



DECEMBER, 2018

THE REFINERY DEVOTIONAL

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

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You are FREE to make your contributions and praise reports via my inbox on Facebook @ Harrison Ayintete.

Blessings!

DAY 1

TOPIC: CAREST THOU NOT?

TEXT: Mark 4:37-39

Written by: FEMI ADEKOYA

“[37]And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.[38]And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?[39]And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.”

On this particular day, the disciples set out sailing to the other side of the sea, based on the Lord’s instruction (Vs 35). But it was unfortunately in the process of expediting this order that they were faced with a mighty storm of wind, so much so that their boat was about to sink for the wave of water from the turbulence. They then cried out in complaint to the Lord while He was yet sleeping, saying “Carest thou not that we perish?”, and Jesus arose and rebuked the wind, commanding the sea to be still.

Likewise, there are times in our lives the challenges and issues of life rise against us, challenging our faith in Christ Jesus. We experience opposition even when we are on course in obeying the Lord’s leading and doing the will of God. These oppositions are so strong that they begin to cast depression, weariness and doubts on our hearts as if God does not care about us again, or we are to doubt His will.

However, beloved, I will like to assure you that God does care about you in whatsoever situation. He is never indifferent to help concerning your challenges. Just like the Lord, you must choose to arise and rebuke oppositions and the works of darkness against you. Determine to take your authority in Christ over that which is against and not of God’s will for you. Listen, you have not received the spirit of fear, you have all the faith that there is to have; for you live by the faith of the Son of God who died for you. Stand, and say to that storm “peace, be still!”, and you shall have great calmness.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 2

TOPIC: GIVE THANKS

TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

Thanksgiving is God’s will for us in Christ Jesus. We have received that new culture of gratitude in Christ. It is our new way of life. We do not go about murmuring and bickering like the Israelites did in the wilderness, forgetting the goodness that God had done unto them. When we murmur and complain, it is most likely that we have lost God’s goodness out of our minds. We have forgotten something; we have neglected what ought to be the testimonies on our lips.

Now, notice Paul says “give thanks in everything” and not “give thanks for everything”. This implies that Paul is exhorting on what must be our attitude at all times, in spite of whatever circumstances we are facing. He is not saying, “Give thanks for sickness and poverty”; rather he is saying, “Give thanks in spite of sickness and poverty, knowing that God is our healer and provider”. We are not to give thanks for evil, knowing assuredly that evil is not God’s will for anyone. Rather, we are to give thanks in spite of ill winds and untoward situations, knowing God’s goodness triumphs over evil.

Thus, our thanksgiving is not a function of circumstances, but our new nature in Christ. In Christ, gratitude is our new culture. We give thanks always for we have seen God’s true character in Christ Jesus. He is full of mercy, love, goodness and kindness. Our Father is the all-benevolent one, who makes His sun to shine on all, and sends His rain upon all. Thus, we give thanks always in Christ Jesus. As this year winds up, grow more in this your new nature of thanksgiving. Be full of gratitude. Count your blessings and sing songs of praise and worship unto God. This is God’s will for us.

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DAY 3

TOPIC: LET NO MAN SAY

TEXT: James 1:13

Written by: IKECHUKWU MARK OKEKE

“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:”

Growing up as a young boy, I was told that when a man is going through life trials— maybe lost his job, house or a family member etc.— that God is using that circumstance to test the man’s faith. To worsen matters, I was told that hardship is a sign of spiritual growth, where God uses trials to test our love for him. However, these assertions are far from the truth. In the text above, the phrase ‘let no man say’ implies “from the first man, Adam, to any man that will ever be, let none misrepresent God’s character as someone who does evil”.

Acts 10:38

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”

Jesus, being the exact image and character of God, did good everywhere he went. Apostle James says emphatically in James 1:17 that God gives is good gift and does not change about His goodness.

Beloved, temptation is common to man not as a result of God’s plan but as a result of the fall of man, but God is faithful, who will always make a way of escape for us (1 Corinthians 10:13). Let no man beguile you; God neither does evil nor tempts any man with evil. He is a good God, and a waymaker. Walk in this consciousness; in spite of the circumstance, choose to see God’s way of escape and never affirms God is testing you with evil.

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DAY 4

TOPIC: STAYING IN FAITH (1)

TEXT: Numbers 13:30

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.”

The thirteenth and fourteenth chapters of the book of Numbers reveal a story that teaches how men ought to stay strong on God’s promises. God had earlier promised the children of Israel a land flowing with milk and honey. Literally, this was the land where the Canaanites lived, which God first promised Abraham and later confirmed to his descendants. The children of Israel (the direct descendants of Abraham) were however at some point taken to Egypt and needed to return to Canaan, the land in which God had always wanted them to stay.

Moses led them out of Egypt and while they were in the wilderness, he chose twelve leaders from each tribe of Israel to go and spy the land that God had earlier promised them. They returned and each of them gave their discoveries and perception of the land. They all affirmed that the land was indeed good. Much more, ten amidst the chosen leaders extensively spoke about all the limitations that were prevalent and could possibly hinder their possession of the land. What these ten people highlighted were obvious facts that couldn’t be denied. They kept narrating all the limitations until Caleb (one of the remaining two) stopped the narrative and challenged the whole congregation, telling them they were well able to possess the land in spite the obvious limitations since God already promised.

We see that after the ten men had focused their minds and confessions on the prevalent limitations, they concluded that they were incapable of entering the land that God had promised. To hold on to the obvious limitations above and against God’s word will lead any believer to walk in unbelief. As believers, even though there are obvious limitations that seem to make God’s promises look very impossible, we must learn to hold on to God’s word against all odds. If we maintain this stand long enough, we will see the physical manifestation.

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DAY 5

TOPIC: STAYING IN FAITH (2)

TEXT: Numbers 13:30

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.”

We have seen how the ten spies shifted into speaking impossibilities simply because they stayed too long on confessing the limitations available in the promised land despite the fact that God already gave them the land (Numbers 13:2). Today, we shall go a step further as we pick up vital lessons from this narrative.

We further see from the fourteenth chapter that after the ten men had given their reports, the children of Israel began to murmur, with disinterest in forging ahead into the promise land despite the subsequent words of encouragement from Caleb and Joshua who stood in faith that they were well able to possess the land. In fact, they were ready to stone the two men who stood in faith. It is clear that the whole children of Israel didn't go to spy the land, nonetheless, they believed the “evil reports” of the ten men. We can therefore see that fear can be communicated by influence.

We must learn that it is great wisdom to stay off people that can influence our minds against believing God's word— men who are always speaking fear and unbelief through either their speeches or body languages. If we keep them close to ourselves long enough, we will be influenced to walk in unbelief towards God's promises despite God's ability and readiness to perform. Rid yourself of every form of unbelief today, stay in faith and watch God perform the seemingly impossible!

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DAY 6

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 does not 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; first fruits; 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! Moreover, 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)!

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DAY 7

TOPIC: NOT BY WORKS

TEXT: Ephesians 2:8-9

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

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

Salvation is by faith alone. In the above texts, we are reminded yet again that salvation is not of ourselves. This means that we did nothing to merit salvation by any means; we were saved by grace.

The Apostle Paul reveals here that salvation is a gift of God; hence, salvation is God’s to give and man’s to receive. Every believer therefore has received the gift of God (salvation). Therefore, we can say that we are saved by God alone and not by an ounce of our individual efforts.

Therefore, Apostle Paul says let no man boast in his efforts in being saved or remaining saved; rather all boasts must be made in the Lord. Thus, questions pertaining to our salvation are clearly answered. For example, who saved us? God saved us. How did this happen? We were saved by grace, through faith alone. Does getting salvation require our efforts? Not at all, that is why it is by grace. So what should I do to keep myself saved? Nothing! Salvation is none of our efforts; God already saved, and keeps us saved forevermore.

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DAY 8**TOPIC: BE A TRUE FRIEND****TEXT: Proverbs 17:17****Written by: GBEMISOLA AYUBA*****“A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity”.***

Before a person is considered a true friend, he must have shown some attributes to make the other person consider him a true friend. The text above tells us that a friend loves at all times; this implies that he will not be someone who only claims loves in good circumstances but disappears in the face of unpalatable circumstances. As believers, we should learn to demonstrate our love for our friends and companions by supporting, correcting and encouraging them at every given opportunity. We ought to show true attributes of friendship that will make people grateful to God for having met us.

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DAY 9

TOPIC: MAINTAINING A HEART OF GRATITUDE

TEXT: Hebrews 13:15

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of [our] lips giving thanks to his name.”

As the year runs out, it is possible that one is tempted to feel frustrated or unfulfilled perhaps because one has not achieved all that one intended to achieve when the year began. Such frustration could also come from the missed opportunities, failed relationships, financial problems etc. The fact remains that it is only natural to react this way. Despite all these, we have to know that we must maintain a heart of gratitude unto God. Now, thanksgiving is not to appreciate God for the “evils” or unfortunate circumstances that we have experienced so far, rather we are to maintain a heart of gratitude for all the great things that He has done so far and how He has sustained us despite all the evils that the enemy has brought to weigh us down.

In a period like this and even beyond, we are expected to count our blessings and see all that God has done so far. Our text scripture says that we should continually offer the sacrifice of praise unto God. This shows that we ought to always be full of thanksgiving with our lips. This is not a time to be mute; rather it is a time to declare His praises. This ought to be the stand of every believer at every season.

Burst into laughter! Declare His praises; count all He has done and let God know that you recognize His works in your life. The Father loves to receive the thanksgiving of His children for He is forever glorified.

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DAY 10

TOPIC: FERVENT IN THE SPIRIT

TEXT: Act 18:24-25

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.”

We can learn something very vital from Apollos here. He was a man fervent in the spirit. Just like many of his clique, he was instructed (taught) the things of God but he chose to be fervent with what he had received. To be fervent is to be passionate and enthusiastic. It involves passion, vigour, strength, emotions and persistence. When one is said to be fervent in spirit, this does not mean that one’s spirit is passionate or persistent rather it means that such a person is zealous and enthusiastic about the activities of the Spirit.

Despite Apollos’ limited knowledge of the gospel, he was loud and zealous in preaching what he knew. Very many persons in the body of Christ today have been taught the word of God and shown the example of how to demonstrate the things of the Spirit, but they have shown no zeal or readiness to practice what they have been taught. The epistles instruct us to be fervent in spirit; serving the Lord (Romans 12:11).

The believer does not have such character to be passive about the things of God. We have the ability of God, which is actively at work in us. All that is left is to put our minds and energy into doing what is required of us by the grace of God. In studying, worship, preaching, praying etc., we are to act with much fervency.

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DAY 11

TOPIC: TRUE TRANSFORMATION

TEXT: Romans 12:2

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

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

The text above is a very popular one. However, as it is with many popular statements, we often tend to lose the true essence of those statements because of over-familiarity. The text tells us without mincing words that transformation comes by the renewing of our minds. The word “transformed” was translated from the Greek word “metamorphoo”, which implies “a change from within seen without”. In other words, this change is not to become someone else, but to become who we really are. For example, when a butterfly undergoes metamorphosis, changing from egg to larvae, to pupa, and finally to adult form, it is not becoming what it is not, but what it really is.

Now, when Paul says, “be not conformed” to this world, he was not exactly refer to a pattern of dressing or haircut as many have thought. The word “world” here is from a word in the Greek that implies “thought-pattern”. The truth of the matter is that there are many who dress piously today who still think like the world. For instance, a believer who says things like “I can’t forgive him until I revenge and get even with him”, even though he dresses piously, is still reasoning like the world. He needs to renew his mind to see that forgiveness is now his new nature in Christ. Hence, what Paul was actually saying was that we, as believers, must not think the way the world thinks.

Moreover, this is exactly why we must renew our minds with the word of God. This is because in the word of God, especially in the epistles, is where we find who we really truly are— our new nature and culture. When we renew our minds by beholding these facts, we undergo a change from within, which is consequently seen without, in our actions. Therefore, when a believer is seen exhibiting certain unpalatable actions, he must be corrected with the written word. He must be made to see that those actions are incongruent with his new nature in Christ. When he sees and understands this, his mind is renewed, and then he is transformed. True transformation will only come when a believer understands who he is in Christ. Any attempt to achieve this transformation by any means other than the written word will only lead to hypocrisy and a false sense of having being transformed.

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DAY 12

TOPIC: BROUGHT WITH AN EXCEEDING GREAT PRICE

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 6:20

Written by: FEMI ADEKOYA

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

Here, the Apostle Paul makes it clear to us that the believer in Christ Jesus is bought with the great and exceeding price of the blood of Jesus. Because of this purchase, we have been redeemed once and forever from the power of darkness, sin and its consequences. It is true that Satan and his cohorts have no power over us. For we are now under the reign and governance of grace, therefore sin shall have no dominion over us (Rom 6).

It is not just that we are saved from sin and Satan, but that we are now of God! We are God’s own possession and not of ourselves. We are worth the price paid for us; and the value placed on us is worth the life of Jesus. Our value can only be evaluated in the redemptive work of Jesus and it is for this reason we are acceptable of God.

Beloved of God, it is for this cause that we are ready to live to the praise of His glory. It is for this reason that we live a life of honour in our conduct and conversation with men, and even with ourselves. He bought us with so great a price through the death of his son, so we live a life worth this price. This is only a reasonable (logical) response to His love and sacrifice (Romans 12:1-3). We are bought with an exceeding great price; therefore, we glorify the Lord in our bodies, spirits, life and living!

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DAY 13

TOPIC: EVERYDAY CHRISTMAS

TEXT: Luke 2:10-11

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. [11] For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

What is very clear from the above verses is that the birth of Jesus is enough good tidings (i.e. good news) to the whole world. Why is this so? Jesus Christ was going to bring salvation to the world; he was going to pay for the sins of man. Now, the years have rolled by and in our time, we are not awaiting His sacrifice—the sacrifice has already been made and accepted. Salvation is already come to the world. Jesus Christ has paid the wages of sin; hence, man can now be saved. This means we have more reason to rejoice because salvation is available.

Now, for us believers, we have more reason to rejoice because we have received the assurance of salvation. The Bible says as many as have believed have been sealed with the Holy Ghost of promise (Ephesians 1:13). We can say affirmatively that we are saved already; thus, all the promises that pertain to the saved have been received by us.

Why then should we not rejoice? Nothing is of more value than having the nature that precedes, and is beyond the earth. Jesus lets us know that we have received eternal and we shall never perish as a result (John 3:16). Hallelujah! Therefore, for us, we always bask in the reality of redemption. Hence, Christmas is not a one-day event for us; rather, it is for eternity! It is affirmed that all believers shall put on immortality and shall be caught up on that day (1 Corinthians 15:51-53). None shall be lost. Thus, we celebrate at all times and in every moment the privileges of salvation. Glory to God!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 14

TOPIC: GRACE IN YOUR SPEECH

TEXT: Colossians 4:5-6

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech [be] alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

Paul instructs that the believer must ensure that his words and communications are always filled with grace. The word “grace” here connotes “blessing”. That is, the words that proceed out from believers ought to be blessings to the recipients of such words. Our words must not demoralize or discourage people; rather, they must strengthen the feeble, supply encouragement and edification.

He further uses the words “seasoned with salt”, which connote “flavour”. It is therefore obvious that God wants our speeches to add beauty to people’s life either when we commence speaking or when we are reacting to words spoken. Also, observe that Paul says “Let your Speech”. He suggests that the ability to speak grace-filled speeches is already in the believer; thus, he only needs to let it out or allow it every time. It is a bad testimony of a believer to be known for abuses or curses. Our speeches ought to always minister grace.

The ability to communicate edifying words always is fully at work in us, and we must deliberately allow it!

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DAY 15

TOPIC: GOD'S SUPER-ABOUNDING GRACE

TEXT: Romans 5:20

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound...”

It is very important that we understand that God hates sinful actions because of what they do to us— they are capable of destroying one's lives, relationships and bodies. Sinful acts are evil, but they we do not overcome them by talking about them and relying on our willpower to overcome them. Sinful actions do not and can never stop God's grace, for if God's grace could be cut off by sinful acts, Jesus would never have come to die on the cross to save the world from sins.

Our text shows us that “where sin abounded, grace did much more abound”. That is, grace does not abound when we sin, grace DID already abound when Jesus died on the cross, implying a past tense finished work. This shows that God's grace is bigger, deeper, wider and more powerful than all the world's sins put together. The grace that Jesus made available at the cross super-abounds, far more than the transgressions that abound due to the Law of Moses.

Beloved, God's grace is not a license to sin. It is rather a license to serve the living God as people who have been ETERNALLY freed from the enslaving power of sin.

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DAY 16

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 17

TOPIC: NOT OF GOOD WORKS BUT UNTO GOOD WORKS

TEXT: Titus 3:8

Written by: FEMI ADEKOYA

“8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.”

The book of Titus contains the many vital instructions of the Apostle Paul to his son, Titus, as to how he must go about his service unto the Lord. In the text above, the Apostle Paul states how the man of God must constantly emphasize the need for the believers to always maintain good works. The word “maintain” implies “to practice”, this means that the man (believer) who believes in God’s salvation through Christ Jesus should make it a practice to observe good works. In this context, good works refers to obedience to the government and law of the land, and doing commendable deeds unto men. It is important to note that the Apostle Paul did not mean to say that our salvation is to be maintained by good works because he had earlier established from preceding (Vs. 4-7) that we are not saved by good works, but according to God’s mercy expressed in the sacrifice of Jesus.

In essence, our salvation is not of good works but it is unto good works (Ephesians 2:10). Beloved of God, I affirm to you today that the salvation you have in Christ is unto good and commendable works in your conduct, conversation and dealings with men. For these things are good and profitable unto men.

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DAY 18

TOPIC: WE ARE THE HOUSE OF PRAYER

TEXT: Mark 11:17

Written by: IKECHUKWU MARK OKEKE

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

Jesus Christ communicated something very important futuristically as at when he was teaching from the text above. He clearly quoted from the prophetic scripture, Isaiah 56:7, God’s purpose and intention for His house. He said, “my house shall be called ‘the house of prayer’.” This is very definite and unmistakable. If the house is called “the house of prayer”, then it means what should be done in and through the house is praying, as clearly stated.

The believer in Christ is now the house of God, the only place of God’s activities and a house of prayer. Paul, by the Spirit, revealed that the believer is the temple of the Holy Spirit and that God owns him or her. Just as God had intended, saying “my house”, the ownership of the believer’s body is God’s. So much that when Paul was addressing the believer’s conduct in 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, he said this; “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.”

Therefore, the believer should constantly, consciousness and deliberately pray in spite of his feelings, place or time. God expects that we pray because we are the house of prayer. We do not wait until it is convenient. We do not pray only when the time is right; no busy schedules should rob us of God’s design for you.

Confession: I am God’s house, and I will pray always because I am built to pray.

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DAY 19

TOPIC: WE ALL ARE SONS OF GOD

TEXT: JOHN 1:12

Written by: GBEMISOLA AYUBA

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”

The believer is called a son of God and this signifies oneness with God. Just as a son is entitled to his entire father’s possession in the earth realm, so is the believer entitled to all of the fullness of God through his sonship by the spirit. The Spirit of God in the believer is the evidence and proof of the fact that he is born of God. Now, it does not matter our gender, whether male or female, we all are sons of God blessed with all his fullness and authority.

Thus, we live in full assurance of this, as sons of God. Let nothing rob you of this right in Christ. Let no doctrine of man cause you to wander from it. Let your heart stand planted in this truth; you are a son of God and nothing— absolutely nothing— can ever change that.

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DAY 20

TOPIC: IT'S AN UNBREAKABLE FELLOWSHIP

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 1:9

Written by: FEMI ADEKOYA

“[9]God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”

It is clear from this particular text that our fellowship, which is an aftermath of salvation, is not dependent on man. The existence of this fellowship is not dependent on man's consistency to keep himself. The fellowship we have with the Son is based on God's faithfulness; that is, this fellowship is solely dependent on God's character. It is made known that the extent and existence of this fellowship of the spirit is hanged upon the unchanging and sure character of God's faithfulness. The word “fellowship” in the Greek is “koinonia”, “meaning partnership or communion”. Hence, it is God who called and brought us into this communion/partnership with Christ, and He is faithful to keep us in it.

Beloved, you are a joint heir with Christ (Rom 8:17); so, you must never sit in the state of condemnation from the thought of losing your fellowship with the Spirit. This fellowship of ours is made such that it cannot be lost, for God is sure to keep us from falling (Jude 1:24). Should you fall into sin, renew your mind to the reality of your nature in Christ and go ahead to enjoy this fellowship by participating in the things that pertain to the Spirit, such as praying, singing in tongues, making melody in your heart unto the Lord, healing the sick, prophesying amongst other spiritual activities. Remember, it is God's responsibility to keep you in fellowship but it is yours to enjoy this unbreakable fellowship.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 21

TOPIC: THE NEW CREATURE

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

The above text is very explicit; it says he that is in Christ is a new creature. Thus, every man in Christ is a new creature; that is, old things are passed away (gone forever) and all things are new in Christ Jesus. In Ephesians 4:24, we see clearly what being newly created in Christ means. “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

The newness of the man in Christ is after God; that is, believers are made as God is in righteousness and holiness, which means the newness of the man in Christ is in the fact that he has been made righteous and holy as God is righteous.

The believer therefore possesses the nature and the character of God. So, being a new creature means the believer now possesses the nature and character he had never possessed before by virtue of his identity in Christ. So, how is the believer seen? He is seen as the one who has all of God in him. He is righteous, and holy, and full of divinity. Hallelujah!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 22

TOPIC: A SELF-PROPELLING POWER

TEXT: MARK 4:37-39

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“37 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. 38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? 39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.”

Today, we are considering our Lord Jesus Christ as He demonstrated power by calming the storm with the words of His mouth. It is worthy of note that this miracle is beyond the natural ability or power of man. Even the people were astonished at what He did.

Another thing that must be noted is that the power by which Jesus calmed this raging wind is at work in the believer. The Apostle Paul used the word “working” to qualify the power at work in the believer in his epistle to the church in Ephesus. The word translated as “working” in Greek is the word “energeo”, which means “active or self-propelling.” This means that the power of God in us is not passive. It does not need to be charged like a rechargeable battery; it is self-propelling.

Even though Jesus was asleep in the boat, the power in him was active. Jesus’ consciousness of the power at work in Him brought about this astounding miracle. Beloved, stay conscious of God’s power at work in you, the power is self-propelling.

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WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

Further Study: Ephesians 1:16-19

DAY 23

TOPIC: GATHER THE FRAGMENTS

TEXT: John 6:12-13

WRITTEN BY: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.”

We can learn quite a lot from the above verse, as Jesus demonstrates something of utmost importance to us; He said, “Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.” Hence, we can say that Jesus Christ discourages wastage. This means that we must make count or put to maximum use all that Jesus has made and makes provision for.

From the aforewritten, we learn the culture of accountability and responsibility. This means that, we should maximize resources and not waste them when we have them in surplus or in abundance. We can learn something more going further. We discover in the above verse that they were able to gather so much as 12 baskets of leftovers. This will mean we can profit maximally or make more maximal returns off the resources we have abundantly.

Let it suffice to say that what led to the miracle of provision was something small that was not despised. Thus, learning to trust God with the little we have could as well be our means to abundance. Beloved, make conscious effort to maximize the little you have henceforth. Do not treat with disdain the little you have and do not also put much to waste.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 24

TOPIC: OUR IDENTIFICATION

TEXT: John 17:20-21

Written by: IKECHUKWU MARK OKEKE

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

Our identification with Christ is not just a mere cliché; God initiated it and it is His will. From the text above, we see clearly that Jesus revealed God’s will for all who will believe on Him. God’s plan had always been to identify with the man in Christ as one. Now, the focus of today’s devotional is to note that men will only believe in Jesus Christ through the preaching of the gospel and demonstration of the Spirit. God’s activities are seen in the activities of the believer in Christ. This is so because of our identification with God in Christ. We are the temple of the Holy Ghost and God now lives in us by His Spirit. He does not just live in us, He moves in and through us via His activities displayed by us (1 Corinthians 6:19 and 2 Corinthians 6:16).

Jesus further affirms this oneness when He appeared to Saul on His way to Damascus to persecute the church. Jesus himself appeared to Paul stating clearly that Saul was persecuting Him (Acts 9). This is a clear evidence that you cannot separate God and His activities from a believer in Christ. Hebrews 2:11 lets us know this further: “For both He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren”. If God is not ashamed to be identified with you, then you should be emboldened to move around, preaching Christ’s gospel with signs and wonders accompanying, knowing that you are one Spirit with the Lord. Hallelujah!

Confession: I am one Spirit with the Lord; therefore, God is my Father and His activities are my activities. I preach the gospel, I walk in power and I have life in abundance.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 25

TOPIC: A MIRACULOUS GOD

TEXT: Romans 15:4

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”

The scriptures (Old Testament writings) were written for our learning to the end that we might have hope. One of the important things to learn from the scriptures is that God is miraculous. In the scriptures, we see God miraculously provide food for people. He filled the camp of the Israelites with bread (manna) and meat (quails). He used ravens to feed the Prophet Elijah. He provided water from a rock for the Israelites. He even provided water for Hagar, who was an Egyptian.

A thorough look throughout the entire scriptures should convince anyone about a God who is miraculous. By God, men walked through fire and came out unhurt. By God, men made walls crumble with the voice of a shout. By God, men had their dead raised back to life. By God, men had their waning health restored back to normal. By God, very other numerous miracles were done!

This same God is our Father. Is there anything too big for Him to do? No! We have a firm assurance in Him, that in spite of the several problems that pervade this fallen earth, we have the victory in, and through Him. We know no defeat. We don't look at troubles and turmoil. Our eyes are fastened on the victory that is in God. We have a miraculous God. Therefore, victory is always certain for us!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 26

TOPIC: BY HIS OWN POWER

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 6:14

Written by: GBEMISOLA AYUBA

“And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power”

It is always a thing of comfort and joy for a believer to know that the rapture is for him because of his faith in the gospel, especially when he previously erroneously believed that his qualification to partake of the rapture would be determined by his works or by the last act he commits before the trumpet sounds.

Our text tells us that God who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up by his power which is His spirit in us (Romans 8:11), whom we have received by faith and not by works. This statement is affirmative; it is by the Lord's power, and not the believer's. The one who has believed will surely be raised by God's power.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 27

TOPIC: PERSEVERE IN PRAYERS

TEXT: Ephesians 6:18

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints...”

Another word for perseverance is “stickability.” That is, in the place of prayers, we are to stick with it. We are to stay with praying until we have prayed through. We are not to be weary in the place of prayer, for if we persevere, we will see the results that we desire (Luke 18:1).

Many times, we tend to give up too soon when the things we desire and pray for do not come as at when we need them, but we can take a cue from Daniel; he didn't give up in the place of prayer until he got his desires delivered to him by an angel of the Lord (Daniel 10:12-13). The story of the woman who approached the unjust judge to avenge her of her adversary also teaches us to pray until we get results (Luke 18:2-5). The Bible lets us know that this woman constantly pestered the judge to see to her request, not minding that he was not giving her a listening ear every time she went before him, but with time, her perseverance paid off and her request was granted.

Beloved, we have been given a powerful gift of praying in tongues. This gift is not limited by distance, time or head knowledge. Thus, when we pray in tongues, we make tremendous power available in any place and for any situation. When we pray in tongues, things and events are orchestrated unto our favour. When we pray in tongues, the Spirit of God takes hold together with us (Romans 8:26-27).

As you go about your day, be hopeful that amazing and extraordinary things super-abound for you and therefore resist the temptation to faint in the place of prayer. Make it a habit to pray in the spirit at all times, for when you do so, you are simply putting your trust in God's goodness for everything He has promised you and also for that which you ask of Him.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 28

TOPIC: YOU MUST BE PART OF A LOCAL CHURCH

TEXT: Hebrews 10:24-25

Written by: GBEMISOLA AYUBA

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

It is becoming common today to find believers who have chosen to isolate themselves from the gathering of other believers, especially a local church. This is inconsistent with what the early apostles taught in the epistles and even in the Acts of the Apostles, where we see the saints gathering daily.

From the epistles, we see that believers, being members of Christ’s body, are addressed as the church. We also see how much priority and emphasis is placed on the physical gathering of believers. It is also clear from the text of today’s devotional that the believer is instructed not to neglect or despise the gathering of saints, for that is the medium by which we consider ourselves to stir up one another to love and good works. No believer is to grow in isolation from other members of the body but we all are to grow together stirring up one another as members of one body. If you have not been doing this, please get back on track. Find a local church today, where God’s word is taught with precision, and be committed there, supplying that which is necessary for the growth of the body at large.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 29

TOPIC: GOD'S PROMISE OF PEACE

TEXT: John 16:33

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

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

At the time of this promise, Jesus was not yet glorified. This promise of His peace was for the believer in Christ, because it is only resident in the Holy Ghost that was to indwell the believer upon Jesus' ascension. God's promise of peace is not as the world gives, which is temporary, but it is of eternal substance. It is present in the believer at all times regardless of the situation that surrounds him. This peace is rock-solid and pulls us through every storm.

Child of God, you are not to fret or worry when situations arise that tend to shake the very core of your existence, for we have an assurance of God's presence and protection in the midst of the storm. We live in a world filled with chaos and problems but Jesus has assured us that it is only in Him that we would enjoy true and lasting peace. He instructs us to be of good cheer (to rejoice exceedingly), for He has overcome the world in His death, resurrection, and glorification. In Isaiah 54:10, we have a promise of the Father that He will never go back on His promises for His children. That is, He did not do it in the past, nor does He intend to do it now or in the future. He has already fulfilled His promise of giving us His peace, which you and every believer in Christ enjoys in the Holy Ghost.

Therefore, live your life full of God's overwhelming peace that passes all human understanding, for it will guide you through the course of your life here on earth.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 30

TOPIC: BE SLOW TO ANGER

TEXT: Proverbs 19:11

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.”

Discretion is the ability to know the right action for any occasion. The word “deferreth” implies “putting off”, “delaying”, or “postponing something”. Godly discretion chooses to delay and postpone getting angry when someone offends you.

Most times when offended by others, we bristle with hostility, choose to be hurt, get indignant, bite back and plot revenge. This ought not to be so for a believer, for the Spirit we have received does not take joy in repaying evil with evil (1 Corinthians 13:5-7). He does not exhibit anger as one of His fruits. As believers, we must choose to forgive others when they hurt us. We should not be quick to retaliate when hurt and take pride in the actions that follow our retaliation. It is important that we know that once an offence is turned into conflict and strife, then you have a war that is not easily ended.

Beloved, we are to choose mercy, peace and love instead of retribution. No matter the height or depth of offences/ transgressions of others that irritate or provoke you, choose discretion and deferment over them. Glory to God, you have the ability of the Holy Ghost in your recreated spirit to love and forgive people at all times when hurt.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 31

TOPIC: SO GREAT AN ASSURANCE

TEXT: John 6:40

Written by: IKECHUKWU MARK OKEKE

“And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

There are so many misconceptions on what salvation really is. Many have tagged it to be “Christ’s payment for your sins until the next sinful conduct”. As much as the epistles deal with the conduct of believers, making us understand that we are saved unto good works in Christ, it is important to know and be assured that salvation is the work of God in Christ from the beginning to the end. God is solely responsible for the person who has believed in Christ Jesus.

The text above clearly states that it is God’s will that whosoever believe on Jesus Christ will be raised up on the last day. Thus, any believer who is afraid of the rapture has been wrongly taught the gospel of Christ and needs to renew his or her mind with the truth of God’s word.

It is Christ’s sole responsibility to raise anyone who believes on Him, for He has said, “I will raise him up”. This statement is affirmative. Paul, by the Spirit, was able to expound on this, saying “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

The dead shall rise first; this fact, in itself, is a strong fact showing that the responsibility of the resurrection is the Saviour’s. Beloved, be confident of this truth, that you will rise again on that last day, whether dead in Christ or alive, because the integrity of this everlasting event is rested on our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Oh what a great assurance!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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