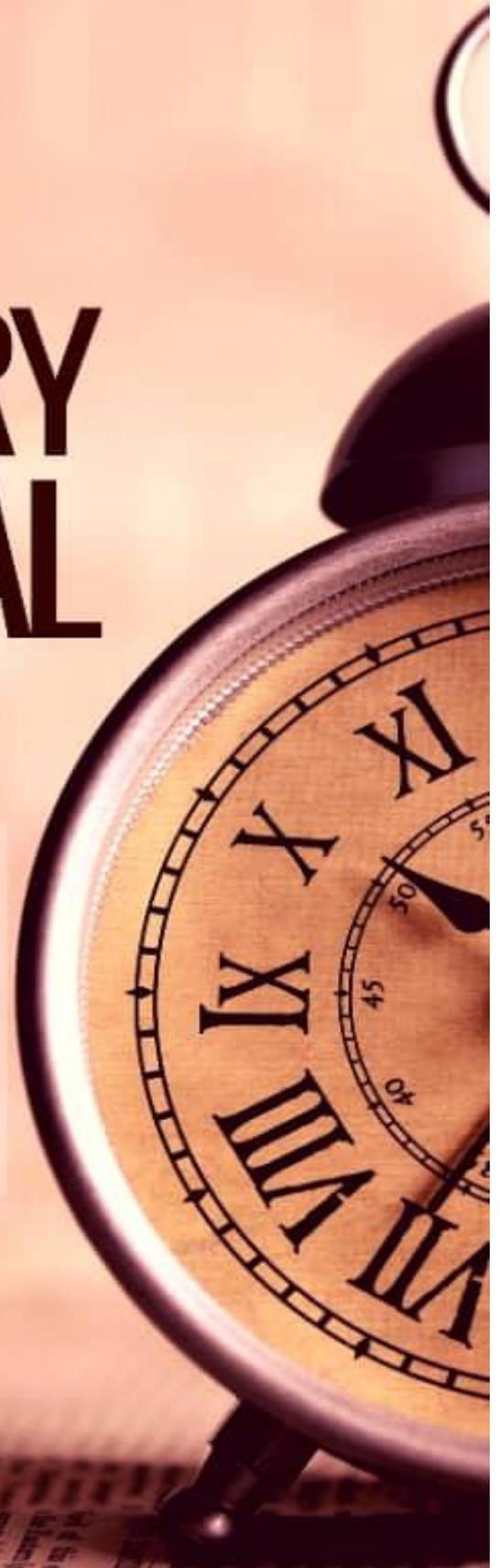




THE REFINERY DEVOTIONAL

START YOUR DAY
WITH CHRIST CONSCIOUSNESS
AND BE REFINED
UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS

AUGUST, 2018



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

You are FREE to share this devotional via social media platforms, and media sharing apps such as Xender, Flashshare etc.

You are also FREE to make public individual messages on the devotional that blessed you on particular days.

However, this devotional is a property of The Refinery Church; we do not encourage the editing of the messages in the devotional or using the devotional without proper acknowledgement of the source.

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

Blessings.

DAY 1

TOPIC: GOD IS ABLE

TEXT: Luke 12:22-23

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what you shall put on. The life is more than food and the body more than raiment.”

There are Christians who believe that God can save their souls, but they have a hard time believing that He will provide for their physical needs. They believe in Jesus' salvation, but they have a hard time believing Him for other things and as such when a challenge comes their way, they are bent over by it. This is because they just do not trust God enough to help them overcome those challenges.

If we read the verses after our Bible text, we will see that Jesus said we do not add to our stature by worrying. That is to say, our worrying and anxiety about our needs will not add one hour, or even one minute, to our lives. In fact, it may do just the opposite.

Our heavenly Father is capable of providing all that we need. We are His beloved children and there is nothing He cannot do for us. He says if He could provide food for the birds of the air that do not toil, how much more we, His children. He even says He clothes and beautifies the lilies of the field, making them more beautiful than Solomon in all his glory. Note that these same lilies of the field which are one minute bright and radiant and the next minute, burnt in the oven, God clothes them, and He says how much more you.

Child of God, cast your cares daily upon the Lord. Not doing so is pride, which many of us do not know. Staying gloomy and worried about needs that have not been met only leads to more worry. Trust God to meet all of your needs today and beyond. He will give you the desires of your heart.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 2

TOPIC: WE ARE SONS!

TEXT: Galatians 4:4-6

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."

The Apostle Paul employs words of affirmation in the above texts; he says "ye are sons". The word "are" is used to describe the exact state or position of a thing or person; thus, Paul's statement describes the exact position of every believer— He is a son of God. The believer's identity as a son of God is unchangeable. The believer's position is evidenced by indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

The word "crying" in the above text is from the Greek word "krazon" which means "to shout or to exclaim". It thus means that the moment the Holy Spirit who indwells our hearts shouts or exclaims Abba Father. It means our hearts (spirits) affirm also that we are sons of God.

The Apostle Paul explains this more clearly in Romans 8:15-16, He says *"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. **The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God**"*

The emboldened words are a further proof that our born again spirits agree to the reality of our sonship. Our spirits and the Holy Spirit are in agreement that we are sons of God. Now, it is possible that sometimes you may not feel like it or it may not look like it but nothing changes— God's Spirit and our spirits are in cohesion. We reeducate our minds to the reality within us; we don't draw our affirmation from outside but inside where there is a continuous shout—"Abba Father!"

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 3

TOPIC: THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

TEXT: Luke 9:23

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

"And he said to [them] all, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Shortly after Jesus began to talk about his death and resurrection to His disciples, He also mentioned sacrifices that are attached to serving Jesus upon receiving salvation. He puts it out without mincing words that there are certain things that a man that will follow him must do; such must deny himself, daily take up his cross and follow him (Jesus).

To deny one's self is to strip one's self of certain rights and even privileges as long as they will hinder one from serving God maximally. Such rights may differ from one person to another and depending on circumstances. For example, one may have to forgo a very legitimate job with a high pay, if it will reduce one's commitment to evangelism, praying, fellowshiping with other saints, etc. One will have to forfeit seeing a football match or movie at a cinema just because it clashes with the time of fellowshiping with other believers. The things that a man that will follow (serve) Jesus will have to deny himself are not all necessarily sinful, however they may hinder the work of the gospel at such instance if they are not denied.

While we must never forget that God has given us earthly things to maximise and enjoy. We must never at any point allow them hinder or even reduce our commitment to God's work. The work of Jesus demands our full attention, focus and commitment. We must take heed to ourselves and never allow the work to suffer. All our career and academic aspirations, marital desires, social influences are good and legitimate, but we must always prioritise the work of the gospel above them. We must seek to use them to achieve more for the work of the gospel rather than making them oppose the work of the gospel that has been committed to our hands.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 4

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.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 5

TOPIC: JESUS IS THE PROFILE OF GOD

TEXT: Colossians 1:15

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:”

The word “image” as used in the text above was translated from a very interesting word in the Greek originals. It’s the word “eikon”, which means “profile”. In other words, Apostle Paul is saying here that Jesus is the profile of the invisible God! This means if God were to attend an interview and a request is made of His profile, He would just point to Christ. Paul is telling us here that God cannot be known outside Christ. In other words, it is Christ who gives us the knowledge of God. He is the education about God. He is the school wherein God is known. Thus, it will be wrong to go out of this school in the quest to know God, as that can only lead to nothing else but error.

What did we see of Christ when He walked the earth bodily? In Acts 10:38, all that Jesus did was summarized as “good”. Thus, in Christ we know that God is good. Jesus killed no man, but raised dead men to life; hence, we know God kills no man but gives life to the dead. Jesus oppressed no man, but delivered many from the oppression of the devil; hence, we know what God does is to deliver from oppression and not to oppress. We have seen the résumé of God. We have seen Christ who is His profile! Thus, we are assured about who the God we serve is. We are not in the dark about Him. We know He is our Father. We know He is goodness personified. We know no evil comes from Him. We are sure of this! Thus, because we know this, we rebel fiercely against anything that contradicts His goodness; we stand against it, and we prevail by His ability in us.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 6

TOPIC: A SOFT ANSWER

TEXT: Proverbs 15:1

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”

The tone, demeanor, remarks, politeness and personal touch with which a person answers another person is very important because it will affect how the message is received.

Provocative and offensive words when used in a misunderstanding can fuel all kinds of evil; but a mild, kind and gentle response could help to calm matters. For instance, if someone is angry with you, either it's your fault or not, you can end the matter peaceably by responding with kind words rather than with your own anger in defense.

More often than not, our pride argues against this wisdom by saying we must protect ourselves. But, there is wisdom in using soft words as a reply when misunderstandings occur, either it is in your marriage, place of work or your neighbourhood.

Many conflicts can be resolved if the parties involved toned down their temperaments and answered each other with mild and reasonable words. Note that a soft answer need not be a weak one, nor should it imply any compromise of truth. It may be firm, though soft in language and it is usually impossible to resent a reply given in a mild tone, for such reply is mostly effective in the minds of the other part.

Child of God, most importantly we are to follow peace with all men, for peace is a fruit of our recreated spirits. And as believers, we are to exhibit this fruit of the Spirit alongside others at all times. As you carry out your day-to-day activities, ensure that you live peaceably with all men.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 7

TOPIC: BY THE SAME SPIRIT

TEXT: 1st Corinthians 12:11

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

Preceding the text above, the Apostle Paul had identified several gifts of Spirit. In verse 11 however, he made us know the premise or source for the demonstrations of the gifts— it is Holy Spirit that worketh.

The word "worketh" in the above text means; "to show forth self; efficient, active, fervent"; it thus means that the Holy Spirit shows himself fervently, efficiently or actively in and through every believer in Christ.

This activity, efficiency, and fervency is within our recreated spirits, where the Holy Spirit dwells— it is not in our minds. Hence, in seeking to demonstrate God's gifts, our strength should be from within our spirits and not from or in the flesh. Our pattern of thoughts must be that God's ability is actively working in us in spite of us. Our motivation should be that God works in us actively. Glory!

So, can we demonstrate all the gifts of the Spirit? Yes! Why? God works through us all!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 8

TOPIC: SPEAK TO THIS MOUNTAIN (1)

TEXT: Mark 11:23

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

"For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

Jesus walked on the earth with enough examples for us to learn how a man that is one spirit with God ought to live his life! Furthermore, He exemplified how a man that is in oneness with divinity ought to speak. Jesus spoke to circumstances, things, demons etc. and they obeyed Him. This is so repetitive in the earthly ministry of Jesus that one cannot deny.

Today's text shows how Jesus told His disciples that if only they will dare to talk to a physical mountain to be removed and cast into the sea, it will happen if only they don't doubt in their hearts. You see, "this mountain" as it applies to us today, may not necessarily be a physical mountain, as we don't always have to send or move physical mountains out of our ways every now and then. This mountain speaks of every obvious obstacle or seemingly impossible things that we need to remove or get done respectively. Such mountains could be a terminal disease, a reoccurring academic failure, etc.

There is a very high tendency of us to be intimidated by such circumstances that we forget that the instruction is to speak. If we carefully observe the words of Jesus here, He didn't say that we should ask God to come assist us in moving such mountains, He simply instructed that we speak directly to such mountain. We must never forget that just as Jesus exemplified, we must learn to speak! Circumstances, events, things, demons and diseases can all hear us whenever we speak to them. Yes; they hear us! Therefore, we must never stop speaking.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 9

TOPIC: SPEAK TO THIS MOUNTAIN (2)

TEXT: Mark 11:23

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

"For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

We had earlier seen from the first part of this devotional that Jesus expects us to speak to contrary situations or the seemingly impossible things on our way and that they will obey us. These words of Jesus are to be trusted. In fact, He commenced this particular instruction with the word "verily" which means "truly". Today, we shall proceed a step further to see the other part of the instruction. We shall look into how to speak without doubting.

A believer that doubts the potency of the words of his mouth to "this mountain" is either an ignorant or negligent man. He's either not allowing the reality of his authority in Christ to saturate his soul or deliberately neglecting this reality. The cure to both is to feed his soul with the reality of the "so great authority" that has been committed to his care so much that he is overwhelmed to a level that he cannot neglect it again. He must read, think and speak of the authority every time. He must do this till he's drunk of it. Once your soul is super-saturated with the reality of your authority, it is just normal for the mouth to affirm the same with so much assurance. This is because our mouths speak out of the abundance of our hearts.

Dear believer, you must never reckon yourself as helpless. There is so much help trapped up inside you. You are a speaking spirit. You must be deliberate about using your mouth in orchestrating what you want and what you don't want. Angels respond when we speak, human bodies that have been afflicted by sicknesses hear the authority in our words and they are repaired or renewed, the works of Satan are shattered when we speak. Saturate your mind with the word and don't stop speaking!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 10

TOPIC: YOU ARE BOLD!

TEXT: Proverbs 28:1

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion."

Who is the righteous man? The epistles give us a clear-cut answer to that. It is that man who has believed in Jesus Christ. He is the justified man. He is the bold man. The epistles further clarify to us that we have not received the spirit of fear. In other words, we have a Spirit within us that has not a trait of fear. He is power. He enables us to be bold.

No wonder Peter stood up with all boldness on that day when he, alongside the other people in the upper room, had received the Holy Ghost to preach the word of God to the people. It was the Holy Ghost in him stirring him up to speak. We have that same Spirit within us today, and he stirs us always unto all boldness.

We, as believers, are bold men, for we have the Holy Ghost within us. We go forth into all the corners of the earth, we march on into all the regions of the world, we speak God's word to all peoples in every nation, every tongue, and every kindred, for we are bold men of a bold Spirit!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 11

TOPIC: A COMPASSIONATE GOD

TEXT: Matthew 14:13-14

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities. And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.”

Prior to Jesus meeting the multitudes, he had just received an information that John was dead. John the Baptist was not just the forerunner of Jesus Christ, he was also his relative. John was beheaded by King Herod upon request by the daughter of Herodias. The news of John’s death must have been a sad one for Jesus and his disciples to bear.

Just after receiving this news, Jesus travelled by a ship to a desert place but a multitude followed him on foot. When Jesus saw this great multitude, he was moved with compassion. The word “compassion” means “deep awareness of the suffering of another, coupled with the wish to relieve it”. In other words, Jesus had pity on them due to their illnesses and he healed them all of their diseases. He did not refuse them due to the fact that He just lost his relative, John. He cared for them selflessly by healing them because His nature is love.

The Bible reveals that Jesus is the express image, representation and profile of God (*Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3*). When we see Jesus, we see God. The nature of God is that he is compassionate. He cares about his own. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. The same way he is compassionate to the multitude as seen in our text, he is to us. He does not have the ability to be cruel. There is no hatred in Him. This is our God, He is full of love and compassion.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 12

TOPIC: KNOW YE NOT?

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 3:16

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

The knowledge of who a person is or what he has affects everything he says or does. Thus the believer in Christ must continually be reminded of who he is.

Apostle Paul, in his letters to the Church, relentlessly laid emphasis on who the believer in Christ is. He continuously talked about all of the realities embedded in the new creature. The only problem many a believer has is an identity problem. They often lose sight of who and whose they are.

We are told from our Bible text that we are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in us. God made His abode within the believer by His Spirit and He promised never to leave the believer at any time.

The believer's identity is tied to Christ's; for as Christ is, so are we in this world (1 John 4:17). We have all of His fullness and have been made joint-heirs with Him. We share in His glory, power, authority and favour. Thus, our revelation of Him is tantamount to a knowledge of ourselves.

Child of God, you are a SON, and no more estranged from God (Ephesians 2:19). You belong to God's family now and you enjoy same privileges as Christ does because of His death, resurrection and glorification. You belong to a breed of conquerors, winners and overcomers. Nothing catches you unaware. You reign in life by Christ. You have passed from death to life. You are a partaker of God's divine nature. You can heal the sick, raise the dead, and cast out devils. All these and many more, as stated in the epistles by the apostles, is who you are, beloved of God.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 13

TOPIC: WE CANNOT BE LOST

TEXT: John 6:39-40

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."

The above verses are very clear; it is the Father's will that believers will not be lost in Christ. Now, in the passage above, Jesus Christ speaks extensively about the will of God to keep the believer safe. He also affirms what He himself would do repeatedly but He does not mention at all what the believer would do to keep himself safe by himself. This is because we have nothing to do other than what He will do. Jesus has the sole responsibility to keep us safe in Him.

The Apostle Jude affirms this very clearly in Jude 1:24; he says *"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,"*

God is able to keep us from falling. Hallelujah!

There is something very remarkable again in the book of John where we read earlier; Jesus said He will raise us up at the last day, this means physical realities cannot invalidate our realities by God's Spirit. We have eternal life and as result we cannot remain dead even if we die, for we shall be resurrected!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS

DAY 14

TOPIC: THERE IS A POWER AT WORK IN US

TEXT: Ephesians 3:20

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”

The Apostle Paul, by revelation, gives us a clear information in the text above: there's a power that works in us. The word rendered as “power” in the text above is the Greek word “dunamis”. It refers to a miraculous power. Much more, it speaks of something that's a miracle itself. The word rendered as “worketh” is the Greek word “energeo”. It refers to something that's efficient, active, and operative. In other words, this power never goes to sleep. It's an ever-constant, ever-working, and ever-producing power.

Paul opens up the book of Ephesians by letting us know the capability of this power.

Ephesians 1:19

“And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,”

This power at work in the believer is the same one which raised Christ from the dead. It is exceedingly great, and mighty. That's the power at work in us! So, the believer never has a scarcity of power. For there is a miraculous power that is efficient, active, and operative within him.

Oh, what confidence and assurance we have when we know there's a mighty power at work in us! We are not ordinary men; we are power houses! We are assured of this ever-constant, never-failing, ever-producing power within us, and we go forth dispensing this power with great miracles following.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 15

TOPIC: JESUS MAKES WHOLE

TEXT: ACTS 9:32-33

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda. 33- And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy. 34- And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.”

The Apostle Peter encountered a man who had been paralyzed for eight years and said affirmatively to him that Jesus Christ makes him whole. The word used as whole in this text is the word “*iaomai*” in the Greek; which means “*to cure or heal.*”

We are to declare to the sick that Jesus heals. The healing power and ability is in the message that Christ makes whole. We are not to heal the sick based on our sense of worthiness or holiness but on what Christ has done.

Jesus instructed us to heal the sick because he makes people whole. We only have the duty to declare (pronounce boldly) what Christ has done as regards the sickness.

Today, choose to declare to the sick that Christ makes whole and you will see the sick receive healing in their bodies. The word of the Lord is true. Declare the word!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 16

TOPIC: WHAT ARE YOU SEEING AND SAYING?

TEXT: Mark 4:39

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“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.”

When a huge storm arose as Jesus and His disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee, He did not say to His disciples, “The storm is here, there’s nothing I or anyone can do”, nor did He say, “here is where we will all perish”. The Bible records that Jesus stood up in the midst of the raging storm, took authority over the storm and said, “Peace, be still”, and there was a complete calm on the Sea.

When issues arise, do you see defeat? Or you see a dead end when some seemingly insurmountable problems show up? Or maybe you think God has forgotten you and is punishing you for your numerous sins?

Brethren beloved, you need to rest in the Father’s love for you. He gave up His only begotten Son so He could also bring you into His family (John 3:16). He is always for you and never against you (Romans 8:31). He wills that you prosper and be in health even as your soul prospers (3rd John 2). He has promised to never leave nor forsake you; for He lives in you by His Spirit.

Just like Jesus did, we are to declare peace to every ‘storm’ in our lives. We are not to go through life with the mindset of a loser, for we have the victory through Christ. We are to have faith in God’s ability to change the course of things in our favour.

As you go about your day, take charge of situations, make positive confessions over that business, child, health condition, etc. Declare only the will of the Lord over your life and see things turn around for good.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 17

TOPIC: IN THE NAME OF JESUS

TEXT: Acts 3:6-7

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. [7] And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength."

Look at what the name of Jesus did in the text above— a lame man received strength to walk again. This is remarkable! Such are things that become possible by the name of Jesus.

We have authority by that name: the name of Jesus. Through this name, the apostles worked mighty miracles in the midst of men. We have that same authority by that name. By this name, we can work tremendous signs and wonders. Amen!

Look what the Apostle Peter affirms above; he says *"Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee..."* We might not have silver or gold but we have (i.e. we are in possession of) the name of Jesus! In further texts, the Apostle Peter tells us it is not of their holiness; he tells us that the name works great wonders in spite of them.

Beloved, let us have this mindset at all times. We can speak the name in all authority and see great and mighty things happen. Alleluia! Glory to God!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 18

TOPIC: BE ENCOURAGED!

TEXT: Hebrews 6:10

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

"For God [is] not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

The work of the ministry which every believer must be actively involved with comes with a lot of persecution, sacrifices, oppositions, and pains. All these may culminate into frustrations and discouragements if care is not taken.

At times, it appears you are sacrificing a whole lot but you are seeing just some bits of results. Perhaps you have been giving yourself to prayer, bible study, evangelism and discipleship, yet it appears like the heart of men are not willing to receive the word through you. In fact, it could be that you have gone all the way to sacrifice materially such that you're in debt just because you desire that the work of the ministry doesn't fail in your hands. It is quite understandable that all these can easily weary the soul, however, you should draw comfort and strength from our text scripture. God is not unrighteous to forget your labour of love. He'll bring the gift of yielding men, He will make more resources available for the work, He will ultimately reward you at the reward seat of Christ.

Beloved, it's not time to give up yet! It's time to fire up and shake off every form of discouragement. God will prosper the work committed to your hands. It's not time to faint. Be encouraged!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 19

TOPIC: THE GOOD SHEPHERD

TEXT: Psalms 23:1

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“The LORD [is]my shepherd; I shall not want.”

David, the writer of this text had always been on the field caring for the sheep since he was young. He was brave and strong. He fought wild beasts and killed them when they tried to destroy his sheep. From his experience as a shepherd, he declared that the Lord is his shepherd.

The Old Testament scriptures are the shadows of what is to be revealed in the New Testament. Jesus revealed to us in John 10:11 that He is the good shepherd who gives his life for the sheep. Our Lord Jesus is not just a shepherd but “the good shepherd. “His love for the sheep is manifested in His death and resurrection.

Surely, we have a good shepherd. He is our Lord Jesus Christ who gave himself as a sacrifice for our sins. He knows us. He will never cast us away. He will never give up on us. He gave us eternal life and we shall never perish, neither shall anything pluck us away from his hand.

Beloved, you are secure in Christ. Nothing shall separate you from the love that the good shepherd has for you. The epistles also reveal this truth in Romans 8:35[The Message Version]

‘Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ’s love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in scripture’.

Let this fill your mind.

Confession: The Lord Jesus is my good shepherd, I shall not perish. I believe rejoice.

Rejoice!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

Further Study: John 10:11-14, John 10:27-30, Hebrews 13:20.

DAY 20

TOPIC: SERVICE

TEXT: Romans 12:1

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

There have been a number of misconceptions as regards the verse above. Some folks say that people have to make their bodies holy before they can present them. However, that's the exact opposite of what's conveyed in that verse. It already reveals to us that the presentation of our bodies can only be done by the mercies of God. It's not by the deeds of man. It's by God's mercies.

Furthermore, it tells us that by the mercies of God, our bodies are a living sacrifice, which is holy and acceptable unto God. In other words, our acceptance by God is through his (God's) own mercies. We are accepted by his mercies. We are not seeking for him to be pleased with us. No. He is pleased with us. What then did the Apostle Paul mean by "...present your bodies?"

Paul is saying, having seen all these things which you have been made by his mercies, presenting your body should be your reasonable service. The word reasonable is from the Greek word "logikos." It means "logical." It's like saying to a prince, "having known that you are a king's child, it's only logical for you to act like one." Dearly beloved, it's only logical for you to desire to serve. A life of service is what we have been born unto. We are about our Father's business. It's the logical thing to do. We give ourselves unto his cause. His cause is our cause. We're devoted to it. We are holy now. Hence, we present our bodies. To not present our bodies reflects a doubt or unbelief of who we are in Him. We take delight in service. That's who we are!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

Further Study: Romans 12:2

DAY 21

TOPIC: GOD GIVES AND GIVES!

TEXT: Romans 8:32

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“He that spared not his own son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”

At funerals, we sometimes hear the preacher say, “The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord.”

It is amazing to know that most believers believe that God gives and also takes away. Job displayed this very same attitude when he was told about the demise of his children and the death of his livestock. He was of the mindset that God was behind all of the calamities that befell him, not knowing it was the enemy (the devil) who had come against him.

That attitude or thought by many seems to honour God as sovereign, but in reality, it gives an erroneous view of our heavenly Father. God is a giver and not a taker, as our text above confirms. It pleases Him to give His Spirit to anyone who believes in Jesus.

Jesus, being the true image of the Father, only went about doing good while He walked the earth. He met every need. He healed every sickness and disease brought to Him without taking a dime away from those came to Him. All He did is what the Father does.

Beloved, if God spared not His Son but gave Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him, also freely give us all things?

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 22

TOPIC: ENSURING INCREASE IN THE BODY

TEXT: Ephesians :15-16

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: [16] From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

The above texts reveal some major facts; the first being that the operations of the gifts of the Spirit are of (from) Christ. It further clarifies that we derive all sufficiency from Christ alone. In furtherance of that, the Apostle reveals what is the correct order in the body of Christ.

The Apostle says *"every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love"*.

He makes it clear that believers are to work in unison in the edification of the body. The word "supplieth" therein is the same as "to contribute". So, Apostle Paul implies that every believer plays his part in the edification of the body; he says this is how increase is made for the body. So, we are able to see that the increase of the body is the responsibility of each member of the body.

We also learn here the power of uniformity or unity of all members of the body of Christ, in that it is what makes increase available. Therefore, all must contribute to make increase available. So, choose this day and further ahead to contribute immensely towards the increase of the body of Christ wherever you are. Amen!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 23

TOPIC: GLORY IN THE LORD ONLY

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 1:30-31

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

"30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

As believers, it is not bad that we get to the pinnacle of our professions; or that become well sought after in our respective careers. Perhaps, our professional expertise, exposure and experience have even made us so prominent that we have become an authority figure in such field. We may possibly have the largest shares in several multinational companies. This may also be our experience in several other ramifications of life and it's all fine.

We must however be careful never to allow these things to be the source of our glorying. They must never be our confidence for rejoicing. This is because the best of certificate there is in this earth is as worthless as a rough paper on the scale of eternity if it doesn't contribute to the gospel in any way. Our glorying must not be in things but in a person; Jesus Christ! Hence, our text unveils that Jesus must always be the source of our rejoicing. It is therefore an unscriptural practice to rank certain believers above others based on their "secular" exploits.

If any believer seeks to glory at all, his glorying ought to be in the reality of what God has done in Jesus Christ. What Christ has done is the only thing that lasts forever; hence our rejoicing and glorying is established on a forever reality.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 24

TOPIC: BE FILLED WITH JOY

TEXT: ACTS 13:52

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.”

In spite of the persecutions by the Jews; the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Ghost. They were not moved by the persecution but were conscious of the Holy Ghost. The word “filled” in our text is the word *“pleroo”* in the Greek which means “to furnish, imbue or endow.” In other words, the disciples were endowed, furnished or leveled up with joy by the Holy Ghost.

The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. The believer is in the kingdom of God. He is not void of the Spirit. He has the joy of the Holy Ghost forever. He is then expected to give a physical expression to the joy by rejoicing.

To rejoice is to physically leap for joy. It is a physical reaction to the joy on the inside. The believer is not to be overwhelmed with sorrows brought by the troubles faced in this world. He or She is to be constantly aware of the fullness of joy that is on the inside of him or her. The epistles clearly instruct that we should rejoice forevermore (1 Thessalonian 5:18).

It is noteworthy that our rejoicing is not conditional. We are not to rejoice when we have money or when we are making good grades in school. We are to rejoice in all circumstances, and at all times.

Choose to be filled with joy by the Holy Ghost!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

Further Study: 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Philippians 4:4; 2 Corinthians 6:10

DAY 25

TOPIC: BE FILLED WITH JOY (2)

TEXT: ACTS 13:52

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.”

In the first part of this devotional, we learnt that the believer has joy. He is not going to have it in heaven. He has it already. By this, the believer is instructed to rejoice. We shall now consider the result that joy produces for the believer. The scripture affirms that the Joy of the Lord is our strength. So we see that joy produces strength. In other words, when the believer rejoices, he is strengthened. Isn't this beautiful?

In our present world, many get addicted to drugs and alcohol in order to get off their worries and gain strength to overcome the difficult situations that they face. They often tag it “getting high.” This has failed them, for they find no strength in it. But, in Christ, there is so much strength to carry on. The believer gets more strength by rejoicing. It doesn't have to make sense to the natural man for it is by the Spirit.

Today, choose to rejoice despite the challenges and difficult situations. Get serious about it. And as you do, you would feel peace and calmness from the inside. Great ideas would pop up in your mind and you will find strength to keep going. Do not despise rejoicing, therein lies great service

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

Further Study: Nehemiah 8:10; Romans 15:13; 1Peter 4:13

DAY 26

TOPIC: IT'S A MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION!

TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-19

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

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

Many have set their foot on a wrong mission. They do exactly the opposite of what God has sent us to do. Often do we hear people shout into their megaphones and microphones: “you wretched sinner, God is against you! Very soon, God's wrath shall be poured out upon you!”

However, this is not what we have been sent to do. We have not been sent to shout death and condemnation into the ears of people. Not at all! We have been called as “preachers of reconciliation.” What is the message of reconciliation? It is very clearly seen in 2 Corinthians 5:19; “...that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them...” Hallelujah! The message of reconciliation is that God is not imputing men's trespasses unto them.

We are not to shout death and condemnation upon people. What we shout in every corner and every place is life and righteousness. We are ministers of the new covenant; preachers of righteousness. We have received this wonderful ministry from the Lord. It's a ministry of reconciliation!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

Further Study: 2 Corinthians 3:6; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

DAY 27

TOPIC: GIVE THEM ALL YOU CAN!

TEXT: Ephesians 6:4

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

Proper upbringing is the best investment one can make on his/her child. Every other investment may yield results; but none can be compared to the joy, peace and blessings you receive when your child is well-nurtured in every area of his/her life. Parents/guardians are to do all it takes, physically and spiritually to groom their children rightly.

A parent is meant to be his/her child's greatest support system. No one can cheer him or her like you. From a young age, a child depends on his parents to lead him/her in the right path. We are admonished from our Bible text to bring up our children in the way of the Lord. It's our sole responsibility and not that of maids or menservants. It is not a job that should be left for only the mother, the father should also participate in the nurturing and teaching of the child the ways of the Lord. Your children should have confidence in you such that you are their first port of call when any issue arises. Do not make yourself incommunicado from your children/wards. Create ample time for every one of your kids, because in doing so, you are shaping them to be better people in the future.

Every child is unique in his/her own way, therefore you as a parent should be the first person to identify that uniqueness and with your commitment, dedication and diligence in the upbringing of your child, you can bring out the best in him/her. Every child can be the best they want to be, if they have parents/guardians that groom them well and believe in them.

Child of God, see your kids as people who God has entrusted into your hands to bring joy to you, the body of Christ and the world at large, and how you bring them up will determine how much peace you will enjoy.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 28

TOPIC: THE RIGHT DISPOSITION TOWARDS SERVICE

TEXT: 1st Corinthians 4:2

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

The word "steward" is same as "an overseer or an employee". Every believer is a steward of God. We are all ministers of the Spirit and with several roles and offices to function in, in the body of Christ. In that wise, every believer ought to be faithful or trustworthy in service. This is the right culture or the right disposition to service on this earth.

The believer should thus not be such that is unruly, dubious or lazy in his responsibility. The right-minded believer would not refuse to be accountable in a local church, would not refuse to take instructions or be submissive to authority, would not withhold his services in his local church, would despise the use of his gifts etc.

See Apostle Paul's instruction in Roman's 12:6-8

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; [7] Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; [8] Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness."

We believers are called to render our services diligently— the word "diligently" means "with intense concentration and responsible regard". This is the right attitude; this is being in order.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 29

TOPIC: SELF CONTROL

TEXT: Galatians 5:22-23

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

*"22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*

The fruit of the Spirit as seen in the above text is best explained as the intrinsic characteristics embedded in every believer. These fruits are the same in quality and quantity inside every believer. No believer has more fruits of the Spirit than the other, although believers do manifest the fruits at different levels. Little wonder the Bible expressly declared that every believer is complete in Christ, who is the head of all principalities and powers.

"Temperance", as rendered by the King James' Version, is another word for "self-control" which is one of the fruits of the Spirit. Self Control is the intrinsic ability in the believer to tame his desires and passions, particularly his sensual appetites. A man once explained self-control as a virtue present in every believer which makes him to deny an immediate pleasure for a more glorious course. Such desires which are denied are not necessarily sinful (although they may be sinful). However, they are always things that give pleasure to the body.

As a believer in Christ, there is such great and mighty ability of God in you that can tame your flesh of its desires such as sexual pleasures, food, anger, sleep, etc. You have such strength as to flee from pre-marital sex, fast and pray and so on, even though your body seeks otherwise at such times. You see more of self-control manifesting in your life when you fix your mind on this reality till all your members are subject to the same truth. Self-control is yours, let it flow through you!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 30

TOPIC: THE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN

TEXT: James 5:16

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

AMP “Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].”

Here, we see that the prayer of a righteous man makes power available. The Apostle James lets us know that this power is tremendous. The Amplified Version amplifies to us much more that this power is dynamic in its working.

He uses the word “earnest” with the kind of prayer a righteous man prays. The righteous man is an earnest prayer. To be earnest is to be fervent. It is to exhibit a strong belief in something. Fervency can only come from an assurance. The Apostle James gives us an example of an Old Testament saint in subsequent verses. He spoke of the prophet Elijah; how he prayed that it wouldn't rain, and it didn't rain, and how he prayed that it would rain, and it did rain.

When we look at that story of Elijah's prayer in the scriptures, it is not difficult for us to understand Elijah's fervency in prayer. We see that the prophet Elijah was an assured man. He knew what he prayed about would come into being. Now, that was an Old Testament saint, who didn't have the indwelling of the Holy Ghost. How much more you, a new creature in Christ Jesus? How much more you, who have the indwelling of the Holy Ghost? Lift your voice in prayers with all assuredness! Speak with tongues with all boldness! For your earnest prayer makes much power available!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 31

TOPIC: TOTALLY FORGIVEN

TEXT: COLOSSIANS 1:14

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“...in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins...”

God does not keep any record of our sins; however grievous they are or they might be because Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was sufficient enough to pay for our past, present, and future sins.

Most people have the impression that it is only the sins that they committed right from when they were born until the day they became born-again that are forgiven. So right after they become born-again, they begin to confess their sins daily because they think if they don't, they'll never be forgiven.

There's nothing anyone can do to wash away his or her sins that Jesus hasn't already done on the cross. It is not by our weekly confession in church on Sundays. We have redemption through his blood.

You've got to be consistent in your believing that you have total forgiveness because of Jesus' blood. So, instead of being conscious of your sins and condemn yourself every single time you commit a wrong, just thank the Lord for his perfect sacrifice on the cross that's cleansed all your sins and live a victorious life. Hallelujah!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

Further Study: Romans 3:25; Romans 8:1