



# The Refinery Devotional

FEBRUARY, 2019

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

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**Blessings.**

## **DAY 1**

### **TOPIC: KEEP A STEADFAST MIND**

**TEXT: Isaiah 26:3**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

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

When a person’s mind is steadfast, then it’s firmly fixed in place. The word “stayed” in our text means “determination, or adherence”; it also means one’s mind is firm in belief and is not subject to change.

Our text gives the reason why one needs a steadfast mind— God will keep him in perfect peace. This perfect peace of God is present with you regardless of whatever comes your way (John 16:33). This perfect peace of God, Apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 4:7, is beyond human comprehension. It is not perturbed about issues to the point of losing faith in God; rather it is steadfast on God, unwavering concerning His promises. This peace is only resident in the Holy Ghost, who indwells every believer!

Beloved, you cannot go around life always hesitating, for that is being uncertain and unreliable about everything you think, feel or decide. James 1:5 lets us know “...a double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” He went on to say that such a man cannot receive anything from the Lord. God expects you to keep your mind stayed on Him. He expects you to be single-minded in your walk with Him. He expects you to strictly walk by faith at all times; for He has promised to never leave you nor forsake you. He wants you to know that His peace in the midst of chaos is constant and you can count on it.

Child of God, it is your sole responsibility to keep a steadfast mind as you go through life, for God’s peace will keep you and uphold you.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

**DAY 2**

**TOPIC: BORN OF GOD**

**TEXT: John 1:12-13**

**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; which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”*

The text above tells us that the believer is born not of blood or of the will of man but of God. This is not in any way to invalidate the fact that we all were given birth to through a normal human process of reproduction but the text clarifies to us that we're not just born of the flesh but we're born of a supernatural process which supersedes the natural— we're born of God. In other words, we were brought forth by God Himself and this is why we're now sons of God because we have been begotten by Him.

Thus, having being born of God, we are no longer mere men but men with the very nature/Spirit of God. 1 Peter 1:23 tells us that we were born not of corruptible seed but of the incorruptible seed of the word of God that lives and abides forever.

Brethren, this is our identity now! We're born of God; of His Spirit and of His word. God is our Father, and we belong to Him. We are no longer mere men but God-begotten men.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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### **DAY 3**

#### **TOPIC: GOD DELIGHTS IN ANSWERING YOU**

**TEXT: John 15:16**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”*

In the fifteenth chapter of John’s gospel, Jesus metaphorically described the oneness that the believer would have with Him and God upon receiving the Holy Spirit. He further clarified that anyone would receive Him because He first chose them and not because they chose Him. By extension, whatever the believer asks the Father in Jesus’ name, the Father will give it to him.

It is amazing that Jesus chooses people just so the Father can give them whatsoever they ask him. Oh, how that the believer may know that God has got him covered for every of his needs! “Whatsoever” as Jesus used here literally sounds like an open check to simply mention whatever is needed to the Father and He will get it done. Jesus actually chooses people so that the Father can grant them their heart desires. Jesus emphasized it here again in John 16:23b:

*“... Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give [it] you.”*

Are you a believer? Then these words are for you. You cannot exhaust “whatsoever”. Ask and keep on asking. God is faithful to His word; He will keep answering your request for He delights in doing that.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 4**

**TOPIC: GOD WANTS YOU WELL**

**TEXT: 3 John 1:2**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

*"2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."*

Apostle John's prayer for the elder Gaius (mentioned in verse 1) mirrors God's will for us. God wills that you prosper, and be in health, even as your soul prospers. God wants you to prosper in your finance. He wants you to have sound health. He wants your mind to be whole.

This implies that lack, sickness, and a chaotic state of mind aren't God's will for us. And if we know this, we can stand strong in faith, enforcing the will of God in areas of our lives where we do not see these things as a reality.

Beloved, God wants you to grow in spiritual things, as well as He wants you to have plenty, to be full of good things, to be totally healthy, and to have soundness of mind. As you go about your daily work, work with the consciousness of God's favour and wisdom. Know that He will send help. Men will arise for you. Angels will cause ways to open. Know that you will receive prosperity in all you do, as God causes the works of your hands to prosper exceedingly. Know that you will experience wholeness in your health and in your mind.

God wants you well, beloved. Never ever forget this!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 5**

**TOPIC: NO OTHER NAME**

**TEXT: Acts 4:12**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”*

Many religions of the world affirm the existence of God but deny the salvation which is by Jesus Christ, the son of God. In the bid to get to God, many have made for themselves idols either in persons or objects. They worship these gods hoping in them in they would be saved.

It is clear in all scriptures that there is no other name whereby the world can be saved except through the name of Jesus. The intent for the birth of Jesus is to take away the sins of the world. This was fulfilled in His death and resurrection, where He was offered up as the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. If any man accepts Jesus’ sacrifice for his sins, such a man is eternally saved.

Brethren, let us be more assured of the saving power in the name of Jesus. Whoever believes or accepts Jesus as his saviour is saved. There is no other way to salvation. Man-made idols cannot save a man neither can the works of a man save him. The only legal name that assures a man of salvation is the name of Jesus Christ.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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**Further Study: John 3:36; John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5-6**

## **DAY 6**

### **TOPIC: ASKING IN FAITH**

**TEXT: James 1:5-7**

**Written by: OKEKE IKECHUKWU MARK**

*“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all [men] liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.”*

It is very important to reiterate that no believer lacks faith. This is because at salvation, he has received faith by believing in the gospel (Romans 10:17). A fruit of the Spirit which every believer has is Faith. However, just as the believer is taught by the scriptures how to demonstrate love, longsuffering, self-control and every other fruit of the spirit, the believer in Christ also needs to be taught how to use faith in receiving from God.

In the Bible text above, although James was talking in the regard of wisdom in particular, he also states without ambiguity that God liberally gives whatever He gives. By this, he means that God gives out of His benevolence without upgrading or finding fault. Again, this affirms that once a believer asks God whatever is in God’s capacity to give, God doesn’t have the slightest reservation about giving.

Apostle James went ahead to explain how a man ought to ask. He needs to ask in faith! He further explained what it means to not ask in faith. To ask for something with one’s mouth when his heart is in disagreement with the mouth’s request is what it means to not ask in faith. James later referred to such man as “a double-minded man”. James didn’t say that God will not give him what he requests for; he simply said he should not think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. As you go about asking from God in prayer, ensure there is an agreement between what you say and what you believe in your heart.

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## **DAY 7**

### **TOPIC: I AM NOT ASHAMED**

**TEXT: Romans 1:16**

**Written by: ADEKOYA FEMI**

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

Such audacious statement by the apostle Paul here: "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ"! This kind of confidence comes with precise understanding of what the gospel of Christ really is in the complete sense of it. The Apostle Paul further explained that this gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes. What he simply says is that the power of God to save is all in the gospel.

What then is the gospel of Christ? It is the good news about Christ; a message that informs of Christ's death for the sins of men and consequently, His resurrection and ascension for the eternal justification of men who believe in Him.

Just like the Apostle Paul, it's also for us to declare that we're never ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for we are sure that the gospel is indeed the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes. This confidence is not just a mere boast, but that which we express in preaching.

Beloved, don't just say you're not ashamed of the gospel, but walk the talk by getting men to contact this power. Because, we're sure of this power, we preach this gospel unto men!

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## **DAY 8**

### **TOPIC: FOCUS ON JESUS**

**TEXT: Matthew 14:27**

**Written by: ADEMOLA IBITAYO**

*"But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."*

The text above shows the words of Jesus to the disciples in the midst of the contrary winds and their fear. He says "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid." Peter didn't take the words lightly; he decided to focus his mind on Jesus. He actually walked on water towards Jesus in the midst of the contrary winds while the other disciples probably watched in fear. He chose to focus on Jesus.

However, the moment he began to consider the contrary winds more, he became fearful, distracted from Jesus and he began to sink. He allowed doubt to gain dominance in his heart and this was what Jesus mentioned in verse 31 of the text. *"And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"*

Dear believer, it is important that you live with your focus on Jesus and His immeasurable capacity in you. Choose to see Him in your health, business, work, family, ministry and all that you do. The challenges are not bigger than what Jesus can handle. They only seem bigger when you shift your focus to them. Be deliberate about setting your focus on Jesus and have the power of God expressed against any contrary situation.

Thus, as you move on this year, let your considerations at all times be about Jesus and what He is able to do. He lives in you by the Holy Ghost and He is ever ready to show forth His goodness and glory in your life. Focus on Jesus!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 9**

**TOPIC: GREET THE BRETHERN**

**TEXT: ROMANS 16:8-11**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

*"Greet Amplias my beloved in the Lord. [9] Salute Urbane, our helper in Christ, and Stachys my beloved. [10] Salute Apelles approved in Christ. Salute them which are of Aristobulus' household . [11] Salute Herodion my kinsman. Greet them that be of the household of Narcissus, which are in the Lord."*

One very noticeable thing in the Apostle Paul's ministry was his greetings to brothers who have assisted him in ministry. He will always send emissaries to churches and individuals alike who have contributed to his ministry and doing well in far places; he will write letters to churches who have helped him with physical needs thanking them for their support

We thus can see that the Apostle Paul had great love and high regards for believers alike in Christ. It is not unusual to find him pray for these brothers and sisters in Christ; he is particular about them that he shares their burdens, challenges, faith, utterances etc.

In our time, things have changed, it is much easier now: the brother or sister is just a phone call or a WhatsApp message away. Reaching out is not difficult and prolonged again. We can pray for each other via phone calls, via chats etc.

We should do well in following up as a family in particular in the body of Christ. Give high regard to your pastors, appreciate the workers of your local church, exchange a hand of fellowship more, find about each other's wellbeing. Call often, it is a family.

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## **DAY 10**

**TOPIC: BE EDIFIED!**

**TEXT: 1 Corinthians 14:4a**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

*"4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself..."*

The text above, as every other text in the epistles, is deserving of attention. If we pay keen attention to the verse, we will notice the unmistakable tone of certainty with which the Apostle Paul gives this information about speaking in tongues: He who speaks in tongues is edified. Notice the text didn't say "he may be edified" or "he will feel edified", but that "he is edified".

The word "edified" here is a word in the Greek that implies "to be built up". In other words, as the saint lifts up his voice, uttering that heavenly language given by the Holy Ghost within him, he is built up. It doesn't matter if he "feels dry" as he prays or if he "feels empty". In midst of that feeling of dryness is an avalanche of power and edification made ready for use. This is a reality. It is not by emotions or feelings, but a reality of the Holy Ghost within.

This edification is seen in the boldness that rises from the heart of the believer as he prays (See Acts 4:31). The edification is seen also in the clarity that comes unto the believer about issues in his life. This edification is dynamic and multi-dimensional: it will cause the believer to be emboldened, help him to recognize the leading of the Spirit, cause him to be full of assurance, help him to walk in power, position him to receive from God in faith. It is all-round edification!

Brethren beloved, be edified. Take up that journey into the supernatural via the vehicle of prayer. Speak with tongues. Let boldness rise from within. Let the King roar from within. Let the victory sound get even louder. Let His power within you be put to use. Pray in tongues! There are mighty wonders awaiting you!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 11**

### **TOPIC: BELIEVERS' SECURITY SYSTEM**

**TEXT: Psalms 91:10-12**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. 11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. 12 They shall bear thee up in [their] hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.”*

The world we live in today is housed by the fallen earth and is not without the influence of the devil whose mission is to destroy and cause many evils. We now live in a world where there are lots of bomb blasts, natural disasters, killings, accidents, and so on. Many of these occurrences often take away lives or hurt lives. In fact, evils are now so common that one can assume that they are the norm.

Despite the presence of evil almost everywhere, the believer must never forget that God already has an organized system of protection for him, so he can live on earth without being hurt by any natural occurrence. Our text reveals that God has commanded His angels to bear us up in their hands such that no evil befalls us; either in the day (when we are active) or at night (when we are sleeping). Oh, how God wants every believer to know this and to walk in this reality!

Are you a believer? Then God's angels are for you to protect you in all your ways. They will keep you from every form of accident or disaster. You've got to lay hold on this and experience it. It is absolutely awkward for any believer to be physically hurt!

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## **DAY 12**

### **TOPIC: YOU ARE GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**TEXT: 2nd Corinthians 5:21**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”*

Righteousness is not about right conduct. It is a gift from God to us through Jesus Christ. And because it is a gift, it cannot be earned by the keeping of the law and right conduct. It can only be received. Some believers are of the belief that they have to work at becoming more righteous before God. They do not realize that all they will only achieve is to establish their own righteousness which counts as nothing before God.

God made His Son, Jesus, “who knew no sin to be sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” So today, everyone who receives the forgiveness of sins by believing in the Lord Jesus is automatically made the righteousness of God in Christ. Beloved, you are as righteous as Jesus is!

Most people have been made to believe that in God there are different classes of righteousness. There's the one that can only be obtained after a few years of walk with the Lord, then there's the other one that can be obtained by pious living or by the head of a church. That is not so, for anyone who believes in Jesus, has Jesus' righteousness. We all are 100 percent righteous in the eyes of God.

It is amazing to know that whether you become born-again this very minute or you did some 50 years ago, you have the same righteousness as every other believer in the body of Christ. When God looks at you, He sees His righteousness; He sees you sanctified, justified, holy completely forgiven and accepted before Him. We are to rejoice in this truth that our righteousness is only of God and it's a free gift from Him such that we need not work it out, now or in the future.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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**DAY 13**

**TOPIC: KEEP AT IT!**

**TEXT: 1 Corinthians 14:39**

**Written by: GBEMISOLA AYUBA**

*“Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.”*

So many times, we see a believer who walks in some spiritual realities or giftings with so much ease, while we see another believer who seems to be struggling to walk in the same reality, and in those moments, we can be tempted to feel like God is more at work in one believer than in the other. But this isn't the case, for we know that God is at work in us all, both to do and to will of His good pleasure.

The difference most times in the two believers is in how much of commitment and faithfulness one believer has put in what he does which has made him stand out in the use and mastery of such gifts.

The more we keep giving ourselves to spiritual exercises, the better we get at them. The more we attempt to work miracles, the easier it becomes to work miracles. The more we continue to walk in love, the easier it becomes to walk in love, for this is our nature.

Dearly beloved, do not be weary and do not relent, be faithful to those spiritual exercises. Keep at it. Keep attempting to do the supernatural, for by so doing, we gain mastery in the things of the Spirit walking in more ease, accuracy and precision.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 14**

### **TOPIC: CONSIDER THE LILLIES**

**TEXT: Luke 12:27-28**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

*"Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed s like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?"*

In the passage above, Jesus reawakens us to the consciousness of the care and awesomeness of the Father. Jesus affirms that God cares that you are clothed. This means furthermore that God cares about the things that matter in our lives.

In His admonition, He illustrates with the lilies of the field— how they grow and are arrayed in glory. How much us who are more valuable than the lilies? Take note; the lilies and the grasses of the field draw sustenance from the ground wherein they are rooted, meaning God provided source of living for them such that they had not hindrance. This means God is not in any way incapacitated to provide for us our means of sustenance that we lack nothing.

Our Father is the God of awesome wonders; He can provide for us all the things that we need. Hence, we need to trust in Him; we need not get worried because we have a Father who is not in obscurity about all that we need. He can bring our sustenance close to us even more than we ever thought.

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## **DAY 15**

### **TOPIC: HOW TO DEAL WITH THE LAW**

**TEXT: Galatian 4:30**

**Written by: OKEKE IKECHUKWU MARK**

*“Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.”*

Many of us have grown in Christian communities where we observe ceremonial sanctity or where piety in appearance or deed before eyes are used as prerequisites to earn God’s blessings, protection and acceptance.

Many don’t fully believe that what Jesus did in His resurrection is enough to keep their relation with God; therefore they sink into the Law of Moses to commensurate what Jesus did. We must understand that all we received from God in Christ is totally independent of us. It is all of Christ and none of us— a gift given us freely by God.

In the Galatian Church, there was this same issue of trying to sustain relationship with God by the works of the law. Paul then asked them a rhetorical question in Galatians 3:3 to jolt them back into proper thinking: “Are ye so foolish? Having begun I the spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?”

Paul rebuked and corrected anyone who doesn’t trust wholly on what Jesus did, by revealing that the scripture’s prescription for dealing with the law or any thought that wants to add to what Jesus has done is to cast it out (Galatians 4:30). In other words, send that thought away; give no room for it, for it is by the Spirit from the beginning till eternity. We are saved by grace, and not of works. Hallelujah!

**Further Study:** Galatians 3 & 4

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 16**

### **TOPIC: FELLOWSHIPING WITH GOD IN TONGUES**

**TEXT: 1 Corinthians 14:2, 15**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“2 For he that speaketh in an [unknown] tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth [him]; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. 15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”*

One of the core things taught and practiced by Jesus is the act of Praying. Jesus instructed His disciples without any iota of ambiguity that they ought to always pray and not to be weary of such. Such act of praying is not always dependent on need. It is a father-to-son conversation that is based on relationship; just like every lover seeks to communicate even when there seems to be busy schedules. Shortly after the resurrection of Jesus was the birth of a new set of people. They are the new creatures; the believers in the death and the resurrection of Jesus! They also continued in this instruction, however in a more effective manner.

The first gathering they had was started with a remarkable event; praying in tongues. They had been taught the act of praying before then, but much more than that was a promise given to them by Jesus Himself that they were going speak in other tongues after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Little wonder it wasn't strange to them when they witnessed it. Amazingly, they prayed in tongues for a period of three hours despite being their first experience. Some of these people were there with Jesus in Gethsemane and couldn't pray for up to one hour yet they did pray for three hours at a stretch when they first prayed in tongues. They henceforth made it a practice and some of the Apostles wrote about praying in tongues in their epistles.

Speaking in tongues is supernatural and enjoyable. You can sing it or just say it. You speak directly to God and such experience is always thrilling!

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**DAY 17**

**TOPIC: WHY WORRY?**

**TEXT: Matthew 6:27**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

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

Many of us are familiar with the above text of the Bible but not many of us actually allow the love of God to free us from our habit of worrying. Worrying robs one of good sleep and good health, and the truth of the matter is that no amount of worrying can lengthen one's life or add to our stature.

When you worry, you put yourself in a position to believe that the devil has the power to access your life and family such that God cannot protect you from him. But we are instructed to resist him steadfastly in the faith and he'll flee.

Beloved, let your faith be in God's ability to come through for you, and your confidence in His unchanging love and power that is able to deliver you from whatever you are going through. Choose today to live a worry-free life by casting all of your cares upon the Lord.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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**DAY 18**

**TOPIC: BE DELIBERATE ABOUT GOOD WORKS**

**TEXT: Titus 3:8**

**Written by: GBEMISOLA AYUBA**

*“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 text above shows Apostle Paul’s instruction to Titus to ensure he (Titus) continues to affirm that believers should be careful to maintain good works. He didn't say they were to do this to get God's approval or commendation, nor as a qualifying factor to get to heaven as some erroneously teach, but that they do this because its profitable to men.

Believers are born of God; we are representatives of God on the earth. Hence, we must project God's image and character correctly to the world. Having God's Spirit, who produces His character in us; we are to be deliberate in ensuring that we showcase this character to the world.

Let's walk in love because we have the Spirit of love, let's be tenderhearted and compassionate; let's be straightforward and honest in business for this is good and profitable to men.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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**Further Study:** Ephesians 2:10

**DAY 19**

**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 a raven 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!

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**DAY 20**

**TOPIC: AS UNTO THE LORD**

**TEXT: Colossians 3:23**

**Written by: ADEKOYA FEMI**

*"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;"*

It's quite interesting that many of the instructions or admonitions contained in the epistles for the believers are always hinged or come with the phrase "unto the Lord". This phrase communicates a sense of obligation unto us as believers in Christ Jesus, in living our lives as people worthy of acceptance and pleasing unto the Lord, in all things. Be it in our actions and inactions; be it with our body, soul or spirit, either spiritual or secular, we must do all as unto the Lord.

Dear believer, you're certainly one spirit with Christ Jesus; you're simply joined unto the Lord (1Cor 6:17). You have been crucified with Christ and now you live unto Him who died for you.

2 Corinthians 5:15 *"And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."*

The life we live now is never unto ourselves; we're the Lord's possession. It's only appropriate to walk in this knowledge in all that we do here on earth. Living as unto the Lord is living a life of honour unto Him. This is what it means to live worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing. Tell yourself "I'm joined unto the Lord; I'm only permitted to live as unto Him."

**Further Study:** Roman 14:7-8; Eph. 5:10

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 21**

### **TOPIC: ESTABLISHED IN THE TRUTH**

**TEXT: Philippians 3:1**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed [is] not grievous, but for you [it is] safe.”*

In the text above, Apostle Paul brings a concept that is found in several places in the Bible to the fore. He suggests that what he was writing to the Philippians were either the things he had earlier written to them or personally taught them. It is clear that they were already acquainted with the things he was saying in his epistle; nonetheless, he went ahead to still write the same things to them and considers such as a safe thing to do.

Obviously, there must be a great advantage in learning the things that one has known over and over again. We must never get tired of listening again and again to the biblical teachings, admonitions and instructions that we have known in times past. This will help us to be more firmly rooted and stable in the Lord. That is, we will not be easily drifted away or deceived by false teachings that may be flying around. In fact, this was the reason why Paul made such statement in the context of the Philippians' epistle as he went on immediately to warn them against certain people; the concision.

Also, the Galatians were easily deceived from the grace of God (Galatians 1:6) because they stopped listening to the things that they had learnt and started listening to new teachings. It is not mere religion to read the same books of the Bible repeatedly, listen to wholesome messages and instructions over and over again. According to Paul, it is a safe practice for a believer to do. Every believer must never get tired of hearing again and again the seemingly simplest truths of the Bible. You also must never get tired of the same truths you have known!

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**DAY 22**

**TOPIC: STAYING POSITIVE**

**TEXT: Philippians 4:8**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

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

On this earth, circumstances or happenings in the society we live in challenge our thoughts on a consistent basis. These times, we find offensive or despicable happenings all around us. For example, rampant divorce, infidelity, sexual abuses among several others.

As believers, we are to be careful not to allow the frequency of these bad occurrences affect our minds negatively. For instance, we should never hold the notion that marriages don't last because the divorce rate is alarming. Believers should rather constantly affirm what is good in spite of the occurrences that seem to affirm the contrary.

We shouldn't affirm negative realities together with the world. We are not of the world, for He that is in us is greater than who/what is in the world. Therefore, while people say things are not working, we are to declare things will work; while marital abuses are prevalent as examples, believers should affirm marriage is good.

The only way to do this in this world is to constantly meditate on the things that are good, pure, just and lovely. Our expectations should be good. Everywhere might be tumultuous but we will say things are in order, that we enjoy peace in our homes, that we will prosper in our finances come what may; our confessions are realities that are good, pure and Godly.

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**DAY 23**

**TOPIC: CONCERNING SPIRITUALS**

**TEXT: 1 Corinthians 12:1**

**Written by: GBEMISOLA AYUBA**

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

Concerning spiritual gifts, believers can actually live in ignorance even though this is not the will of God, for God wants us to know all that has been freely given to us so we can walk in them. Hence, Apostle Paul kept praying for enlightenment for believers to know the riches of His inheritance in Christ Jesus.

One of the ways some believers exhibit ignorance concerning spiritual gifts is to think that God does a random selection of persons whom He will bless with certain gifts based on how much such persons have pleased Him by their “works”, but this is very wrong and inconsistent with the epistles. For “the gifts of the Spirit”, just as the phrase implies, are freely given to all who have believed in the gospel, and not a prize which one achieves or attains based on certain spiritual qualifications. Everyone who has believed in the gospel has the indwelling of God's Spirit in all His fullness (i.e. with all His gifts and his fruit).

Dear believer, you have God's Spirit in you as well as His abilities or supernatural endowments. You can heal the sick and raise the dead because you are the very address and residence of God's power. Do not limit yourself today!

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**Further Study:** Galatians 3:5

**DAY 24**

**TOPIC: A SELF-PROPELLING POWER**

**TEXT: MARK 4:37-39**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*“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 by 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.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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**Further Study: Ephesians 1:16-19**

**DAY 25**

**TOPIC: YOU HAVE JOY**

**TEXT: Romans 14: 17**

**Written by: ADEMOLA IBITAYO**

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

There is a beautiful song kids usually sing in their classes and it says;

“Children tell me what you have,

I have joy;

Joy, joy, joy,

Joy in the Lord; Joy everlasting, forevermore.”

That song is a very simple yet awesome one. It is a song of acknowledgement of the truth that you have joy not for a moment, not when you build a house, buy a car, or receive that alert, not when you pay the bills off or when something nice happens. It is the joy you have in spite of circumstances. It is the joy that is everlasting forevermore. You have this joy in the Lord. The text above shows that the kingdom of God is not meat and drink but righteousness peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of Christ in you and He is the only determining factor for the joy. Guess what? He is the same yesterday, today and forever. This means there is never a time joy becomes scarce in Him. The good news is that He lives forever in every believer now by the Holy Ghost. Yes! Christ lives in you. Therefore you have joy in Him; you have joy everlasting, forevermore.

Dear believer, choose to live in this consciousness and demonstrate joy at all times. Rejoice and laugh your way through the circumstances or situations of life and express the victory that you have in Christ on your health, family, finance, ministry and all that concerns you.

Confession: "I have joy in the Lord.

I have joy everlasting, forevermore."

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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**DAY 26**

**TOPIC: BE THANKFUL**

**TEXT: Ephesians 5:19-20**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

*"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;"*

It is very clear from the above verses that giving thanks to the Lord must be always. We also understand from the texts above the means of giving thanks to the Lord: singing psalms, hymns, communicating spiritual songs, making melody in our hearts unto the Lord are the means through which we give thanks.

The words "giving thanks" imply "expressing gratitude". Hence, we give thanks for the things already done for us in the name of Jesus Christ. By so doing, we affirm trust that He will do the same yet again in the name of Jesus. Giving thanks helps us place focus on the Lord alone and not on our own efforts. We acknowledge the consistent faithfulness of God in spite of us.

Dearly beloved, make it a habit: sing consistently the goodness of God, be immersed much more in the constancy of the Father, sing of His finished work for you in Christ, celebrate what He has done for you in the things He has done for you. When we do this always, we will discover that we will be full of gratitude and merry in heart at all times.

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**DAY 27**

**TOPIC: IT'S WORKING!**

**TEXT: James 5:16**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”*

Very often when we pray and there's a delay to the answers that we seek, so many questions arise in our hearts as to if God heard us at all, or if the enemy is preventing the answers to our prayers, or even if we are praying right at all and so on. James gives the answers to those questions; “the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” That is, the prayer of the man who has received forgiveness of sins (the righteous man) is very powerful in its working. This is enough motivation to pray more.

Verses 17 and 18 of our text shows us a man who was of like passion as we are; Elijah experienced hunger, was persecuted for his faith, was tempted and felt discouraged at some points in his life, there was even a time he fell into a deep state of depression and asked God to take his life; in spite of all those, it is recorded that he prayed to change the circumstance in his country and it happened. The scriptures tell us that he prayed earnestly, that is, he prayed relentlessly and did not give up until he saw the answers that he sought.

Child of God, like Elijah did, we are not to quit at the slightest discouragement. For some certain issues in our lives, in order for us to get results, we have to keep at praying fervently. Our prayers can accomplish much. It can put the enemy to flight. It can put the angelic to work on our behalf. It can create ways where there weren't. It can orchestrate events in/to our favour. Let your mind be at rest when you pray, for your prayers are working and sooner than later you'll get the answers to the petitions that you seek.

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**DAY 28**

**TOPIC: STAGGER NOT!**

**TEXT: ROMANS 4:20-21**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*“He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”*

One thing that is so desirous in the attitude of Abraham to the promise of God is that he was fully persuaded that God was going to fulfil His promise.

God promised to bless Abraham (Genesis 17:2-7). The epistles clearly reveal that this promise of the seed refers to Jesus. And much more, as many as have received Christ are partakers of the blessings of Abraham. The blessing here does not refer to the physical prosperity of Abraham but the promise of the Holy Ghost. By this we see that the promise of God to Abraham is fulfilled in Christ, and that the believer is the substance of this promise.

We, having the Holy Ghost, also hope for the resurrection of our bodies. We must believe that this (the resurrection of our bodies) is sure. God promised us and he will surely make it happen. We are not to be disturbed whether we will make rapture or not. The rapture, or in the proper sense, the resurrection of the body is for the saints. We rejoice in this hope. We don't doubt it. For he that started the good work in us would surely finish it.

Dearly beloved, stagger not. Stand firmly in the hope that you have in Christ. It is a glorious hope.

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**Further Study:** Hebrews 6:14-15; Philippians 1:6