



# The Refinery Devotional

JULY, 2018

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

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**Blessings.**

## **DAY 1**

**TOPIC: HELP ME; I DON'T THINK I CAN LOVE OTHERS**

**TEXT: Romans 5:5**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

*“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”*

The text above quietens such a thought as is captioned in the title of today's devotional. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given to us. The phrase “the Holy Ghost which is given to us” makes us know that the text above is the reality of the man in Christ; for it is the man in Christ who has the Holy Ghost. The unsaved man does not have the Holy Ghost, but he can have Him, and will have Him if he believes in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Having said this, we can say assuredly that the love of God is in the heart of the man in Christ. In other words, the believer, the man in Christ, the saint, the child of God, does not have a love problem. The child of God is that one in whom the love of God dwells.

Paul, the great apostle, further explains to us that love is a fruit of the believer's spirit (Galatians 5:22). Hence, the believer does not need to pray for the ability to love; he only needs to walk in the ability to love, which he has been given. How will he walk in this ability of love? He will do so by first acknowledging that he has the ability to. This will mean that he will not say such things as “I don't think I can love others”. To say that is to lie against himself. It is like a man who says, “help me; I think I am a woman”. This is nothing but a lie. His sight about himself must have been blurred. He needs to see himself in the mirror again. The written word is the mirror in which the believer sees himself. Therein is the truth which dispels every lie rising within an unrenewed mind. It is the tool with which we reeducate and remould our minds.

So, today and beyond, acknowledge that you have the love of God within you. Throw away the lie that you can't love others, and embrace the truth that you can. The written word tells us that we can walk in love, and that settles it! We will walk in love to the degree that we acknowledge that we can. There's no telling how much love we can demonstrate when we allow this truth totally infiltrate our minds!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 2**

### **TOPIC: MORE THAN CONQUERORS!**

**TEXT: Romans 8:37**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

*“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”*

The phrase “more than conquerors” means ‘to vanquish beyond or to gain a decisive victory’. The word “decisive” means “final or conclusive”; it therefore means that the believer’s victory in Christ is conclusive. In other words, our victory in Him is complete.

In the preceding verses, the Apostle Paul made mention of certain circumstances that may make it seem as though we have no victory; such things as tribulations, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword. However, the Apostle Paul affirms loudly that in all these things, we are more than conquerors. This means victory in Christ is not circumstantial— we are victorious still regardless of situations.

Now, let’s see on what premise Apostle Paul’s assurance about this is built; he says *“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Oh, this is good!

We have the love of God in Christ Jesus! Alleluia! It is on this ground that we are sure. The Apostle Paul says he is persuaded about this. The word “persuaded” means “assured, being confident”; it is a strong conviction. We have a strong conviction that nothing can separate us from the love of God; we are sure God loves us.

How can we be confident of our victory in tribulations? The answer is that God loves us. How can we be confident of victory in the earth realm? God loves us. Alleluia! We are persuaded! Glory to God!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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### **DAY 3**

**TOPIC: GOD IS AT WORK IN YOU!**

**TEXT: Philippians 2:13**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”*

We are told in the Bible text above that it is God that works in us both to will and to do of his good pleasure. The word rendered “worketh” in the Greek is “energeō”, and it means “to work, to be active, to produce effect”. Hence, it is correct to say “God produces a certain effect in us that leads us to do his will”. He exerts such an influence in us as to make us do that which is well-pleasing in His sight.

The power to enjoy lasting transformation rests in God, and not in some alcohol anonymous group or some behavioural modification program. What all of those achieve is to make you temporarily sane for a while after which you fall back to the same actions or habits you were trying to run away from.

Child of God, God is at work within you to help you overcome that addiction; He’s at work within you to help you do that which is well-pleasing in His sight; He’s at work within you to help you love and be at peace with people. You are His workmanship created unto good works. You are the place of His activity.

The power of God to do that which is well-pleasing in His sight is in the Holy Spirit that resides in you. So, when the urge comes to do the wrong things, constantly affirm that God is at work within you to overcome them.

As you go about your day, let this truth sink in your heart that it is God that is at work within you; for you are not sufficient enough to help yourself but your sufficiency is of God (2nd Corinthians 3:5).

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 4**

### **TOPIC: YOU ARE CONFIGURED FOR GOOD WORKS**

**TEXT: Ephesians 2:10**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*

These days, very many people use computers and smartphones. Such devices have variations in their functionality and performance based on the configuration of the maker. For example, I may have an Android phone that doesn't have a flashlight attached to its camera. This will mean that I will not be able to take snapshots in the dark no matter how desperately I need such function. The phone cannot function that way simply because it has not been configured by the maker to carry out such function.

From the analogy above, it is clear that a product can only function based on the configuration of the maker; not necessarily based on the need of the user. Such is the case of the believer in Christ. He has been wired up to do good works! Whatever good work he displays is also carried out based on the configuration of the maker. Every believer in Christ has been equally enabled to do good works via the power of the Holy Spirit. Our judgment of what is good work must also be from a spiritual premise; not from cultural sentiments and unstable personal biases. We judge good works by the Written Word and by the Holy Spirit.

The good works which the believer has been configured to do are seen in the fruit of the spirit. As a believer, good works are resident in you. You're God's masterpiece; God's perfect creation— you have been configured for good works. Show men more of your good works!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 5**

### **TOPIC: LOVE COVERS THE MULTITUDE OF SINS**

**TEXT: 1 Peter 4:8**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

*“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.”*

Apostle Peter was speaking about relationship amongst saints here. He states that saints (that is, believers in Christ Jesus) must have charity among themselves. The word “charity” is an old word that means “love”. Hence, Peter was talking about love among saints. Worthy of note is the fact that Peter qualifies the kind of love that must be found amongst saints with a very interesting word; he says “have fervent love among yourselves”. The word “fervent” is a Greek word that implies “to bubble with intensity”. In other words, love must continue intensely among saints. There must not be an end to this.

Then he goes on explain an action of saints towards themselves because of the fervent love amidst them. One of the things we do as saints is to be people who cover the sins of other saints. Now, the phrase “love covers the multitude of sins” does not mean “love condones sinful actions” or that “love pampers sinful acts”. For the epistles are replete with rebukes for erring believers; although, this rebuke is done in love, based on the reality of who the believer is in Christ, and never leads to condemnation. The phrase “love covers the multitude of sins” means “to not be the one who spreads news about the shortcomings of saints”. The love that will cover the multitude of sins is the love of believers towards one another. Brethren beloved, such actions as spreading news about the sins of saints is are not borne of love. Love will rebuke sinful actions, yet it will not spread news about those actions to others.

Doing such things does not depict a family culture at all. There must be a family culture which every believer inculcates, bearing in mind that we are now brothers and sisters in Christ, for we share the same life of God within us. We must have an idea that we are to have one another's backs. I must be confident that if I confess my faults to you, as admonished by James in his epistle (James 5:16), you will rebuke me in love, but would not spread news about my faults all around. Beloved, let fervent love reign amidst us; let love have way; let love cover the multitude of sins.

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## DAY 6

### TOPIC: THOU SHALL NOT MARRY

TEXT: 1 Timothy 4: 1-4

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUNFUNMI

*“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.”*

In our scripture text, Apostle Paul outlined some of the false doctrines that would be preached by many false preachers in the last days. Part of these teachings includes “forbidding to marry”. One would not have ever thought that a teaching that forbids people from marrying is a false doctrine.

Today, some persons claim that it is the will of God that a man and woman stay single all through their lives. They opine that staying single (not marrying) ushers one into a deeper realm into the things of the Spirit. They use their lives as examples of how God has brought them into a deeper level of relationship because they did not marry. Some even go further to state that Apostle Paul was able to achieve so much in his ministry because he refrained from marriage. This is outright inconsistent with the word of God. Forbidding a man to marry is nothing but false doctrine.

Apostle Paul himself wrote this with his own hands;

*“But the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some in the church will turn away from Christ and become eager followers of teachers with devil-inspired ideas. These teachers will tell lies with straight faces and do it so often that their consciences won't even bother them. They will say it is wrong to be married...”* (1 Timothy 4:1-3; The Living Bible)

Again, Paul says one of the things people will say in the last days is that **“It is wrong to be married”** According to the apostle, this opinion is a devil-inspired idea.

Beloved, whoever forbids you from marrying at all is definitely not speaking the mind of God. Stay with the word of God and be renewed in your mind.

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## **DAY 7**

### **TOPIC: WHY WORRY?**

**TEXT: Philippians 4:6-7**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanks giving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

Apostle Paul gave this admonition to the church even while he was in bonds (taken as a prisoner). It is common knowledge that he was constantly prompted by the Holy Ghost in all of his writings to the church.

He instructs that we are not to be anxious for anything; be it issues in our personal lives, our health, jobs/businesses, our relationships/marriage, etc. Rather, we are to go to God in prayer and supplication, telling Him what we need and thanking Him for the answers. When we do that, His peace that is beyond human reasoning will guard our hearts and minds from all anxieties.

Child of God, no matter the situation of things, we are to go to God in prayers. He shouldn't be our last resort on any matter; rather, He should be our first resort in every situation (Psalm 37:5). He is not a very present help in time of need for nothing; for it is true that He's forever with us.

He is true to His word at all times; for with Him nothing is impossible. He desires that we cast all of our cares upon Him; for He cares affectionately for us. It is in doing so that we experience His loving peace.

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## **DAY 8**

### **TOPIC: KEEP RENEWING YOUR MIND**

**TEXT: Romans 12:2**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

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

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

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

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

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## **DAY 9**

### **TOPIC: WITH LABOUR COMES PROFIT**

**TEXT: Proverbs 14:23**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

***“In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.”***

The saying that “the grass on the other side of the fence is always greener” can be fully explained to mean that it took someone a great deal of work to make it so. Most people dream and fantasize about being successful. They sit and talk all day about how they will be rich. Some even have brilliant business ideas but never take a step to do anything to achieve their dreams.

We are instructed to work with our hands (1st Thessalonians 4:11). We are to beware of any distractions and delusions of money-making schemes that never see the light of day. We are not to have a lackadaisical attitude to work. We are to be diligent in our businesses— either we are employees or an employer of labour; for in labour there is profit.

Proverbs 22:29 says a man who is diligent in his business shall stand before kings and not mean men. Child of God, if you are faithful and hardworking in whatever venture you're involved in, you tend to attract favours from people who could be of help to you in the long run.

Endeavour to work with your hands that which is good, for everyday you are alive is a blessed privilege. Use it well; work and work more and get better at what you do. Don't waste your time talking away your dreams; for that only tends to poverty. As you talk about your dreams and plans, ensure that commensurate actions accompany them. As you work, work zealously as unto the Lord.

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## **DAY 10**

### **TOPIC: THE GIFT OF GOD**

**TEXT: Romans 6:22-23**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

*“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

It is very clear from the above text that death is the wages of sin. Now, it says “sin”, and not “sins” as of plural but as of singular. Thus, the sin in context is definite. This sin is such that can lead to eternal death. Jesus says in John 5:24: *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”*

The sin Paul was discussing here is the sin of unbelief. Unbelief in Christ leads to eternal death; it is to remain in condemnation. However, for us in Christ who have believed, we have received the gift of God— this gift is eternal life. Beloved, we have eternal life.

Now, in the text above, we find out clearly that those who have received eternal life cannot come into condemnation but have passed from death to life. The believer cannot come into condemnation because he has life.

The word condemnation means judgement hence believers are not judged or damned. Hallelujah! So the gift of God; eternal life which we have received has made us free of judgement. We can never be judged again. So in life, we are justified, approved of God, we are declared righteous, we belong to the kingdom of light. Glory to God!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 11**

**TOPIC: JESUS IS FOR EVERYBODY!**

**TEXT: John 3:16**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

The text above is perhaps the most quoted Bible verse in the world. This over-familiarity has led to a subtle downplay of the beautiful message this verse conveys. It lets us know that God's love doesn't preclude anybody. In other words, God's love is not more predisposed to one race than the other. His love is not prejudicial; it's for the whole world.

He demonstrated his love for all of mankind by giving his son to die for the sins of the world! This shows us that Jesus' death is for everybody! It also presupposes to us that God wills that every man be saved. His desire for the unbeliever is that he or she receives the salvation which is freely given in Christ.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

*“3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”*

Having known this, that there are no ethnic or cultural barriers to the gospel; that the unbeliever's sins don't render him unfit for the gospel, we should be spurred the more to preach the gospel. We should carry the gospel on our lips in every place. We must let the unbeliever know that Jesus is for him or her. We must make every man know that Jesus has paid for the sins of the whole world. It must be our manner. It must be our culture.

Let us all go out today, declaring with a mighty voice, to every man that comes our way that Jesus is for everybody; that we all are the very ones whose sins he paid for!

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## **DAY 12**

**TOPIC: HE PROVIDES**

**TEXT: JOHN 6:5**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

*“When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”*

Jesus Christ shows empathy to the physical needs of people. This shows to a very large extent that the physical needs of people should never be disdained or treated as unnecessary. Now, that stated clearly, another thing we will see in the succeeding texts is that Jesus Christ never embraced lack as the premise to disdain material provisions.

*“And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. [11] And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.”*

Jesus would go the extent of working a miracle to see that the needs of five thousand men are met. The disciples' reason was logical; after all, they had little, but not with Jesus Christ; His own response to lack was provision. This is remarkable and worthy of emulation by us! It teaches us that in times of lack, our response is not to be complacent in lack or inadequacies but to seek God's provision, for He cares.

Again, the aftermath of God's provision in our text of consideration was abundance. They had more than enough! This means God doesn't just supply; He gives more than we need. Therefore, when we pray about provisions, we should have an expectation of abundance. God cares that we not just have our needs meet but that we have an abundance of resources. Hallelujah!

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## **DAY 13**

### **TOPIC: REJOICING IN PERSECUTION (1)**

**TEXT: 1 Peter 4:12-13**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”*

Are you being persecuted for preaching the gospel of Christ? Then Peter's admonition in the text above is for you! One of the promises that a believer receives the day he or she accepts Christ is persecution for his or her faith. In Matthew 5:10-12, Jesus in His earthly ministry called the man who is being persecuted for righteousness' sake a blessed man. In the same text, He instructed on what the reaction of the man being persecuted should be; He should rejoice!

Before Jesus rounded up His earthly ministry, He assured the disciples again that men will persecute them for their staunch stand for the gospel (John 15:20). Little wonder the apostles and other disciples rejoiced consistently in the midst of several oppositions as recorded in Acts of Apostles. For them, rejoicing was not just a means of escape from persecutions. It was their lifestyle; their default response!

Just as the disciples in Acts 5:41 rejoiced greatly to have been counted worthy to suffer shame for Jesus' name, you too must. Men's persecution for your preaching and defense of the gospel ought to stir you up for more labouring in the gospel. This you must do with rejoicing; this is because there is a glory to be revealed in us.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 14**

**TOPIC: BE NOT IGNORANT!**

**TEXT: 1 Corinthians 12:1**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

*“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.”*

The Apostle Paul, in the text above, speaks about spiritual gifts; he says that he would not have the Corinthian church ignorant about spiritual gifts. In other words, Paul is saying he wants them to know this. He wants them to be aware of it; to keep it fresh in their understanding and never lose track of it. Every time the Apostle Paul speaks in that tone of voice, he is communicating something very serious to us.

To be ignorant of spiritual information is to rob ourselves of growth in the Lord. If the Apostle Paul is saying “I would not have you ignorant of this”, he is implying also that he wants you to learn it. As believers, we must be given to learning the word. We must pay attention to doctrine (sound doctrine); for therein does our growth lie. The Apostle Paul did the same himself.

2 Corinthians 2:11 “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

He says that Satan will not get an advantage of them because they know his devices. The word “devices” is the word “noēma” in the Greek. It refers to “a disposition” or “perception”. In other words, they are aware of Satan’s disposition. They know what he wants. They are not ignorant, so they know what to do.

As we give ourselves more and more to learning the word, we become more and more mature in the things of God. We will know the exact things to do. We will not be tossed here and there by every wind of doctrine. We will not be unbelievably found begging God to grant us things he has freely given us in Christ. Beloved, be not ignorant!

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## **DAY 15**

### **TOPIC: GOD'S TEMPLE IS A HOUSE OF PRAYER**

**TEXT: Mark 11:17**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“And he taught, saying unto them, is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? But ye have made it a den of thieves.”*

The believer in Christ is the temple of the living God (1st Corinthians 3:16). Christ lives in him by His Spirit. Christ has made His abode within the believer, forever. He walks and works in the believer by His Spirit

As the temple of God, it is God's will for the believer to be a house of prayer, as shown by Jesus' action and declaration in our Bible text. That is, praying is to be a lifestyle for the believer. He is to constantly live in the consciousness of who he is in Christ and this is rightly done via praying. The believer in Christ is not to allow the circumstances of life make him forget who he is in Christ.

There is no specific time given in the Bible for us to pray, but we are instructed to pray always (Ephesians 6:18). We pray perfect prayers when we pray in tongues always. Either the going is good or not, we are to pray in tongues; for the Spirit of God makes intercession for us when we pray in tongues (Romans 8:26). Hence, we can pray the will of God into manifestation when we pray in tongues.

Make it a habit to pray in tongues always. Stand upon God's promises for your life, family and business and never allow the enemy rob you of all that's been freely given to you in Christ.

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## **DAY 16**

### **TOPIC: REJOICING IN PERSECUTION (2)**

**TEXT: 1 Peter 4:12-13**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”*

Sequel to where we stopped the last time, it is important to understand that what some people call “persecutions” are just self-inflicted problems based on ignorance or naivety. For instance, in preaching the gospel, we are not sent to force the message on anyone. We are simply supposed to share the gospel with as many as are willing to hear us. If in the midst of forcing the message, the supposed hearer attacks, such is more of lack of understanding rather than persecution.

However, if you are in the midst of intense persecution, neglect, denial, blackmail and so on for the sake of the gospel, again I say; count it all joy and rejoice greatly! Such persecution must not stop you in the place of your devotion to God; your service among saints, preaching of the gospel, worshipping God, financial support for the gospel, prayers and so on. This is evident in the life of Paul and Silas as they were still given to praising God and prayers even in the midst of persecution.

You must also know that persecutions are not from God but from oppositions of the gospel. However, it is God's will to deliver us in all. 2 Corinthians 1:10. Our strength in the midst of persecution as mentioned in the text is that there is a glory that shall be revealed in us. This glory is the reality of the resurrected body which all believers shall have. Rejoice greatly in this!

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## DAY 17

### TOPIC: THE GLORIOUS CHURCH

TEXT: Ephesians 5:25-27

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

*“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 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.”*

A preacher once said “Jesus is coming back for a glorious church; a gathering of persons who are without spot or blame; a group of persons who are without any sin whatsoever... Many believers are not part of this glorious church because they still have sins in their lives... Repent so that you will be rapturable.” It is true that Jesus is coming back for his Church. In fact, this is the hope of every believer in Christ. We await the coming of Jesus because we know that when He appears, we will receive our glorified bodies, and we shall be exactly like Him.

As we await Jesus’ coming, many preachers have developed fears in the mind of their listeners by what they preach. One of these falsehood teachings is seen above. While it is true that Jesus is coming back for His glorious church, to say that some believers are not members of this church is erroneous and inconsistent with the teachings of the early apostles. In other words, it is impossible for the believer in Christ not to be a member of the church. As taught by Apostle Paul, Christ is the head of the church and the church is the body of Christ (Colossians 1:18).

Furthermore, every believer is a member of this glorious body (1 Corinthians 12:27). The Apostle Paul revealed in our text that contrary to the religious belief that one needs to make himself holy by his actions, it was Christ who loved us and showed his love by washing us clean. We are therefore holy; not having spots, or wrinkles. In other words, it is not our duty to make ourselves fit for Christ’s coming; rather, Christ made us fit by presenting us holy to Himself. We are not a glorious church by our actions. We are a glorious church by what Jesus did for us: He sanctified and cleansed us with the washing of water by the word, that He might present us to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that we should be holy and without blemish.

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## **DAY 18**

**TOPIC: AS A MATTER OF FACT**

**TEXT: 1 Corinthians 15:51-53**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

*“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”*

The Apostle Paul made use of definitive terms in his description of the resurrection of our bodies. He was so sure that he said we shall all be changed. He writes this with so much clarity and assurance, and also gives a specificity of details to what he wrote: he says that we shall be changed in a moment.

As Apostle Paul was sure of this, every believer ought to be sure. In the above text, he used the word “all” to depict that all believers will be changed. We will all put on incorruption; we will all have our mortal bodies changed into immortal ones. Believers are not such who should be confused or unsure about taking up immortality (rapture). We should all be certain that it will happen.

In 1st Thessalonians 4:18, the Apostle Paul says ‘comfort one another with these words’; he was speaking about the rapture. The word “comfort” is to encourage. So the Apostle Paul says that believers should find encouragement in the truth about of the redemption of our bodies. It is because it is certain to happen. So, when next we are asked if we are “rapturable” or if we will make the rapture, we can answer with so much confidence that we will.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 19**

### **TOPIC: OUR OLD MAN IS CRUCIFIED!**

**TEXT: Romans 6:6-7**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

***“6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.”***

The text above clearly states a reality that is common to every believer. Paul declares with all clarity of speech that the old man, which a believer once had, is already crucified! That is; the old man is absolutely dead. Consequently, this makes the man in Christ absolutely free from the nature of sin. He is no longer held bound by the sin nature; not anymore!

Very many times, the confusion about “sin” among believers is their inability to differentiate the sin nature from the acts of sin— sinful habits. They try to stop sinful habits without first acknowledging that the old man is dead and hence the man in Christ is no longer in bondage of sin where he was before accepting Christ. In fact, many read this text and just gloss over it as though Paul meant that the old man only fainted and has subsequently resurrected. No, the old man is absolutely dead for any man in Christ!

Do you still struggle with sinful habits? The good news is that the old man is no longer alive, and there is a new life operating through you. Galatians 2:20. This new life is the life of Christ. All you need to do is to allow the new life to have expression.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 20**

**TOPIC: JESUS CAUSED IT**

**TEXT: Hebrews 5:9**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

*“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”*

The word translated as “author” in the text above is the Greek word “aitios”. It refers to something/someone who caused something; a causer. So, we can read the text above as “And being made perfect, he became the causer of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.” To obey him is to believe in Him. The point of salvation is the point of obedience to Jesus. So, Jesus has caused eternal salvation for all who believe in Him.

Some folks kick hardly against this truth, saying that salvation is not eternal. This shows that they are not aware that what we profess was caused by Jesus. By calling us liars, they are saying that Jesus caused a lie. They are insinuating that the Lord's work is a hoax and has no truth in it.

However, we find the truth about Jesus and what He has done for us in the scriptures (especially in the epistles). He has caused eternal salvation for us. Hence, the premise for our assurance about salvation is that Jesus caused it to be an eternal one. We didn't do it. Jesus did.

So, next time a person asks you why you are so sure that salvation is eternal, reply him or her with a broad smile of boldness on your face and say: “Because Jesus caused it!”

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## **DAY 21**

### **TOPIC: ECCLESIASTICAL GIVING**

#### **TEXT: ACTS 2:44-45**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

*“And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.”*

Giving in the church, as seen in the early church, was not a strange thing; it was not something that was imposed; rather, giving was the attitude of the early church. It is clear from the text above how believers had things in common; the explanation of which is that possessions were sold and the proceeds shared among all believers as they had need.

This a good culture, the rich among believers did not act indifferent to the needs of the poor, but they sought ways for their needs to meet. In Acts 4:34-35, it became clearer that possessors of properties sold their properties so that distribution may be made to the needy. This is a demonstration of love; such love that having possessions didn't matter more than the needs of fellow believers. Giving was thus borne of love among believers in the early church.

Now, they were so established in this culture such that in periods of famine in a whole country, they gathered for the saints (Acts 11:29). You would have imagined that the period of famine was a time for the believers to hoard their possessions in anticipation for famine or possibility of lack but love constrained them to give.

Giving in the church is out of love and out of the desire to meet the needs of fellow saints; it is not the norm for us to ignore the needs of brothers in Christ. The norm is for us to render help. In all of our local churches, priority must be given to the needs of fellow saints; this is our culture and we must treat it with utmost importance!

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## DAY 22

### TOPIC: GROW IN GRACE

TEXT: 2 Peter 3:18

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUNFUNMI

*“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”*

Growth is an important characteristic of living. It is the process of development, enlargement and expansion. To say something is growing depicts that such a thing is increasing in size, number, value or strength. There is an undoubted joy in the heart of a progenitor when his offspring grows and develop. When a baby utters his first word and also makes a successful attempt to walk around, the mother grins as the baby’s action is a proof of growth.

The believer in Christ must be desirous of growth. This is aptly put by Apostle Peter thus; *“as new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”* (1 Peter 2:2). In other words, the believer must be eager to grow.

As written in our text, the Apostle Peter further instructed that the believer is to grow in grace. It is worthy of note that the instruction is not to grow in the works of the law. This cannot even be the case as we are not under the law in the first place; we are under (in) grace. Knowing that grace is the personality of Christ (John 1:14); hence, to grow in grace simply means to develop in the enjoyment and usage of all that grace has given to us. In other words, we are to seek eagerly to maximise all that is available to us in Christ.

This growth can only be achieved by knowing all that Christ has provided by His death, resurrection and glorification. Little wonder the Apostle proceeded to say: *“and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”*

Spiritual growth is achieved by the acknowledgement of everything that Christ has done for us and all that He is doing through us today. It is all about focusing on Jesus and having the knowledge of Him.

**Say this:** I grow in grace. I acknowledge all that Christ has done for me and all that He is doing through me. I maximise all that is available to me in Christ.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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## **DAY 23**

### **TOPIC: THERE IS ABUNDANCE IN GOD**

**TEXT: John 6:5-6**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“5 When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company coming unto Him, He saith unto Phillip, Whence shall we buy bread that these may eat? 6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.”*

As humans, we are naturally conscious of lack. When there's no food, money or clothing, we tend to get agitated as to what the next line of action should be. But our Bible text tells us differently about Jesus. For even in the midst of not enough food to feed the 5,000 men, women and children, Jesus saw abundance; verse 6 of our text tells us that much.

We see in the preceding verses of our Bible text that when the five loaves of bread and two fishes were brought to Him, He gave thanks to God and gave His disciples to share to the multitudes that were seated. The Bible records that the food went round and there were twelve baskets left over.

The lesson learnt from that incident is that God is not only a provider, but He provides beyond our imaginations, and as such, He wants us to stay conscious of this truth.

Beloved, God doesn't want you to be conscious of the lack you see around you. He doesn't want you to live by how much you earn or do not earn. He wants you to be conscious of His super-abounding ability.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 24**

**TOPIC: NOW ARE WE IN ZION!**

**TEXT: Hebrews 12:22-24**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

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

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

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

Psalms 50:2

*“Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.”*

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

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

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

**DAY 25****TOPIC: GOD CARES****TEXT: 1 Peter 5:7****Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL*****“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”***

The word “care” in the above text is from the Greek word “merimna”. It refers to one’s concerns. A man’s concerns are the things that are really important to him. He wants them. Sometimes, he even gets anxious about getting them. The Apostle Peter lets us know something important here. He tells us to cast our cares upon God. The word “cast”, as used here, means “to throw upon”; “to place something or someone”. It’s actually descriptive of allowing someone else bear our burdens.

So, we are to place our concerns on God. We are to do this as a response to the care He has for us. Actually, the word rendered as “careth” in the text above is from the Greek word “melō”, which means “to be of interest” or “to concern”. This informs us that God is concerned about our concerns. He is interested in our lives. He is passionate about us. We matter to Him.

Our response to this passion God has for us is to cast our cares upon him. It is to be fully persuaded that God wants the best for us. Much more, we must know that He will provide; for God is not one who exemplifies passive passion. Rather, He is active in His passion for us. Beloved, go out today and beyond in full assurance that God cares for you. Be rest assured; He will provide for you.

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

## **DAY 26**

### **TOPIC: UNANSWERED PRAYERS?**

**TEXT: 1 Peter 3:7**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with [them] according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”*

The major discussion in this passage was submission and love between husband and wife in a Christian home. However, some people have misunderstood a phrase in the text as to mean that God may not answer the prayers of the husband if he’s not dwelling with his wife according to knowledge. While it must be emphasized that the will of God in Christian families is that the husband and the wife must dwell together in accordance with the written word, we must however correct this misunderstanding.

First of all, to suggest that God will not answer the prayer of the husband because of the character weakness is to contradict several other portions of the Bible. It is clear that God does not impute sins unto men (2 Corinthians 5:19). This is consistent with the crux of the New Testament, where God has promised that He will not remember sins and iniquity (Hebrews 8:12). God is a Father who listens to His sons irrespective of their character defects; although He wants all His children to live in accordance to His will.

The phrase; “that your prayers be not hindered” is simply saying that the husband must seek to dwell with his wife in accordance with God’s word so that he’s not stopped from praying. What may be hindered is not the answer to the prayers but the act of prayer itself. Be reassured that God hears you always and pray more effectively.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

**DAY 27**

**TOPIC: GOD'S VERDICT OVER US**

**TEXT: Romans 8:1**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

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

What Apostle Paul is saying in the above text is that the entire condemning wrath we were to receive as a result of our sins has been replaced by God's mercy, because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. In other words in Christ Jesus, there is no condemnation. All of God's action toward you is mercy and unconditional love. This love is not mixed. It is not as though God will love you on some days and visit you with His wrath on some other days. NO! That is not the case; for in Christ Jesus, you are free from condemnation, FOREVER!

No one can make a condemning charge against you (Romans 8:33-34). Whether in heaven or on earth or even beneath the earth, no one can! For it is Christ that died and is risen to give you right standing with the Father. You are declared just before the Father because of Christ's finished work.

So now, we who are in Christ have the verdict of the last judgment: not condemned, but justified and declared righteous before God. There remains no condemnation anymore for us.

**Further Study:** John 3:16-18; John 5:24

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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**DAY 28**

**TOPIC: YOU ARE NEVER ALONE!**

**TEXT: 2 KINGS 6:15-16**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*“15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! How shall we do? 16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.”*

There is a lot to learn from the Old Testament Prophets. It is not a lie to say that they had the consciousness of God’s power and they manifested same. Prophet Elisha, in our text today, made a remarkable statement as he was faced with a host of enemies on chariots and horses, who gathered round about him to harm him. He said to his servant “fear not; for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.” This is awesome!

Jesus makes us understand this more as He reveals to us that greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. The believer should never be held bound in fear of the enemy. He has an innumerable company of angels working for him. He has an ability that is greater, and tremendously exceeds the impending difficulty. We are never alone!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 29**

**TOPIC: THE ORDER OF FAMILY**

**TEXT: COLOSSIANS 3:18-22**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

*“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”*

The believer’s home is not such where there should be rancor; hence, the Apostle Paul instructs on the correct order of a believing family. The Apostle Paul addresses the wife first; she is to submit to her husband. Paul was careful to issue that instruction; he didn’t say submit to “all men” but “your own husband”. It means therefore that women are not necessarily subject to all men outside their homes. They could be bosses at places of work or leaders over men elsewhere. We should also learn what Apostle Paul implies; he means that regardless of how highly placed a woman is, she is to submit to her own husband.

Now, Apostle Paul says to the husband “love your wife”; in loving one’s wife, he says not to be bitter against her. The word “bitter” here means “harsh”; so, in loving your wife as a husband, do not be embittered against her; love her without any bitterness. This solves a lot of issues in the church; for by this, the husband would know he is not to maltreat, be aggressive, violent or treat his wife with disrespect, so that her submission to her husband is not unto disrespect.

Husbands are to love their wives; hence, if she gets you angry, love her; that is the instruction. For children, they are to obey their parents (that is, take to their instructions). The Apostle Paul says the attitude of obeying one’s parents is well-pleasing to the Lord. Finally, fathers are charged not to provoke their children so that they (the children) won’t be discouraged. The word “provoke” is “to stimulate unto anger”. Thus, children are not supposed to be provoked to anger by their parents. This is the correct order of a believing family.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 30**

### **TOPIC: THINK ABOUT THIS**

**TEXT: Acts 20:24**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUNFUNMI**

*“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”*

Growing up as a young man I would often think and ask ‘what is life all about?’ in other words, I questioned the essence of living on the earth realm. Not until I received Christ, I never realized the essence of living. As it is today, many persons are desirous of greater positions in their respective careers, some crave for the change in their social status, as a matter of fact, everyone desires to make it in life and become someone of great repute.

It is pertinent at this juncture to state that there is nothing wrong to desire to enjoy life and all its riches. It is explicitly stated in the word of God that God gave us all things richly to enjoy (*1 Timothy 6:17*). In other words, all that God has created on earth has been given to man for his use and benefit. However, as a believer in Christ, the question to ask is; to what end are my desires and ambitions, what exactly is the essence of my riches, influence, power, control and status in life?

The Living Bible gives a more detailed explanation to the thoughts of Apostle Paul in our scripture text thus;

*“But life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about God's mighty kindness and love.”*

Apostle Paul’s disposition is that the worth of life is doing the work of God. This explains how he sought to use all the opportunities he had to preach the gospel and be a tremendous blessing to the growth of the early church. It is profound that life is worth nothing unless we use what we have or achieve here on earth for the work of God. Surely, at the end of the age, our wealth, social status, or influence will not avail anything save to the extent that we have used it for the sake of the gospel of Christ.

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## DAY 31

### TOPIC: BE NOT UNWISE

TEXT: Hebrews 13:5-6

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

*“5 [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. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord [is] my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”*

It is not uncommon today to find humans measure their progress in life based on the achievement of their “mates” and “contemporaries”. What this eventually does is that it causes either momentary happiness or sadness. For example, if I see that many of my friends now own a house and I do not have one yet, I’ll most likely be sad at that moment simply because I will feel I’m sort of behind my mates in life. The reverse is the case when I seem to be ahead.

Some even use their friend’s achievement as a “point of contact” for their own even when they rejoice with such friends. Subtly, there is a thought in the mind of such fellow that his or her friend has left him behind and he needs to catch up or even overtake. This makes our countenance dependent on our comparison with the achievements of others. If care is not taken, such attitude will most likely generate into envy, bitterness, strife and greed. It is clear from the bible that God doesn’t want us to live this way.

Our Bible text above gives us a charge on contentment. It clearly says that contentment is to be secured in God’s ability to cater for us, knowing full well that He is a helper that will never leave nor forsake us. This is the way to have a greed-free lifestyle. This, however, doesn’t suggest complacency; this doesn’t say that we should not do our best to get more material things. It is simply saying that we must be secured in God, no matter the level of material possessions we have. It is therefore unwise to compare our lives with others. Neither should we put our trust in material riches. We simply need to fix our gaze on God who cares for us far more than we can care for ourselves, knowing that He is always with us.

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