



# THE REFINERY DEVOTIONAL

MAY, 2018

START YOUR DAY WITH CHRIST  
CONSCIOUSNESS AND BE REFINED  
UNTO ALL OF GODS GOODNESS

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**Blessings.**

## **DAY 1**

### **TOPIC: STEPS TO SALVATION**

**TEXT: Ephesians 2:8-9**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

***“8 For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.”***

Many have written books and preached messages that revolve around the topic of today's devotional. Countless hours of radio programmes and telecasts have been dedicated to enumerating the steps to salvation. I suppose the reason why many of these people give out these steps is because salvation is so great. Salvation means that one is delivered out of the kingdom of darkness and translated into the Kingdom of God. Hence, because of the magnitude of what salvation represents, they feel it could not possibly be simple to attain; it has to involve some steps. As always, scriptures are the litmus test for doctrine. Any doctrine that doesn't pass the test of scriptures must only be treated as garbage, as it is not safe for the growth of the believer in Christ.

Our text of consideration comes with no debacle. It needs no arguments at all. Salvation is by grace alone and never by works. This alone invalidates the steps that many have enumerated in the past. Some of such steps include: “confession of sins; restitution; repentance; consecration; firstfruits; tithing”— the list goes on and on! Paul's words in Acts 16:30-31 are very instructive:

*“30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”*

This is very clear! There are no steps to salvation! And if anyone so loves the word “steps”, it is but one step: believe! To believe in Jesus Christ is the only step to salvation! What must anyone do to be saved? I say “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved”. If you are reading this devotional, and you are not yet saved, salvation has come to you today. Know for sure that all your sins have been paid for by Jesus Christ. So, take off the cloak of condemnation and receive the eternal remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Ghost today! Jesus died for your sins and rose again for your justification. If you have taken that single bold step to believe in Jesus, I assure you that you have just received eternal life and will never perish, because you have passed from death to life already. And on the last day, when our Christ shall appear, every believer (including you) shall appear with Him in glory (Colossians 3:4)!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 2**

### **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 spot, or wrinkle. 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.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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### **DAY 3**

**TOPIC: FIX YOUR GAZE ON JESUS**

**TEXT: Isaiah 26:3**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”*

We live in a world that’s enmeshed in all kinds of evil. And though we are ‘in this world’, we are not of the world. As we mingle with people who don’t share our faith or lifestyle, there’s the temptation to adopt their customs or lifestyle. But our scripture texts lets us know that the man who trusts in the Lord will enjoy God’s perfect peace.

This peace does not mean that there are no trials to face; rather, it is a peace that is promised in spite of trials. It’s there for us to enjoy even in the midst of our most difficult struggles and challenges. And this peace is resident in the Holy Ghost who dwells in the believer.

Brethren beloved, when we think too much about tomorrow— the challenges, problems and responsibilities we are going to face— we can easily become worried or anxious and instead of peace, we experience turmoil. We are to fix our gaze upon the Lord and remind ourselves daily that we have got Christ’s perfect peace in the Holy Ghost. Hence, we do not need to be worried or anxious about situations, but trust the Lord with our future, family, finances, etc., and at the end experience His constant and perfect peace.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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**Further Study: Isaiah 57:19**

## **DAY 4**

### **TOPIC: SAVED FROM WHAT?**

**TEXT: Romans 5:8-9**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. “*

Oftentimes, the word “salvation” or “saved” is so commonly used among Christians that we hardly ask a very vital question; “what are we saved from?” A correct answer that is unanimously accepted among Christians will solve a whole lot of puzzles in the Christendom. This is the reason why it is important to ask this very vital question; and much more, providing an accurate answer from the Bible.

Our text of reference gives us a clue to answering this question; Christ’s sacrifice for us while we were yet sinners saved us from wrath. From this Bible verse, there is an indication that salvation is “to be saved from wrath”. Then another question pops up; “which wrath?” The word “wrath” is a word that connotes “punishment that is done justly”. Every sinner is one because he or she is yet to believe in Jesus; and hence, is referred to as a “child of wrath” by nature (Ephesians 2:3). This is because the automatic and ultimate reward or wage of the sin nature is death; everyone that has this nature is automatically condemned for eternal death. This is the punishment for having the sin nature!

However, Jesus came to the scene and has provided the solution to the sin problem. While sin pays with death, Jesus came and gave us eternal life such that we are saved from the punishment of sin which is death (Romans 6:23). Little wonder Jesus said this very convincingly in John 5:24; we have been saved from wrath for we have passed from death to life already:

*“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.”*

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## DAY 5

### TOPIC: OUR SPIRITUAL REALITIES DO NOT CHANGE!

TEXT: John 3:6

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

*“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”*

Oftentimes, many believers do not understand why the many privileges bestowed upon us in Christ remain so despite our sins. Many of them do not understand why we undauntedly affirm that we are eternally saved or that we can work out the character of God’s Spirit despite our wrongs. It is very important that we are very aware of the fact in the text above. Jesus gives us clarity on why our spiritual realities don’t change even though we change physically in the things we do. It is because the nature by which a man is born does not change.

The word “born” means “to bring forth, to conceive”. It is a fact that when a human is born, his or her features can’t be that of a plant or a goat. A human nature is maintained. The features of a human are clearly seen. They do not change. Hence, for the believer who is born of the Spirit, he maintains the nature of the Spirit. The characters of the Spirit are his. This shouldn’t be unsettling at all, because the believer is born of the Spirit. The Apostle Paul explains this reality in a most profound manner in his first epistle to the Corinthians (and to us, by extension).

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

*“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*

The Apostle Paul explains that our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. He lets us know that we are not of ourselves, because we have received the Holy Spirit which is of God. It is very important to know that what makes us believers is of God. The reason why our realities don’t change spiritually is because we are irrevocably born of the Spirit. The word “temple” implies “a place to dwell”; hence, the Holy Ghost indwells us. The Apostle Paul says “**we have** the Holy Ghost”; this reality never changes at any time. We are born of the Spirit of God who never changes!

Thus, we have received the nature of the Spirit. Our spiritual realities never change! Is the Spirit eternal? Yes! Therefore, our nature remains eternal by that selfsame Spirit.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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## **DAY 6**

### **TOPIC: PRAY FOR MINISTERS**

**TEXT: 2 Thessalonians 3:1**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:”*

The word “minister”, as used in many texts of the New Testament writings (especially in the epistles), denotes “a waiter, servant, attendant or worker.” A minister is someone who works in the household of God. This includes a pastor, teacher, deacon or worker. A pastor is a minister of God who oversees a church. Besides several other responsibilities saddled with his office, he has the main duty of serving the people of God in the teaching of the word of God. The contribution of a pastor to the spiritual growth of the believer cannot be overemphasized.

We often neglect the need to constantly pray for ministers of God as there is a general assumption that they are special and they need not to be prayed for. The Apostle Paul himself requested the church in Thessalonica to pray for him. In fact, he made this request in more than several instances. Specifically, in his letter to the Church in Philippi, he stated his dependency on the prayers of the saints for his deliverance from prison (Philippians 1:19).

Our prayers for ministers of God go a long way in bringing positive results to their ministries. It is very important for saints to care for ministers of God. However, our care for them should not be limited or restricted to giving to meet their physical needs but also in praying for them. Do well to pray for your pastor and fellow ministers of the gospel today.

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## **DAY 7**

### **TOPIC: DILIGENCE IN BUSINESS**

**TEXT: Proverbs 22:29**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

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

The text above must not be mystified, as it is just common sense that if you are diligent in your business, you will stand before kings. In the earth realm, hardwork is highly rewarded. The word “business”, as used in the Bible text above, refers to “an occupation; a work or trade”. So, King Solomon tells us what becomes of a man who is diligent, hardworking, and focused on what he does: he will definitely stand before great men.

Diligence is honourable before men; not laziness or mediocrity. Many of us take things for granted, and have no will to pursue and stay consistent in a work. Some are not passionate for any self-development or skill; they take their academics and skills with complacency. Many people— even believers become limited in life as a result of this.

We need to be diligent with the work of our hands. We need to be skillful to be recognized and make some profits in our earthly businesses. Let us take our work, businesses, and skills seriously. Let us form a habit of reading; let us take things more diligently and men would recognize the products of our diligence.

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## **DAY 8**

**TOPIC: WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE IN JESUS**

**TEXT: Romans 8:34**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”*

Beloved, we are called the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus because of Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross. This sacrifice exempted us from the consequences we were to face for our sins. Jesus ascended to sit with the Father as our eternal advocate. He's not an advocate who serves His own interests like some earthly lawyers do; rather, He's an advocate that serves our interests by interceding on our behalf with the Father.

As our advocate, He ensures that we get all that what He did on the cross for us provides us! Hence, we are to have confidence in and rest in the ability of our advocate; that He is for us and not against us.

Child of God, refuse to allow the enemy gain grounds in your life by condemning you for every wrong you do. Remind him that 'it is Christ that died for your sins, and is resurrected, is now glorified to give you right standing with the Father forevermore.'

As you go about your day, rejoice in the truth that Jesus, your advocate, defends and represents you before the Father day and night.

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**Further Study: 1 John 2:1**

## **DAY 9**

### **TOPIC: THE FATHER'S HOUSE**

**TEXT: John 14:20**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“At that day ye shall know that I [am] in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.”*

The fourteenth chapter of John's gospel begins Jesus' explanation about the giving of the Spirit upon His resurrection. This was because He was soon going to die for the salvation of mankind. He began the fourteenth chapter by telling His disciples about dwelling places available in the Father for them. He further explained that He was going to prepare a place for them in the Father. And that after preparing a place for them, He would come back and bring them to that place.

Today, there is a lot of misunderstandings about this text; however, simple contextual reading helps in clarifying these misunderstandings. Jesus further explained that He is in the Father and that the Father dwells in Him (John 14:10-11). This makes it clear that the dwelling places translated as “mansions” in the King James Version of the Bible are not architectural edifices existing somewhere. They are rather eternal abode or residing places inside divinity. This is because the person who you'll find in the Father as at the time that Jesus was speaking to them was He (Jesus) Himself: He was(is) in the Father.

As Jesus continued with His explanation, He clarified that what He had earlier mentioned as preparing a place for them is the giving of the Holy Spirit upon His resurrection. The Spirit is therefore the only license for any man to come into that dwelling place in the Father. This is the Holy Spirit, who is received by believing in Jesus as the saviour. From our text verse, Jesus conclusively said that once the Spirit is given, the receiver of the Holy Spirit becomes the abode of the Father and the Father becomes His abode too. Today is that day where every believer is the Father's house! We have come into eternal union with divinity such that we are inseparable from the Godhead. Glory!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## DAY 10

**TOPIC: NOT OF WORKS!**

**TEXT: Ephesians 2:8-9**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

***“8 For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.”***

For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. Sometimes, it is good to repeat a text over and over again. The reason why some lose the exact thoughts that scriptural texts communicate is because they do not pay attention. They are easily distracted; hence, the importance of repetition. Our text of consideration is not vague in even the slightest manner. It is so explicit that one would have to be really deliberate about misunderstanding it. And even that, I suppose, must be a very humongous task. Salvation is not by works. This is the central theme of the Bible: that salvation is through faith in Christ Jesus. It is the singular chorus we find echoed and re-echoed throughout the epistles.

Having established this fact, it then becomes perplexing why some think that they will enter the Kingdom of God by their works. A major reason why some do this is because they like to boast. They want to be able to say “I did this and that to merit what I have received.” Their boasting will have no basis if they agree to the fact that salvation is not by works; hence, the need to try to contradict the scriptures. Well, a person who contradicts the scriptures just to be able to suit his own whims and caprices needs to repent of such ungodly act. He must change his mind, agree with scriptures, and affirm the futility of works (and consequently, the potency God’s grace) where salvation is concerned.

Moreso, if salvation is not by works, then the argument about the need to maintain salvation is a clearly mischievous one. It is a very baseless argument, embarked upon in all futility and emptiness. Words that imply that salvation must be maintained by works are nothing but empty. We are saved by grace and kept by grace. This is a fact replete throughout the scriptures, and any contradictory opinion holds no water at all. Say this: **“I am saved by grace and kept by grace. God said it, and that settles it!”**

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## **DAY 11**

### **TOPIC: BY THE SAME SPIRIT**

**TEXT: 1 Corinthians 12:4**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

*“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.”*

There are diversities of gifts (i.e. divers gifts) but the same Spirit. The word “same” means “one”; thus, we can say these divers gifts come from one Spirit; the Holy Spirit. So, we know from this that the word “divers” does not mean in any way that the gifts came from very many different sources. We can also say that since the gifts are from the same source (i.e. the Spirit), then everyone who has the Holy Spirit can demonstrate all the gifts of the Spirit.

In the teaching and demonstration of the things of the Spirit, it is very important that we reiterate this fact. This is because it is very easy to think and preach that the gifts of the Spirit come from different sources or that believers cannot demonstrate all the gifts of the Spirit because they are many. The Holy Spirit dwells in us in the fullness of His nature and character; hence, believers have received also the fullness of His gifts. Verse (7) of this epistle makes it very clear.

1 Corinthians 12:7

*“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.”*

The word “manifestation” is from the Greek word “phanerosis”, which means “exhibition or expression”. Thus, the exhibition/expression/demonstration of the gifts of the Spirit is given to every believer in Christ. Believers therefore should never preach or think that there are gifts of the Spirit they cannot demonstrate. All gifts are of the same Spirit; and since we are born of the same Spirit, we are born with all the gifts! You deny the fullness of the Holy Spirit in you if you deny you have all the gifts of the Spirit.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 12**

### **TOPIC: NO REMEMBRANCE OF SINS**

**TEXT: Hebrews 10:1-3**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*‘For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? Because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.’*

Remembrance is an action of bringing back to memory a past incidence or occurrence. It was one of the requirements of the Law of Moses that the Israelites must offer sacrifices for the remembrance of their sins every year. They were to do this because their sins were not forgiven, but only covered for a year. This was because the blood of bulls and goats was never sufficient to forgive sins.

Many believers, though under the new covenant, still operate within the precincts of the principles of the old covenant. They still think in their minds that the blood of Jesus is the same in its effect with the blood of bulls and goats. They think God did not really mean it when He said ‘Your sins and iniquities will I remember no more’ (Hebrews 10:17). Many often remind God of their sins and how terrible they are, thinking that when they do that, they would find the grace or favour of God. Many acknowledge the bad happenings in their lives to be the consequence for the sins they have committed. This act is due to the ignorance of the fact that remembrance of sins is only required in the Old Testament.

By Jesus’ death and resurrection, we have been brought into a new covenant. A covenant that gives better hope than the one that the blood of bulls and goats gave. This covenant is that sins are no longer held into man’s account.

Dearly beloved; in Christ, we have the forgiveness of sins. There is therefore no responsibility placed on us to remind God of our sins or even walk in the consciousness of our sins. Rather than acknowledging our sins, we must always acknowledge the forgiveness of sins that we have in Christ.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 13**

### **TOPIC: JOY IN THE HOLY GHOST**

**TEXT: Romans 14:17**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

***“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”***

The word “kingdom”, as used here, was translated from a Greek word that means “realm; domain”. Thus, the realm of God is not characterized by physical and perishable things such as meat and drink. Rather, it is characterized by that which is eternal, incorruptible, imperishable, and unfading— righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Also, we see that the realm of God is only located in the Holy Ghost. You cannot locate the realm of God outside the Holy Ghost. Therefore, as many as are in the Spirit are in the realm of God. Who is he that is in the Spirit but the believer in Christ? He (the believer) is in the Spirit, because the Spirit lives in him (Romans 8:9).

Therefore, we will not be wrong to affirm that the believer is in the realm of God and the realm of God is in the believer. Hence, the believer has righteousness, and peace, and joy, all resident in him. Our focus in this devotional is this joy which is resident in the believer. This joy is an eternal one, not subject to the happenings all around the believer. It will never diminish nor vanish; it is there now and forevermore. Amen!

When we say that we have joy, we are not trying to psych up or to motivate ourselves; we are saying it because it is true. It is as true as saying we have mouths that talk. Now, this joy can be demonstrated. A person who says he’s joyful, yet looking morose is obviously not telling the truth. The joy in the believer can (and should) be demonstrated. A major way to do this, as we are told in scriptures, is to rejoice. The word “rejoice” is not a passive word, but an active one. In Luke 10:21, Luke gave a commentary about Jesus, and lets us know Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit. Luke obviously must have seen something. What did he see? The word “rejoice” was translated from the Greek word “agalliao”, which means “to jump for joy; to twirl”. It is a word that represents a demonstration of joy. Hence, he saw Jesus jump for joy! A look through Luke 10 shows that Jesus jumped for joy because of things that concerned salvation.

Thus, when we meditate on and confess the things that pertain to the salvation which we have freely received in Christ Jesus, we jump for joy. We don’t sit down looking like people that nothing good has happened to. At salvation, we received the fullness of God! We became His heirs, even joint-heirs with Christ. We rejoice about this! For in Christ, we have all that pertains to life and godliness, and this can never be taken away from us. Hence, we rejoice! We exult. We jump. We twirl. We leap. We dance. We laugh. We are in the realm of God now, where there is joy forevermore. And we show this by rejoicing! We are the ones with the victory! What can stop us now? Who can stand against us now? Nothing can ever do that! Nothing, whether it be in the heavens above or in the earth beneath, shall separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus! In Him, we have conquered and we are more than conquerors. We rejoice!

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## **DAY 14**

**TOPIC: STAY FORGIVENNESS-CONSCIOUS**

**TEXT: Hebrews 10:17**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”*

God has promised the believer in Christ that his sins and iniquities He (God) will no more remember. This is because His Son, Jesus Christ paid for them at the cross. So no matter your wrongdoing, God has promised to be merciful unto them and remember them no more. This fact is the chorus of the New Testament!

That is why you are not to stay conscious of your sins; rather, you are to walk in the consciousness of the fact that all of your sins have been paid for. When you are conscious of your sins, condemnation sets in and rips you of the joy of salvation. It rips you of the ability to manifest the gifts of the Spirit at any given point in time. It also rips you of the ability to share the gospel with people because you are not even sure of the salvation you received.

Beloved, you need to know that when God says your sins He (God) will no more remember, He's letting you know that you can enjoy His mercy at any time of the day as well as be assured of His eternal forgiveness, freely given you in Christ Jesus. He wants you to live a victorious life here on earth that is void of condemnation and centered on Jesus' finished work on the cross. He wants you to freely enjoy all that you have in Christ as well as look forward to a glorious time with Him in eternity.

Today, endeavor to deepen your consciousness on the truth that you have eternal forgiveness of sins and see sin and its effects lose their grip on you.

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## **DAY 15**

### **TOPIC: THE SINGULARITY OF THE GOSPEL**

**TEXT: Romans 10:8-9**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

*“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; [9] That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*

The nature of the gospel that we preach is very definite. The gospel is that we preach is the word of faith. The Apostle Paul explains further the premise upon which the gospel is founded in the above texts— it is that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again on the third day. Anyone who believes this gospel is saved!

Owing to the aforesaid, we can say conclusively that the gospel is premised upon the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. In 1 Corinthians 15:17, we find the implication of Jesus’ resurrection from sins and how it pertains to salvation:

*“And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.”*

Everyone who believes Christ is raised from the dead must have known and agreed that because of Jesus Christ resurrection from the dead, he is cleared of (forgiven) of all his sins. Furthermore, the gospel we preach is about the forgiveness of sins. It is that salvation is through faith in Christ alone. This is the singularity of the message of the gospel. It is not a function of location or culture. It is the same in all places at all times. It never changes! Any other message apart from the above is not the gospel of Christ.

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## **DAY 16**

### **TOPIC: BEING BORN AGAIN**

**TEXT: John 3:3-5**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

*“3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”*

Sometimes, it is good to examine again what exactly it means to be born again. This because many have developed divers explanations to this simple biblical concept. Chief among such is the ideology that one can get born again today and then need to become “born again, again” the next day in the event that he sins. We must never concoct thoughts and opinions about scriptural terms. Rather, we must look into scriptures to see what those terms mean. The fact that we do not want people to go on sinning (which is very good, as no sane preacher will encourage people to sin) should not make us say things that are totally unscriptural.

So, Jesus says that except a man be born again, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. The phrase “born of water” does not refer to “water baptism” as many have purported. A close look will show that Jesus did not say “baptize” but “born”. Hence, He was talking about a birth. By being scripturally intelligent, we know that it is impossible for one to be literally born of water. Thus, Jesus was using that word “water” to typify “the Spirit” here. The thought He communicates here is being born of the Spirit, which is being born again. To be born again is to be born of the Spirit. This birth happens the moment a person believes in the gospel of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:18-23).

Now, worthy of note is the fact that no text of scriptures suggests the idea that a person, once born again, would need to be born again again if he sins afterwards. Not one at all! It appears that many have not come to understand that being born again actually means that we were born of the Spirit. It refers to an actual birth. To suggest that one might need to undergo this process again after he has done so before is nothing but comical. In the natural, it is an incontestable fact that a man who has been born already needs not be born again. He is born once, and starts to live afterwards. This is the same in spiritual parlance; a man who has already been born of the Spirit needs not be born again. He has been born already. He is alive in the Spirit. He only now needs to begin to walk in the light of his nature and identity. And praise be to God, unlike the natural birth where one lives up to a certain age and then dies, the spiritual birth is one where the person who has been spiritually birthed (i.e. born again) abides forevermore!

Beloved, we have been born again by the incorruptible seed of the word of God. What now can unborn us? What now can replace the life of God in us with death? What now can make us lose the nature of the Father which we have inherited? Nothing! Again, I say nothing! We have received the heredity of God! All that is in the Father is in us, His children! As we have been born again, bearing His life within us, so shall we ever remain!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 17**

### **TOPIC: NOT GUILTY**

**TEXT: Hebrews 10:22**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*‘Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.’*

The word ‘evil’ in the text above is synonymous to the word ‘guilt’ or ‘hurtful’. Our scripture text is read thus in the New Living Translation: *‘Let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.’*

In legal parlance, anyone who contravenes the laws of the state is said to be guilty of committing an offence if adequately proven. In other words, he is held responsible and thus, must suffer the consequences of the offence.

Some believers wallow in the feeling of guilt and shame. They do not only take responsibility for their sins, they also feel they should be punished for their sins. While this is the case for some, the position is worse for some others as they constantly live in guilt. They feel guilty for things they did and did not do. In fact, when they do well, they feel guilty for not doing better. Burdened by guilt, many have turned to religion in the hope of finding relief but they keep encountering condemnation. Undoubtedly, many suffer health problems because of guilt and condemnation.

We see the cure to guilt from our scripture text. Guilt is an offshoot of sin and God took care of our sins on the cross. The cross, being the solution to the sin problem, is also the solution to the guilt problem. On the cross, Jesus took the responsibility for all of our sins. He literally became sin and in Him sin was condemned and He gave us His own righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21). To be justified means “not guilty”. In other words, the allegations made against us by the devil through our minds have been adequately proven and we have been found not guilty because someone (Christ Jesus) has taken the responsibility for the allegations. We are therefore free to live a guilt-free life.

It must be noted at this juncture that in our relationship with men, it is good to take responsibility for our mistakes and seek to amend them. However, in our relationship with God, we must know that all our sins are forgiven and we stand before God justified. We walk more in victory over guilt and shame when we focus our minds on how we have been justified in Christ.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 18**

### **TOPIC: MARRIAGE IS HONOURABLE**

**TEXT: Hebrews 13:4**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

***“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”***

The word “honourable”, as used in the text above, means “valuable or precious in reputation”. This description is what the Bible gives about marriage. It is what the Bible says marriage ought to be. As we grow in life, it becomes very necessary not to allow our minds become corrupted with the happenings in the earth. Marriage has become one of the most abused institutions in the earth, with numerous affirmations of vices here and there. This is why we have to stay put to and adhere to what the Bible affirms.

The Bible tells us marriage is honourable; that is, it is a good thing to be married. This should be the believer’s confession and expectation in marriage: we must not go into marriage, expecting things to go bad. Clear yourself of that mindset today! The world and things therein— experiences with men— must not disorient us! We must find our affirmations in the written word alone.

It is for this reason that it’s important that we get married to a person with similar doctrinal persuasions, who can stay on his or her feet regardless of the challenges in marriage; a person who is not quick to adopt earthly definitions to mar the realities of the written word.

Marriage is honourable in all (everything); let this be your affirmation at all times. Affirm this and put people’s experiences and worldly definitions where they belong.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 19**

### **TOPIC: GODLY PARENTING**

#### **TEXT: PROVERBS 22:6**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

***“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”***

It is such a blessing to have the opportunity to raise children. As believers in Christ, it is important that we bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4), so that they too can equally do so for their own kids.

It is common knowledge that children are fast learners. They pick words and signals from anyone and anything around them; hence, parents and guardians are to be mindful at all times what they do around their wards. When we raise our children, they must see us consistently putting Christ first in everything we do—including our time and money. Having them learn the bible and about the love of God must come from you as a parent. You must endeavor to come to their level at every stage of their lives and share your faith with them. Surely, the church is a great help in this, but you are the first point of call for your child to know about the Lord.

As parents, we are to teach our children the importance of gathering in a local church. Be involved in the activities that go on in your local assembly and teach your children to also be involved in their children church. As they see you serve in your local church, they get to understand that life is not just about you and them, but also about others and, most importantly, about God. You might think they are just kids and should not be bothered about church and Christian activities until they are well grown. This isn't good enough, as you might be sowing the wrong seeds in their young hearts that might become difficult to prune when they are 'well grown'.

Encourage them to have godly influences in their lives. This can be in form of aunts, uncles, teachers and other believers. This will allow them to build up themselves in the Lord via sharing the gospel aside from you and help them also when you're not around/available to counsel them. Endeavor to pray with and for them regularly, as this will teach them that you believe in God and have a relationship with Him and they also can come into a relationship with Him and talk with Him whenever they want to.

Dear parents/guardians, God seeks a godly generation who will revere and honour Him. It is of utmost importance that we bring up our children in the way of the Lord. We are to model Christ to them such that as they grow older, they are able to decide if it is important for them to continue in their belief in God. We are not to allow the society present God the wrong way to them. And whether we be parents or aunts, or uncles, or cousins, or teachers or even extended family members, we all have a collective duty to bring up our wards in the way of the Lord.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

**Further Study: 2 Timothy 3:15**

## **DAY 20**

**TOPIC: DON'T BE A BUSYBODY (1)**

**TEXT: 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.”*

Hardwork, especially in one's craft, business or skill is emphatically taught and practised in the book of Acts and in the epistles. The text above is Paul's stern and firm instruction against laziness in the Thessalonian church. He refers to being lazy as walking disorderly! This speaks a whole lot about what the believer's attitude is supposed to be concerning work. Every believer ought to be serious and hardworking.

Haven spotted that it is disorderly to be lazy and to be a busybody, Paul commanded that everyone must work so that they can have what to eat. Again, this gives a hint about the reason for hardwork and seriousness in one's business. This is very different from the various lies purported as Bible doctrines today. The right way to having what to eat is by engaging in business. It is not by expecting some strange monies to be transferred into one's bank account or sowing money to get more money, etc. While it is true that God blesses us supernaturally by sending helpers to help us materially, it is instructive to know that God expects us to primarily work so we can have our own food rather than being at the mercies of others for survival.

Beloved, I encourage you today against all odds that you find a profitable job doing. Such that it can suffice for your major needs.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 21**

### **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 writings, 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 writings, 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.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 22**

### **TOPIC: PERSEVERE IN PRAYERS**

#### **TEXT: LUKE 18:1**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

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

The chapter from which the text above was quoted was a parable of Jesus to teach the importance of perseverance in prayer. This widow had come to the judge that was described as godless— he neither feared God nor regarded man; so, he can be safely assumed to be someone with a difficult attitude. However, in spite of his difficult attitude, the widow refused to give up. She stood there and stood her ground until the wicked judge answered her positively. Jesus then said afterwards to the audience He was telling the parable; “if an unjust judge can give in and grant the widow her request, how much more your heavenly Father?”

God is a loving Father whose thoughts towards us are of good and not of evil. It is His will that we get the desires of our heart and even much more than we can ever ask or imagine. A lot of times, we are quick to give up in the place of prayer. We might have prayed over an issue once, twice and by the third time, we begin to give excuses— maybe it is not the will of God for me to have the miracle; maybe God is testing me; maybe He’s punishing me; maybe this and maybe that.

But beloved, don’t let the enemy rob you of your miracles by explaining it away. I encourage you today, do not faint in the place of prayer. The answers that you desire will come, though they might appear delayed, stand firm and unmovable! Refuse to give up and see your victory.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

**Further Study: Ephesians 6:18-19**

## **DAY 23**

### **TOPIC: ASK YOURSELF THIS QUESTION**

**TEXT: 1 Corinthians 9:16**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

*“For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”*

The sense of urgency and importance of preaching the gospel is easily seen in the text above. Paul’s tone elicits a serious business. He calls the preaching of the gospel a necessity laid on him. This is very profound! It, in other words, means that gospel preaching is not a function of emotions. It is not something that should be done only in fair weather, when our feelings are hyper, or when there is some money in our account, or when we feel some goose bumps! We must know that the preaching of the gospel is serious work. No one goes to his office only when he feels like, because he already knows what the consequence will be if he does that— his business will collapse.

We must ask ourselves this singular, all-important question: “what is/are the consequences if I fail to preach the gospel”? What happens if we don’t preach the gospel? Paul lets us know in Romans 1:16 that the gospel is the power of God to everyone who believes. But how will people believe if there is no preacher? Can they believe what they haven’t heard? Certainly not! Before believing can occur, the gospel must first have been preached. This means that, even though it is God who saves, we have a very crucial role in ensuring that this happens. We have the important role of preaching! This brings to the fore a striking truth: we deny men their right and opportunity to be saved if (and when) we don’t preach. This truth is sobering! It should cause us to reevaluate what our attitude towards preaching the gospel has been.

Brethren, there is an offer of eternal life on our lips for men to receive, via the gospel preached through our mouths. And woe is unto us if we preach not the gospel! We must make a strong commitment to preach today and beyond, for many will go to hell if we do not. I trust that we will all reevaluate our commitment to preaching the gospel today. And O what uproar of joy we shall cause in heaven when sinners believe the gospel and receive eternal life in Christ via our preaching! O, what rewards await us on that glorious day! Let us preach, brethren. Let us turn men from darkness unto light!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 24**

### **TOPIC: DARE TO WALK ON THAT WATER**

**TEXT: Matthew 14:28-29**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.  
29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.”*

Just when the disciples of Jesus were struggling with the troublesome wind blowing against the movement of their boat as they journeyed on water, Jesus walked upon the same waterbody. Such an amazing display of God’s power as to show that the supernatural is way beyond natural circumstances.

As expected, Jesus’ supernatural display caught the attention of His disciples and they changed focus from the wave to Jesus’ walk such that they contemplated if He was a spirit or not. Finally, Jesus revealed Himself and told them not to be afraid. While still being awestruck, all the disciples were just comfortable with seeing Jesus do the supernatural; and, of course, they would no longer have to struggle with waves and ocean-tides anymore. However, Peter craved something more; he must have reasoned that if Jesus could do this, then he could do it too. He stepped beyond just being a “watcher”; he wanted to do it too, and he eventually did.

The truth is that we all do pass through perplexing situations at one point or the other in our lives. We must never take hope in time and chance and deceive ourselves to believe we are expecting the miraculous. We are not just to handle unpalatable circumstances with levity. We must readily and actively take on every challenge with a reassurance of the supernatural. Just as Peter acted on Jesus’ words, we must be deliberate about taking God’s word and applying them in our lives. This is how miracles are worked; they aren’t done by mere expectation that is based on chance. Dare to walk on water today!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 25**

### **TOPIC: BELIEVE IN HIS MIGHTY POWER**

**TEXT: Acts 27:21-25**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*‘But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.’*

Suddenly, there arose the boisterous wind. The ship in which Apostle Paul was, alongside some other prisoners, was almost capsizing. Many on the ship were frightened and all trying to secure their lives by losing their goods into the sea. Although Apostle Paul had given a forewarning earlier and admonished on what to do in order to evade this danger, they ignored him. Surprisingly, the one whose admonition was ignored eventually stood out as their saviour.

The fact remains that the fall of Adam led to a fallen earth. Death came into the earth by the sin of Adam (Romans 5:12). Hence, the evil happenings in the earth, in form of sicknesses, natural disasters, failures, accidents etc. can all be traced to their root—the fall of man.

The believer, being on the earth temporarily, is bound to see all these evil happenings. Sometimes, the believer tends to be terrified begins to feel that somehow these same evil occurrences will befall him. We can learn very vital from the action of Apostle Paul from our text scripture. Rather than joining the multitude in the ship to cower and panic, he stood forth and exhorted the people to be of good cheer because he believes that God will save them all. This is amazing! This shows that in the midst of difficult situations, lack, evil reports etc., we can always believe the power of God to deliver us. Of course, the story ended like Apostle Paul prophesied. No life was lost. Everyone was of a good cheer because someone was conscious of the power of God to save and deliver.

Beloved, just like Apostle Paul, we must be conscious of the power of God in all circumstances. Despite the evil reports around us, we must let the effectual ability of God’s power fill our consciousness. For truly there is evil in the world, but greater is He that is in us. We have God on our side! Hallelujah!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

**DAY 26**

**TOPIC: DON'T BE A BUSYBODY (2)**

**TEXT: 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.”*

Paul's life and teaching exemplifies hardwork in business despite a very laborious ministry work. Also, beyond working to provide for one's immediate needs, Paul's parting words with the Ephesian church gives us another clue to why we need to work:

*“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive”.*  
(Acts 20:35)

We are supposed to work so as to also meet the needs of the weak people around us. The weak includes those who do not have enough to cater for their needs, perhaps due to unfortunate circumstances; strangers, widows, poor, destitute, sick, etc. This shows that goodness ought to be a lifestyle for every believer, against being selfish as we find in the world. This therefore shows that every believer ought to work beyond just meeting his/her own needs. We are supposed to work harder, knowing full well that our lives are not just about us. We must work with others in view!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 27**

### **TOPIC: BE HONEST**

**TEXT: Matthew 5:37**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.”*

Honesty is considered as an important character that is necessary to get by in this world. As believers, this character is expected of us. In our relationships, workplaces, church etc., it is expected of us to uphold the highest standard of honesty.

A person with a reputation for exaggeration or lying often can't get anyone to believe him on his words alone. You should never become like that. Always be honest so that others will believe your simple yes or no. By avoiding lies, half-truths, and omissions of the truth, you will become known as a trustworthy person.

There's this thing that comes with being dishonest. You soon begin to believe the lies you build around yourself. Then you start to lose the ability to tell the difference between truth and lies. You lose credibility in all your relationships with other people and by believing your own lies, you end up deceiving yourself. When you lie to other people, their perception of your integrity drops to a low level. This ought not to be spoken of a believer!

Our text did not instruct us to even tell something as small as a white lie to anyone, as most people often say it is not as bad as full lying; rather, it instructs that our yes be yes and our no be no. This is irrespective of who we are relating with; for we have one Lord and Master who is Jesus Christ, to whom we are answerable.

Many times, you could be ridiculed for being honest— that's a sign that you're doing what is right. Deceit and dishonesty do not pay; rather, they have destroyed families and friendships. It's common knowledge that a family is only as strong as the level of honesty between its members. Beloved, in the long run, honesty wins out. Ensure to choose the right path as you go about your day.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

**Further Study: Colossians 4:6, James 5:12**

## **DAY 28**

### **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!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 29**

### **TOPIC: THE BLESSEDNESS OF PRAYING**

#### **TEXT: EPHESIANS 6:18-19**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,”*

Prayer is one of the privileges that a believer has as a way of enjoying the vitality of the fellowship he has with the Father. Amazingly, prayer is also a responsibility for a believer in Christ. The Bible, and particularly the epistles, are full of instructions for believers to pray either individually or amid saints while fellowshiping.

As simple as the act of praying is, one may be quick to lose grip on the importance of praying; hence, forgetting that prayer is God’s wisdom given to the man in Christ. To neglect praying is to choose to walk in foolishness by throwing away God’s wisdom. Practically speaking, a believer will not know what he is missing until he returns to the act of praying. The place of prayer is the place where believers become bold in the use of the abilities they already have in Christ. A typical example is the story of the early disciples in Acts 4:31. After they had prayed, they had more boldness to profess the word, even before the authorities that threatened them.

Have you been so engrossed with busy schedules that you have forsaken the place of prayer? It is time to return!

Whenever we don’t pray, we leave events to time and chance; we give the devil the chance to use the precious times that we could have redeemed for his evil schemes. Yield to this call today and walk in boldness!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

**Further Study:** Acts 4: 1 -32

**DAY 30**

**TOPIC: WE ARE ALL BLESSED IN CHRIST!**

**TEXT: Ephesians 2:5-6**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

*“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”*

In the text above, we find the peculiarity of believers in Christ clearly revealed. It is very important to know that we (believers) are who we are in Christ and have all that we have in Him only because God is rich in mercy and has great love for us.

One would have thought that God treats every believer differently, based on our pasts; that He qualifies one believer more than the other. This kind of thought is however not true! He qualifies all of us the same way. The method Apostle Paul employs in his writing affirms the statement this. He writes that we are quickened together, raised up together and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

The word “together” means “in company with”; hence, all believers share the same origin, identity and position together in Christ Jesus; none is less or greater than the other. There isn’t one who is righteous and the other unrighteous. There isn’t one who is a citizen of heaven and the other in hell. No! In Christ, we share a singularity of everything. We all have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

**DAY 31**

**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!**