for us and does not overlook anything that concerns us.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GODS’ GOODNESS!

DAY 22

TOPIC: HONOURING YOUR PASTOR WITH YOUR RESOURCES

TEXT: 1 Timothy 5:17

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

"17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. 18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer [is] worthy of his reward."

The epistle of Paul to Timothy is often referred to as a "pastoral epistle" as it is Paul's instruction to Timothy on how to go about the order, administration and spiritual oversight of the church where Timothy served as a pastor. The text above is one of such instructions. Paul instructed that the elders that rule well be given "double honour". His emphasis on labouring in the word and doctrine shows what must be the commitment of such elders; a true elder ought to labour in the word and doctrine.

Paul explains that it is legitimate for every elder that has an oversight over God's people to be rewarded with material things as a way to show honour for their work. It should also be noted that Paul uses the word "double" to qualify the type of honour to be given to them. Paul reiterates the same legitimate right in 1 Corinthians 9:11. He refers to it as reaping carnal things where he has sown spiritual things

Dear believer, it is your responsibility as a believer to ensure that you honour your pastor or any ministry gift that labours over you, especially in the word and doctrine. You ought to show this with your materials. It is an instruction to the believer in Christ, and we must ensure that we grow in it.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 23

TOPIC: LIVING 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.”

Christ is alive in us. This is a good news; the kind that propels us to rejoice always. The implications of the above statement are numerous: it means we have got eternal life in us; it means we have the fullness of divinity alive in us; it means we have a testator to the fact that we are forgiven eternally; it means we carry the fullness of authority in us; it means we are the temple of the Holy Spirit; it means we are no ordinary beings.

This is great joy: the mortal man can manifest the powers of the divine nature! This means we are blameless and incorruptible. Oh; glory to God! The man in Christ is a new breed; he is special. In this understanding, our confession and the things we do should be in agreement with the reality that Christ lives in us.

Beloved, our confession must be based on “I am” and “I can”. We must be full of confidence every time. Learn to say to yourself always: “I am a son of God; I am full of power; I can demonstrate the things of the Spirit; I am a citizen of heaven!” Let go of every thought of self-righteousness, and live by the faith of the son of God! You have all He says you have; you can do what He says you can do. Learn to live in the consciousness of victory perpetually.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 24

TOPIC: NO CONDEMNATION!

TEXT: ROMANS 8:1

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“There is, therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

The word “condemnation” in this text goes beyond a sense of blame or unworthiness. The Greek word translated as condemnation here is “katakrima” which means “an adverse sentence, verdict or eternal damnation.” Condemnation here is a legal statement which is used when an accused has been tried and convicted for his or her offences.

The reality of the believer is that he cannot be eternally damned for his trespasses. Jesus has forgiven all of his trespasses. He has passed from the condemnation of death and he has received justification unto life (John 5:24). This truth is not conditional.

The latter part of our text is not to say that that the man in Christ will not be condemned if only he could walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh. It only explains further that the man in Christ walks not after the flesh but after the Spirit. In verse 9 of that same chapter, Apostle Paul emphasized more that the believer is not in the flesh, but in the Spirit. Thus, we are in Christ Jesus, and we are not condemned.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 25

TOPIC: BRIDLE YOUR TONGUE

TEXT: Proverbs 17:28

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: [and] he that shutteth his lips [is esteemed] a man of understanding.”

There is a popular saying that human beings have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen more than we talk. While this saying seems to be used in secular relationships or organizations, the same thought is found true in scriptures and more importantly given as an instruction to the believer in Christ.

In the text above, King Solomon suggests that one of the ways to recognize a fool is from the words of his mouth. By this, he says that not until a man has spoken, you really may not be able to say assuredly if he is a wise man or a fool. It is therefore a great wisdom for a man to know when to either talk or keep quiet. In fact, James dedicated a whole chapter, the third chapter of his epistle, to address the use of the tongue. He calls a man who has mastered how to tame his tongue a "perfect" man. He clearly suggests that if the tongue is not bridled, it is possible of causing strife amidst believers.

Every believer must note the fact that his mouth is supposed to be for blessing and blessings alone. We are not supposed to curse with the same mouth with which we bless. In fact, this is the point that James was trying to make. We therefore must learn to tame our tongue when it is capable of causing more bad than good.

Dear believer, it is a wise decision to master the act of taming your tongue whenever you are angry. You will save yourself from the havoc that wrong words can cause and the possible strife that it can generate.

Further Study: James 3:1-18

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 26

TOPIC: MAKE REJOICING A HABITUAL ACTION!

TEXT: 1 Peter 1:8

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:”

Rejoicing is a physical demonstration of the eternal joy in the recreated spirit of the man in Christ. The man in Christ is a joyful being. The word “unspeakable” in our text verse was translated from a Greek word which implies “unutterable”. In other words, this joy (which is full of glory) cannot really be spoken out or described with our mouths. It is best demonstrated with the action of rejoicing. The word translated as “rejoice” is the Greek word “agallio”. It literally means “to jump for joy”. It is to give an action to the joy within.

Worthy of note is the very fact that our Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated this while he walked the earth bodily.

Luke 10:21 *“21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.”*

The word translated as “rejoiced” here is the same word “agallio”. A close observation would help us to see that it was Luke who gave this commentary. He wrote *“In that hour, Jesus rejoiced in the spirit...”* Obviously, he must have seen something. He must have seen action. What did he see? He saw Jesus jump for joy! Jesus rejoiced! He leaped and twirled with reckless abandon! This is rejoicing! It’s an action. You don’t sit still, looking calm and collected when you rejoice! No; that’s not rejoicing. That is mere sitting down, and nothing more!

Rejoicing means that there is an action! Why do we rejoice? We rejoice because of the benefits we have as a result of salvation! We rejoice because now are we the sons of God! We rejoice because the supernatural has become natural to us; we rejoice because we now live in a realm alien to uncertainties! Moreover, rejoicing in an instruction we have in the epistles. We have been instructed to rejoice always!

Philippians 4:4 *“4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”*

Rejoicing keeps us in the consciousness of whose we are, who we are, and what we have. It fills us with boldness. It spurs angels into action, as they excel well in their service for saints in an atmosphere of joy that emanates from salvation and its attendant benefits (Luke 15:10; Luke 2:9-10; Hebrews 1:14). It enables us to walk through life as the overcomers that we truly are. Brethren beloved, rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 27

TOPIC: PRAYING FOR ALL SAINTS

TEXT: Ephesians 6:18

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"

A major truth in Christianity is the teaching and practice of love. In fact, Jesus affirmed that one of the ways by which unbelievers will recognize those who are His disciples is the love that they will find amidst them (John 13:35).

On this foundation of love, we can do good to anyone, even without their consent or request. Our text gives an instruction for saints to always pray in the spirit. It is emphatic in the epistles that every believer ought to pray always! Paul, in another, place says it in another way; he says that believers ought to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). He means that believers ought to pray without occasion. He goes further to state what ought to be the content of the prayer: praying for all saints. Paul didn't only give this as mere instruction, he did the same, as the epistles are full with records of Paul praying always for all saints.

As believers, let us all yield to this instruction. Let us all cultivate the habit of praying in the Spirit always and also to pray for other saints as often as we pray in the Spirit.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 28

TOPIC: ONE OFFERING

TEXT: Hebrews 10: 12 & 14

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”

Jesus offered himself JUST ONCE for all. He did not offer the blood of bulls and goats for the remission of sins; rather, He offered His own precious blood for the forgiveness of sins. His once for all sacrifice is perfectly adequate to assure our standing before God.

Today, He is seated at the right hand of God (a place of authority) not only because He is the Son of God, but also because His work of purging our sins is completely finished and entirely perfected. Our sins were purged perfectly, and not only that; He sanctified us by the same offering of His body.

Beloved, we are sanctified (that is; made holy) and perfect in God's eyes. God sees us with no flaw or imperfection. He sees us clothed with His own righteousness. He sees us as holy, perfect, unproveable, forgiven, and unblameable because of Jesus' perfect sacrifice on the cross.

Child of God, you are not to live in condemnation any longer (Romans 8:1); thus, when you find yourself conscious of your sins, change your mindset through God's word, and just thank the Lord for His perfect sacrifice on the cross that cleansed all your sins forever!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 29

TOPIC: JESUS IS OUR REST

TEXT: Hebrews 4:3-4

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

"3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. 4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh [day] on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works."

The English word translated as "sabbath", as meaning "a day to be kept holy wherein no one is permitted to do any work under the Law of Moses (Exodus 20:8)", is the word "shabbath" in Hebrew. The root word from which the word "shabbath" is derived is the word "Shabath" in Hebrew which first appeared in the Bible in Genesis 2:2:

"And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made."

This is the word translated as "rested" in English. It means to "cease from work". From our scripture text, it is clear that God's intention from the beginning is that men will enter into this rest, even though the Israelites accepted the rest as a day just as it was presented to them. The writer of Hebrews makes it clear that the rest is neither a day nor a location (Canaan land). Based on his argument, if the Sabbath was a day or Canaan land, the Israelites would have had it all and David would not need to prophesy their access into Canaan Land years after. In Psalm 95:7-11, David prophesied about rest awaiting a certain people in the future. Hence, the writer of Hebrews makes it clear that true rest is to believe in the sacrifice of Jesus for the world.

It is therefore clear that both Sabbath day and Canaan Land are a shadow of the reality! We are believers today, and Jesus is our rest! We dwell in the reality today; we have entered into God's rest already! We are the reality of God's intention before the foundations of the world!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 30

TOPIC: JESUS HAS PRESENTED US

TEXT: Ephesians 5:27

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

It’s amazing to know that it’s the Lord that presents us to Himself as a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; He presents us to himself as holy and without blemish. His presentation of us is void of our works; rather, it stems from His finished work on the cross. Knowing this truth, we are to be at all times forgiveness-conscious. If the one who loved us while we were yet sinners sees us as righteous before Him, then we’d be doing ourselves a lot of bad by seeing ourselves as otherwise.

God does not examine us or find faults with us when you do a wrong (Hebrews 10:17). He sees us through the full value and acceptance of His Son. He sees us holy and without blemish. He sees us as one that has a right standing before Him.

Beloved, not only does Jesus present us as holy and without spot or wrinkle before God while we are here on earth, He also will, at the rapture, present us before the Father as holy and without blemish, as people who are justified by His righteousness, perfected by His blood and sanctified by His Spirit. Rejoice in this truth!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 31

TOPIC: DO NOT ERR

TEXT: James 1:16-17

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“Do not err, my beloved brethren. [17] Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

The Apostle James admonishes believers not to go unto error. In verse 13 of this same chapter, he made known to us what the error was. This error was in affirming that God tempts and that he tempts with evil: *“13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:”*

Apostle James reveals to us clearly from the text above that when we infer that God tempts us, we are in error. In the body of Christ today, it is not unusual to find believers who say outrageous things like “God is tempting my faith” in other to sound spiritual or in the name of trying to show discipleship or in the face of certain issues. Some even say they are being chastised or that God is punishing them for their sins. James tells us that this is not true; God never tempts any man with evil. He lets us know that what God gives is good and perfect. This means God never gives something sorrowful, bad, or painful to any man. God gives good things. We can say, conclusively, that bad circumstances, pains, sorrow and the likes are not from God. It is with this understanding that we can pray against every pain, sorrow and negative situation we find ourselves in, knowing full well that they are not from God. Thus, we can be sure He will relieve us from any negative situation because He gives good gifts.

Beloved, never go into the error of believing God tempts you, does bad to you, or persecutes you with evil. God does none of this. He gives good things forever. Therefore, for perpetuity, our expectation is that anytime we pray in God’s name, good things happen. We are certain of this because God never changes at any time.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED TO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!