



# The Refinery Devotional

February, 2018

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

**This devotional was written by the leaders of The Refinery Church, compiled and edited by me.**

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**Blessings.**

## **DAY 1**

### **TOPIC: HAVE FAITH IN GOD**

**TEXT: Matthew 6:27**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?”*

God wants us to live a worry-free life. A life based on faith in what He can do. He desires that we depend on Him at all times. Jesus asked His disciples a rhetorical question: “which of you by taking thought can add one cubit to his stature?”

The phrase “to take thought” means “to worry”. In other words, Jesus was asking them if one can add to his stature by just worrying about it. The answer to that question, we all know. We can agree that no one can add to his/her life nor his physical stature by just worrying or by engaging in wishful thinking.

Worry robs us of our sleep, good health and many good years. When we worry, we are actually believing that the issues bothering us are too big for God to handle. When we worry, we place more confidence in ourselves rather than God. When we worry, we disobey God’s instructions to cast our cares upon Him.

Child of God, refuse to let worry get the best of you. Let your confidence and trust rest in God’s unfailing love for you, in His ability to keep you and provide for you at all times.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 2**

**TOPIC: REPEAT THE SAME THINGS!**

**WRITTEN BY: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

**TEXT: 2 Timothy 2:1-2**

*“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”*

In the aforestated texts, the Pastor Timothy was admonished on two things: he was to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus and to communicate the same things he had heard of Paul unto faithful men. Now, the things Pastor Timothy was to communicate to faithful men cannot be any different from that which he was to be strong in, for the faithful men would need to be strengthened also. Thus, it is safe to affirm that the things he had heard of Paul, which he was to communicate to faithful men, are about the grace which is in Christ Jesus.

Therefore, we can say from Paul’s letter to Timothy that we are strengthened by repeating the same things. You would notice from Paul’s instruction that the faithful men also were to communicate the same things they hear from Timothy unto others. Hence, what we hear repeatedly matters. It must be such that is capable of building up strength in us, and not otherwise. Such things should not be occasional, but daily.

This means, we must judge what we hear and what we do repeatedly. It must be such that builds. For example, praying in tongues builds us up. Thus, it means we should always pray in tongues. Also, hearing that we have the ability of God in us or that we are saved eternally spurs us up for spiritual things; hence, we should never stop doing them. Instead, we should continue to do them over and over again.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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### **DAY 3**

#### **TOPIC: WE HAVE AN EVERLASTING CONSOLATION**

**TEXT: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given [us] everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, 17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.”*

In the text above, Paul had just placed a firm difference between the respective ends of believers and unbelievers. He had just stated that all that believe not the truth have damnation awaiting them. Contrariwise, he affirmed that believers have a blessed and sure hope which causes them to give thanks always. This is so simple, yet profound! Anytime and any day, the believer can thank God because he is not hopeless. Paul accurately refers to this sure hope as an everlasting consolation; a consolation without end!

He went further to state clearly that this assurance ought to produce these results in us: it should comfort our hearts, and also establish us in every good word and work. It is therefore obvious that the believer's salvation and the promise of resurrection cannot be a threat to them as it is popularly believed today. It is rather supposed to make believers to be at rest.

It is very instructive that a believer will blossom tremendously in good works if he understands and acknowledges what God has done for him in the salvation which he has received. Hence, any believer that is actively involved in ministry will never motivate other believers to do good works by threat. It is certain that we will all abound in good works if we all put our minds on this blessed hope.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## DAY 4

### TOPIC: BE GIVEN TO HOSPITALITY!

TEXT: Hebrews 13:2

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

*“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”*

It's a good Christian culture to be a welcoming person. The epistles admonish us to be hospitable. The word “entertain” in the text above is from the Greek word “philonexia”, which means “hospitality”. As believers, we are to be people who show love to everybody; friends and strangers alike. We are to be kind; ready to always render help to people. For instance, it is not a good Christian attitude to have someone come visiting you, and you make no provision for his or her food or other necessities. We must ensure that we make people comfortable around us. It's a very godly thing to do!

Hospitality is a Bible doctrine. It was one of the descriptions of the office of a bishop (that is, a leader; one who has oversight over a group of people) in Paul's letter to Timothy, a young pastor who had the duty of training and appointing other pastors and leaders.

**1 Timothy 3:2** *“A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;”*

Paul lets us know that a leaders must be given to hospitality. The phrase “given to” implies that he must make a culture of it.

**1 Timothy 5:10** *“Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.”*

Here again, Paul is describing hospitality: lodged strangers; washed the feet of the saints; relieved the afflicted. Of course, Paul had to mention washing the feet of the saints here because it was an act of reception and hospitality in many cultures at that time. Today, this may not literally mean washing people's feet, as many wear shoes and will really have no need of that. However, it certainly describes being receptive. It depicts friendliness, and a very welcoming and homely character.

Dearly beloved, be hospitable; be friendly; be very welcoming. It's a good Christian culture!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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## **DAY 5**

### **TOPIC: WE TRIUMPH ALWAYS**

**WRITTEN BY: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

**TEXT: 2 Corinthians 2:14**

*“Now thanks be to God, which causeth us to triumph in Christ, and make manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.”*

God causes us to triumph in Christ– this is amazing! This is good news! It is something we should always testify of. Believers should be very confident to say “I am triumphant in Christ”. This is because triumphing is not our making. If it was so, we could doubt that being triumphant. However, it is not ours to do; it is rather God that causes us to triumph. He is the reason we triumph.

In 2 Corinthians 1:20, the Apostle Paul declares *“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us”*

This means God is consistent with keeping His promises. Therefore, we are very certain that God causes us to triumph in Christ at all times. This means we are perpetually triumphant in Christ, and there is no time we will stop to triumph in Him.

Dearly beloved, you are triumphant in Christ at all times. Nothing should make you disbelieve this, because the responsibility to triumph is not yours. God is the one who makes us consistently triumphant; and since God has no iota of failure in Himself, you should walk with total confidence of perpetual victory in Christ Jesus.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 6**

**TOPIC: WE ARE NOT CONDEMNED!**

**TEXT: Romans 8:1**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

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

Some have misinterpreted Paul's statement here. They have added a conditional clause to his statement of fact. They have gone on to wrongly infer from Paul's powerful statement that any Christian who sins is in condemnation. Nothing could be farther from the truth! In verse 4 of the same chapter, Paul goes on to clarify any such misconstruals.

**Romans 8:4** *“That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”*

Hence, Paul was not giving the believer in Christ a condition for not being condemned in verse 1. He was stating a fact. In verse 4, he lets us know we (who the righteousness of the law have been fulfilled in) walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Thus, he was describing a category of persons here. The description is this: there is no condemnation to us! In verse 33, he went on to ask a rhetorical question to task our thinking: who shall lay anything (that is, criminate; accuse) to the charge of God's elect? Then, he answered by saying “it is God who justifies”. Here, Paul was making a dare! Who shall do that? Who has power enough to accuse the man who God has made righteous? No one! Not one man or angel, visible or invisible, in the entire universe or wherever, can allude condemnation to the man in Christ. Anyone who tries that is simply going over his own head.

Of course, this is not to say actions of sin are pleasant. However, we must never say what the Bible didn't say in our efforts to stop people from sinning. No one wants that more than God. God was the one who gave His Son to die for the world; not us. We must say and do things the Bible-way. Jesus lets us know in John 3:18, that he who believes in Him is not condemned (that is, judged; damned). The reason why any man is in condemnation is because he has not believed in Jesus Christ. Have you believed? Praise God! You are not condemned. And you can never ever be!

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## **DAY 7**

### **TOPIC: I'M WALKING AWAY**

**TEXT: Hebrews 13:5**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*“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.”*

Someone once said that the relationship the believer has with the Holy Ghost could be compared with the intimacy between friends or any other human relationship. Going further with his comparison; he opined that, in an earthly relationship, one party could decide to quit the relationship where the acts of the other party become unbearable. Upon this comparison, he concluded that the Holy Ghost would desert the believer if such a believer becomes recalcitrant and unyielding to His leadings.

This above illustration is doctrinally wrong. In the first stance, God is not man. Hence, we as humans do not judge God's actions by our own actions or reactions to situations. The scriptures made this clear that the thoughts of God and that of men are not par (Isaiah 55:8) Secondly, the scriptures give us answers to all doctrinal questions.

Our scripture text reveals this profound truth, that the Holy Spirit can never forsake a man in Christ. In other words, the Holy Ghost can never say to a believer “I'm tired of your flaws; I'm walking away...” God's abode in us is based on His word and not on our actions. He has made us His dwelling place now and forever. He will never leave us nor forsake us.

Say this: “God is in me. He will never leave me. He will never forsake me. I am His dwelling place now and forever!”

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## **DAY 8**

### **TOPIC: GOD'S GOODNESS LEADS TO REPENTANCE**

**TEXT: Luke 5:8-11**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“8 When Simon Peter saw [it], he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. 9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: 10 And so [was] also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. 11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.”*

The fifth chapter of the gospel according to Luke reveals the all-night struggles of Simon Peter. Peter was obviously not a novice in the fishing profession; he must have been familiar with all the techniques of fishing, the best time to fish, etc. Despite all these, he couldn't have any success all night; not even a single fish. One can only imagine the frustration that he must have had in the midst of this situation.

Jesus stepped into the situation and he caught so much fish that two ships were not large enough to contain the fishes caught; little wonder that the ships began to sink. Immediately, Peter realized that he didn't merit such abundant supply from God. He knelt down and acknowledged his sinfulness. Eventually, himself and all his partners left all and followed Jesus. That was the beginning of their ministry with Jesus.

Jesus supplied people's physical needs several times in his earthly ministry. Moreover, he did so abundantly each and every time he supplied such needs. In all these, his intention for doing such good was to point men to the gracious character of God to give to them beyond their merits so that, ultimately, such men will accept his salvation. As a believer, you will be depriving yourself of enjoying God to the fullness if you deny that God supplies our need abundantly. We are supposed to acknowledge and enjoy all that we have in God.

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## **DAY 9**

### **TOPIC: GOD GIVES IN EXCESS**

**TEXT: Luke 5:9**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“For he was astonished and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken.”*

The preceding verses of our text shows us that Apostle Peter had a net-breaking catch of fish such that he had to call for help from other fishermen. This encounter of Apostle Peter with Jesus lets us know that God is willing to give much more than we ask of Him. It shows us the heart of God; that He desires to prosper us beyond our imaginations.

Most times, like Apostle Peter, we feel that God doesn't understand what we've been through (Luke 5:5a). However, we can see Jesus' response to what Apostle Peter said; He supplied more than he expected. God's will is that you have in abundance (3 John 1:2). He wants to only do you good. Do not settle for anything less. Do not think that God is tired of hearing and supplying your needs. The Apostle Paul lets us know “God will supply our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

Beloved, be encouraged today that God cares about you. He's willing to give much more than you ask or imagine. Whatever your needs are: a job, a spouse, health, family etc., He's able to come through for you!

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## **DAY 10**

**TOPIC: YOU ARE BLESSED!**

**TEXT: Roman 4:7-8**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“7 Saying, blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.”*

There is nothing whatsoever that anyone can do/does that can make him more right with God. It was Jesus' sacrifice on the cross that earned us right standing with God. The believer in Christ has been made the righteousness of God in Christ. He receives this righteousness by faith in Christ Jesus; that is to say God gave the believer His righteousness apart from his (the believer's) works.

**Hebrews 8:12** tells us what God said, that He will by no means ever remember our sins, or count them against us because they (our sins) were paid for by Jesus on the cross. The consequence of that is this: all that the believer is and has is all because of Christ Jesus. Righteousness is imputed upon him not because he's good but because he has believed in Christ Jesus. The Psalmist (David) calls the man, to whom all these was done for, a blessed man (Romans 4:6-8).

Beloved, you're blessed, not because you're good; you're simply blessed because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. You carry God's Spirit because you received His Son, Jesus. You have access to God at any time of the day because of Jesus. You are seated with Christ in heavenly places. You reign in life by Christ Jesus. You are more than a conqueror through Him (Jesus) that loved you.

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## **DAY 11**

### **TOPIC: WITH MUCH ASSURANCE**

#### **TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 1:5**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*“For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.”*

As a minister of the gospel, Apostle Paul revealed in our scripture text that he preached the gospel to the Thessalonians with power of the Holy Ghost and much assurance. He did not only do this with the Thessalonians, he did same in all other places where he proclaimed the gospel. In fact, at Corinth, he did not communicate the gospel to them by the wisdom of man (i.e. philosophical ideologies) but by the power of God, confirming their salvation.

The word “assurance” in the original manuscript is the word “plerophoria” which means “full assurance and most certain confidence”. This explains the fact that Paul communicated the gospel with a confidence of the message. He was never in doubt as to the salvation of men as soon as they received the gospel. He did not hesitate to call the Corinthian church “saints” despite their flaws (1 Corinthians 1:2, 11). In fact, he assured the Ephesian church that they were sealed with the Holy Ghost immediately they received the gospel (Ephesians 1:13). These are just few examples of the manner with which Apostle Paul preached the gospel. He preached with so much confidence.

The gospel is about the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus and how that any man that believes has eternal life and can never perish. The minister of the gospel must always speak of his assurance in the salvation that he has received. By this, he would be able to bring many to the same salvation and also establish them in the truth.

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**DAY 12**

**TOPIC: IN ORDER**

**TEXT: 1 Corinthians 14:40**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

***“Let all things be done decently and in order.”***

In the creation story, God created all things in order. He did not create sea animals before creating the sea itself; neither did He create man before thinking of what the man would eat. He made all things according to plan, in order. All through scriptures, it is clear that the character of God is that of order. He forewarned Noah of the coming flood and gave a detailed instruction on what Noah needs to do to save himself and the people from the flood. He inspired Joseph to rescue the Egyptians from famine by planning ahead to save food. These are just few instances out of several instances to emphasize that God makes plans and does things in order.

Apostle Paul instructed the church in Corinth that their activities in the church must be done decently and in order. In other words, things must be done in an arranged manner. Sometimes, having a set plan for things is a key to achieving order. The believer in Christ has the ability to put order into things and he must exhibit same. A popular saying goes thus; “failure to plan is tantamount to planning to fail”. This is so true! In every aspect of our lives, we must endeavour to set things in order. God is not an author of chaos. We must plan our lives in a manner that we would get our desired results.

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## **DAY 13**

### **TOPIC: WHY DID JESUS COME?**

**WRITTEN BY: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

**TEXT: John 3:17-18**

***“For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”***

Again and again, we need to remind ourselves about the reason why Jesus came. This is very important to us for our conviction and the communication of the gospel to others also. It is clear from the above passage what Jesus did not come to do: he never came to condemn the world. That wasn't what necessitated His coming. Rather, He came that through Him the world might be saved. Two things are very crucial here; the first which is: God's intention through Christ is salvation; and the second is that condemnation did not come alongside His salvation. This means God's salvation through Christ did not come through the means of condemnation.

Conclusively, from the reasons above, we can say that God does not condemn us to save us. Therefore, our affirmation of salvation or our communication of the same to others must be devoid of condemnation. So, you shouldn't say “I stopped being saved because I sinned” or say to others “Repent from sins to avoid God's wrath”. Such statements contradict the intention of God. They make God seem as though He changed— and no; He never changes! God never changes. He is who He is yesterday and same tomorrow; so, our affirmation of or communication of God's salvation through Christ must be without guilt-tripping— God doesn't require that to save anyone or keep believers saved in Him.

Any salvation which comes alongside condemnation is not of God! It is illogical to even think that the very person who saves us also condemns us. If this was true, we would never have been saved in the first place, for the condemnation He dispenses, if that was indeed the case, would not have allowed us to be saved by Him. However, the very fact that He saved us, and is also willing to save others, is a proof that He doesn't condemn but rather that He saves. Let this be in your consciousness at all times as you preach to others, and in the affirmation of your salvation also.

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## **DAY 14**

### **TOPIC: YOU ARE AN IMPORTANT MEMBER**

**TEXT: 1 Corinthians 12:24-27**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“24 For our comely [parts] have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that [part] which lacked: 25 That there should be no schism in the body; but [that] the members should have the same care one for another. 26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”*

At the resurrection of Jesus, the church; the body of Christ was born. It is therefore safe to say that the church is a result and the proof of Jesus' resurrection. The epistles take the human body as an example to explain the body of Christ. Just as there are various members and parts in the human body, the body of Christ has many members and every member is to function in his or her roles. Every member is first to understand that he or she has specific roles to perform and hence is very important to the whole body at large. He or she must also esteem each and every member that makes up the body as such. In all, the whole members function for the purpose of their head; Christ. This way, every member performs his or her function(s) without any inferiority or superiority complex.

Upon Jesus' resurrection also, He gave ministry gifts to the church. These ministry gifts are supposed to express their roles in the different gatherings of these members. Hence, God's wisdom for establishing the local church. It is in the local church that every member learns to fulfill Jesus' purpose by serving one another and being actively involved in the ministry of reconciliation. It is therefore selfishness to the body or irresponsibility to the head for any member to disregard his or her roles in such local church. It is expected that every member is actively involved; this is how we affirm our importance to the body. If you are not actively involved in any local church, repent today!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 15**

**TOPIC: WE ARE ALWAYS IN THE SPIRIT!**

**TEXT: Romans 8:9**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

*“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”*

The believer is not in the flesh, but in the Spirit. This is pellucid. It is very explicit, and needs no haggling at all! Paul goes on to explain what being in the Spirit is. And his explanation bears no similitude to what many have called “being in the Spirit” today. He lets us know that being in the Spirit isn’t tantamount to the closure of one’s eyes. It is not the closing of our eyelids that makes us to be in the Spirit; for, an unbeliever who closes his eyes every day is yet in the flesh.

Paul lets us know that to be in the Spirit means that the Spirit is in us. How did the Spirit come to dwell in us? We received the Spirit of God at salvation (Galatians 3:2; Ephesians 1:13)! It is not closing of eyes at all. It’s where we are! We are His location. He’s our location. We are found in Him. He is found in us. Hence, Paul’s statement in 1 Corinthians 6:17 to emphasize our union with Him.

The phrase “if so be”, as used in our text of consideration, is from the Greek words “ei per”, which means “if indeed, since, if after all, seeing”. It is not a condition. It is rather a statement of reality. Hence, being in the Spirit is a function of salvation (believing in Jesus). If you are saved, you are in the Spirit. The Spirit of Christ is the location of the believer. He is our address. He is our dwelling place. In the same vein, the indwelling of the Spirit is a function of salvation (believing in Jesus). If you are saved, the Spirit of Christ is in you. You are the location of the Spirit of Christ. His address. His dwelling place. Thus, it will be wrong to ask a believer to “be in the Spirit”, for that is where he is (always). We can only ask him to walk in the Spirit, and not to be in the Spirit.

The believer is always in the Spirit! He lives there! He exists there today, and forevermore!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 16**

### **TOPIC: PROVOKE UNTO GOOD WORKS**

**TEXT: Proverbs 27:17**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”*

As iron-cutting tools are made sharp and fit for use by the file or some other iron, so a man is to sharpen the countenance of his friend. Limiting the word “countenance” to only facial expressions mocks Solomon’s wisdom.

This proverb deals with the character of a man, which is important when it comes to relationships. And the lessons to learn from this proverb are very direct. As believers, we are not to make friends that only make us look or feel good. We are to cultivate healthy relationships that can maximise our growth physically and spiritually. We are to have friends that provoke us unto good works; and we, in turn, do same to them.

Just as a file takes small shavings from the blade of a knife to make it more useful, we should have friends that have a sharpening influence on us, as well as we on them. True friends are to correct, rebuke and instruct in love. They are to value and promote relationships with the intent of provoking each other unto good works.

Beloved, choose your friends wisely and make it a point of duty to help, support, exhort, warn and instruct only in righteousness (2nd Timothy 3:16-17).

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## **DAY 17**

**TOPIC: BELIEVERS DON'T GO TO HELL**

**WRITTEN BY: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

**TEXT: Philippians 3:20-21**

*“For our conversation is his heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things into himself.”*

The idea that believers go to hell when they sin is alien to the Bible. There isn't any such affirmation in the Bible. What you will actually find in the Bible repeatedly is the affirmation that believers will not go to hell. In the text above, the Apostle Paul affirms again that the believer's citizenship is heaven. He belongs there by virtue of what Jesus has done. In fact, our certainty of being raptured, that is the redemption of our bodies, is on the premise of our citizenship— we are going to be raptured because we are citizens of heaven; a non-citizen won't be. He can't be.

Now, Paul speaks with certainty; he was very sure that Jesus Christ will change our bodies that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to His working. It therefore shows that being raptured is not our working, but Christ's. So, stop running that so-called “heavenly race”. Stop preparing yourself to be raptured. You are not going to” make heaven” by your works, but by Christ's work.

The only reason you doubt you would not be in heaven hereafter is because you try to make it by your works, which are subject to a lot of limitations. You will always feel inadequate if you're resting on what you can do instead of what Christ did, and will do. Get the thought off your mind. Let go of the struggle. Rest on the assuredness in Christ, that just as He saved you, so also will He raise you up on the last day, so that you will also put on an incorruptible body by His effectual working.

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## **DAY 18**

### **TOPIC: THE CURE FOR GREED AND COVETEOUSNESS**

**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.”*

Many times, in our desire to avoid greed and covetousness as believers, we often go mechanical. We forget that all that God wants us to do, He already gave us His word to guide us on “how to”, and the Holy Spirit within us enables us to do them appropriately. The epistles, and even the teachings of Jesus in His earthly ministry, are replete with how God expects us to live a life without greed.

Observe that in the text above, the writer of Hebrews was instructing believers against covetousness. However, he didn't just stop at the instruction; he went further to state the reason why a believer shouldn't be covetous: God is our helper and He will never leave nor forsake us to be stranded. Therefore, it is clear that once a believer knows that God is his helper and that He will never leave him, such a believer will not have struggles with dealing with covetousness.

As believers, we all must be persuaded that God cares for our needs and that He will never leave us nor forsake us for the same purpose. This is the only way we will not trust in earthly riches or become covetous. Our hearts will be at rest knowing that God is for us.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 19**

### **TOPIC: THE RIGHT USE OF OUR MINDS**

**WRITTEN BY: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

**TEXT: Philippians 4:8**

*“Finally, my brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things.”*

The Apostle Paul acknowledges that we can think, but he gives us what is ideal about the scope of our thinking. It is that which is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, and of praise. So while he doesn't debunk the idea of thinking, he gives us a guide to what our thought-patterns should be like.

We can always judge our thoughts within the scope of the aforestated. So, Paul unveils to us that believers are not to accommodate any thoughts that are contrary to those descriptions above. We can judge what we think in accordance with them (that is, the descriptions above). For example, a believer should not contemplate committing suicide, or think of robbing someone or extorting another person; these are wrong ways to use our minds. Instead, a believer thinks there is hope, thinks of an alternative, will not give up on himself or on God. He could think of getting a job or starting a business or leaving a bad relationship or decide to pray to be healed– these are good thoughts.

Beloved, the right use of your mind is for something good, something worthy of a good report; not something bad, evil and unacceptable. We should all learn to subject our thoughts to good things, regardless of what the situation is.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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**DAY 20**

**TOPIC: SING WITH THE SPIRIT**

**TEXT: 1 Corinthians 14:15**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*“What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”*

It is worthy of notice that the whole chapter of our scripture text is helpful to clear all obscurities on the subject of tongues, interpretation of tongues, and its usage. After expounding the benefits of tongues and its interpretation in the previous verses, the Apostle Paul then says “I will pray with the Spirit...and sing with the Spirit”.

The word “will” denotes a wish or desire to do something. This means that he made up his mind to pray and also sing with the spirit. We should also note that the writer used the words “pray” and “sing” in the same context. Hence, the same way the believer prays with the spirit (i.e. praying in tongues) is the same way he can add melody to the words he utters by the Spirit to make them songs. Singing with the Spirit does not require some other special ability. It is by the Spirit.

Beloved, you have the utterance to pray and sing in the spirit. And, as you are being edified by praying in tongues, you are also edified when you sing in tongues.

Today, take out time to fill your heart with melody and sing a new song by the spirit. You have utterance.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 21**

### **TOPIC: AVOIDING COMPANY WITH CERTAIN BELIEVERS**

**TEXT: 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. 15 Yet count [him] not as an enemy, but admonish [him] as a brother.”*

The New Testament teaches that we always seek peace with fellow brethren and even unbelievers in the midst of conflicts. However, whenever a brother is caught in the act of deliberate and continuous refusal to do the word, the bible gives clear instruction on how to deal with such brethren.

In the text above, Paul instructs the church in Thessalonica to spot any believer that deliberately disobeys the epistles and the teachings handed over to them. Having marked such believer, they are expected to have no company with such people. He further explains the reason for such instruction; such dissociation will make the disobedient believer ashamed and ultimately repent. Through it all, they are never to forget that he is still a brother.

Every believer ought to take heed to this caution. This is because we have tendencies of being influenced by our associations. At the long run, both the disobedient believer and other believers that take heed to the instruction in the text above will be helped.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 22**

### **TOPIC: BE OF A GOOD CHEER**

**TEXT: John 16:33**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

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

Jesus made the statement above before he died and rose again. He was speaking to His disciples in the light of what was going to happen. In context, He spoke of His death and resurrection (in preceding verses) and the glory and victory that was going to bring. He said that this victory would be the expressway that the Holy Ghost was going to follow in His coming to dwell in the disciples forevermore.

Therefore, the Holy Ghost is the Spirit of Jesus' victory over the world. How did Jesus conquer the world? In dying, He destroyed he who had the power of death, even the devil. He vanquished hell totally, and came out as the highest authority in all realms. He has given us His Holy Ghost, for we have believed; and He lives in us forevermore.

The Holy Ghost witnesses evermore of the victory we have in Jesus to us. He causes us to see the glory that we were born from. He causes us to see that our origin is that of glory, power, authority, majesty, and dominion forevermore. When we begin to acknowledge this eternal truth, we begin to see and understand who we really truly are in Christ. What we see and understand then causes an orderly, heavenly, divine eruption of joy within us. We laugh from within us, and rejoice heavily in the victory we have. We are then able to be of a good cheer in the midst of life's tribulations because we have understood that Jesus has overcome the world, and we also have in Him. Who is he that overcomes the world? It is the man in Christ Jesus; the believer. He is the overcomer! He is the victor! He is the conqueror!

Dearly beloved, be of a good cheer! To be of a good cheer is to have courage, comfort, and a calm delight. Jesus has overcome the world! Be of a good cheer!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

**DAY 23**

**TOPIC: GOD'S WORD IS STEADFAST**

**TEXT: John 8:32**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”*

When faced with seemingly insurmountable problems and we allow the facts overwhelm us (i.e. we allow the facts settle in our hearts) we end up feeling extremely troubled. But when we allow the truth of God's word settle them all in our hearts; we have tremendous victory over such situations.

It may be a fact that you are broke and have tried all you can to make ends meet all to no avail. But God's word lets us know that the birds of the air, which do not work or toil for food, are fed by our heavenly Father. He even clothes the lilies of the field Himself. Hallelujah!

It might also be a fact that your loved one is sick and is at the verge of giving up. God's word says Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The same Jesus, who healed all that came to Him that were sick and oppressed of the devil while He walked the earth bodily, is still able to heal your loved one of whatever ailment.

Beloved, whichever might be the condition you find yourself, be rest assured that God only wants to do you good. Let His word settle the truth about your situation and see facts change for good.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

**DAY 24**

**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; that is, sinful habits. They try to stop sinful habits without first acknowledging that the old man is dead and thus 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; 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!**

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

**DAY 25**

**TOPIC: YOU CAN (AND SHOULD) SPEAK IN TONGUES!**

**TEXT: Mark 16:17**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

***“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;”***

The word “new” in the text above is from the Greek word “kainos”, which means “unprecedented; fresh; unused”. It was a word Jesus used to explain that these tongues (that is, language) had never been spoken by anybody before. Until Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, no one had ever spoken in tongues. Hence, speaking in tongues is a post-resurrection reality. Jesus states emphatically that speaking with new tongues is a sign that follows every believer. In other words, every believer can (and should) speak with tongues. This is because, with the new birth comes the ability to speak in tongues. The reason why some believers do not speak in tongues is because they have stored some wrong pieces of information about tongues in their minds. Some think it’s for a select few, while some others think they need to fast and pray to be able to. Some very many others think that only a highly moral person can speak in tongues. Some also fear they don’t know what they are saying. Well, no man (including the speaker) understands tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:2 & 14 tell us that much! We speak unto God, and not unto men, when we pray in tongues.

Also, good morals are truly a most desirable trait for any human. However, we must learn not to act wiser than Jesus. He said the signs follow those who believe, and not those who are morally perfect. If morality were the yardstick for speaking in tongues, everybody in the world can speak in tongues then (since all that is needed for that is some dose of piety)! Apparently, this is so untrue. Only the believer in Christ can. All that’s needed to pray in tongues is to believe in Jesus, a realization that you have the ability to speak in tongues, and a will to do the speaking. In 1 Corinthians 14:15, Paul lets us know he will pray in tongues. The word “will” here implies that it is within the believer’s will to pray in tongues or not. No strange force will push him to.

Beloved, have a will (desire) to pray in tongues today, then open your mouth to speak; and you will see yourself doing that which you have thought you could never do. And glory be to God; we are edified every time we pray in tongues!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

**DAY 26**

**TOPIC: GRACE IS WITHOUT WORKS**

**WRITTEN BY: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

**TEXT: Romans 11:6**

*“And if by grace, then it is no more works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace; otherwise work is no more work.”*

From the above verse of the scripture, we see clearly that grace and works (i.e. self-efforts) are not co-habitants. Grace is without works; otherwise grace is no more grace. It therefore means grace is freely given without works. This implies that whatever we received through grace is devoid of our works. Owing to the aforesaid, we can say then that everything we received through Christ had nothing to do with our works. In other words, we did not labour to have them; they were freely given to us.

In Romans 8:32, The Apostle Paul makes it clear that all we have received through Christ was freely given: *“He that spared not his Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him freely give us all things”*

So, we see from the text above what God’s idea of giving is– freely! In essence, salvation through Christ, and its accompanying realities, is by grace. Now, it won’t make any sense to say that the same God who gives freely would require that you do something to ensure that you retain those things that he gave freely through Christ. No! Not at all! Grace and self-efforts are not co-habitants!

All that you have received through Christ is free indeed. You do not need to make any subscriptions for it for an agreed price; either by money or by labour. It is free! Knowing this makes us assured that all that we have through Christ is ours forever!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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**DAY 27**

**TOPIC: SERVANTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

**TEXT: Romans 6:17-18**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

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

The word righteousness is from the Greek word “dikaiosune”, which means “equity of character or act”. As against several beliefs on the subject of righteousness, the Bible teaches that righteousness is a gift of God which a man receives when he believes the gospel. In other words, when a man receives the gospel, he is said to be righteous in Christ. Paul, in his epistle to the church at Corinth, further revealed that Christ, who knew no sin, was made to be sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). We can safely conclude that a believer is righteous with or without his good or bad doings.

The questions some persons ask when this truth is revealed to them are: “Are you saying we can keep on sinning? Am I now to live my life anyhow?” It is folly to say that now that you are righteous irrespective of your doings, you are free to sin anyhow. The Bible teaches that the gospel brings freedom from sin and not slavery to sin. This is explicit from our scripture text. Hence, the believer has the responsibility to yield himself through his thoughts and actions to the nature of God. By this, he would live a life of righteousness, enjoying all the benefits that are his in Christ.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 28**

### **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; our needs. A man's concerns or needs 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 on someone”. It's actually descriptive of allowing someone else bear one's 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”. It 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.

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