



# The Refinery DEVOTIONAL

DECEMBER  
2017

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

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

**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: YES, AND NO!**

**TEXT: James 5:12**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*“But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.”*

We live in a world where there is little or no regard for words. This is more apparent in our political system where persons who are to be elected as political leaders make promises in their manifestos and end up not fulfilling them. It is common everywhere to see people treat their own words with contempt by saying something and doing otherwise. Apostle James instructs the saints in our text to maintain integrity by staying true with their words. “Let your yes be yes and no, no.” In other words, we must learn to keep to our words as this shows integrity. The word of God points us to the truth that the habit or mannerism of not being firm with one’s words is not of God.

James goes further to say that the integrity of words must be kept in order not to fall into condemnation. The word rendered as “condemnation” here is the word “hupokrisis” in the original Greek manuscript; it means “acting under a feigned part or acting in hypocrisy.” In other words, it means “falling short of one’s words”. As believers, we must hold our words in high esteem. We must be conscious of not making feigned words or acting contrary to what we say.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 2**

### **TOPIC: GET BACK ON YOUR FEET**

**TEXT: 1 Samuel 30:6**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

*“And David was greatly distressed; for the People spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the Lord.”*

The passage from which the verse above was culled unveils to us how possible it is to emerge victorious over unpleasant situations that may befall a man. King David and his men had their home invaded while they were away; their sons, daughters and wives had been taken captive by the enemies' camp; and their city had been burnt and destroyed. We wouldn't be wrong to say that had lost everything. However, David demonstrated leadership, though he himself was also distressed. He encouraged himself in the Lord! This is crucial for every leader and all believers in Christ to learn from; whenever we face challenges such as this; we should not go about complaining neither should we give in to weariness, sadness, and regrets. We should rather find encouragement (strength) in the Lord. David must have brought himself to the consciousness of God's faithfulness regardless of his present situation. He must have reminded himself that God never disappoints. He enquired of the Lord on what to do because he believed in God's ability to restore unto him all that he had lost.

Beloved, you might be faced with situations beyond your control; it may be about your family or your job; you might even be uncertain about what the future holds for you; but gather up courage! Be encouraged in the Lord; be assured that he never disappoints. Do not go about in self-pity or regret neither should you profess hopelessness to your situation, rather be encouraged in the unchangeability of God's faithfulness. Pray; speak to God about it, for He is forever faithful. The aftermath of David's enquiry of God was that he recovered all that he had lost, having gathered confidence in God to fight back. We should learn from this; don't just stay back folding our arms. Get back on your feet! Write the application, reach out to that family, and expect that things would change. Why? It is because we have a Father that is the forever faithful.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

### **DAY 3**

**TOPIC: REJOICE ALWAYS!**

**TEXT: Philippians 4:4**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

***“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice”***

The instruction to rejoice is replete in the bible. To rejoice is to jump/leap/dance/spring for joy. The believer is to rejoice in the Lord “ALWAYS”. The instruction isn’t to rejoice sometimes or rejoice when one hits his first million or even when one bags a Ph.D. Not that it’s bad to be happy when we’re doing well in our various life endeavours. But we need to understand that what Apostle Paul commands here is not just having a cheerful disposition because of some money in our pockets but a deliberate act of obedience to the written word. Some people ask why they have to rejoice when nothing significant has happened to them. Beloved, in the gospels, Jesus told his disciples to rejoice not because of the miracles they did but because their names were written in heaven (Luke 10:20-21). That’s to show us that the entirety of the believer’s rejoicing is based on Christ’s finished work.

We rejoice in the Lord because joy is resident in our recreated spirits. The Spirit of God that lives in us is that of righteousness, peace and joy. We rejoice in the Lord because his life in us. We rejoice in the Lord because nothing can and will separate us from God’s love. We rejoice in the Lord always because our hope is not based on our circumstances or on the absence of trials but rather on our God who is faithful to do as he has promised. We rejoice in the Lord because his plan of salvation has been fulfilled and implemented in Christ Jesus. Beloved, rejoicing in the Lord is a matter of obedience and not that of temperament. You have the resident ability of the Holy Ghost within you to do; so REJOICE EVERYDAY!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 4**

### **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 to the fore a concept that is found in several places in the bible. 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 considered 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 a statement in the context of his epistle to the Philippians, 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!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 5**

**TOPIC: RESIST THE DEVIL!**

**TEXT: James 4:7**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

***“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”***

The text above is clear. We have seen a script clearly written in the word. And we have seen our roles in the script. We are to act as the “almighty ones” where the devil is involved. He knows his role so well. He knows the role to play when we play ours. To resist is our role to play, to flee is his to act. The powerful one is the one who exhibits resistance. The powerless one, the vanquished one, is the one who flees. To flee is not to walk away; it is to scurry away. If it said the devil walks away any time we resist him, one might be wont to think that he yet has some power, that he is able to resist our resistance. But not so! The word “flee” by analogy in its original Greek usage means “to vanish”.

Thus when we, the “almighty ones”, roar with strength from within us, the devil vanishes. He disappears. Hey man in Christ; the devil is afraid of you! You (as every believer is) are the victor, the one with power and authority. Speak out; shout; use weapons from the arsenal that your lips are. Command, withstand, and oppose the devil; act that godly role which the Lord has given us. Resist the devil today, and watch him disappear!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 6**

### **TOPIC: GIVING PRIORITY TO TONGUES**

**TEXT: Jude 1:20**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,”*

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 prayer. Moreover, shortly after the resurrection of Jesus was the birth of a new set of people. They are the new creatures; believers in the death and the resurrection of Jesus! They also continued in this instruction, however in a more effective manner.

Their first gathering 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 it being their first experience. From that time, they made it a practice and the Apostles wrote about praying in tongues in their epistles.

Just as the early church gave full attention to praying in tongues in their meetings, every believer will be doing excellently well to make a practice of prayer, and more importantly tongues, in their personal devotions and church meetings. Praying is one of the primary ways in which a believer builds up himself or herself. Make it a habit to pray in tongues more than ever before!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 7**

### **TOPIC: THE THINGS THAT OUGHT NOT TO BE**

**TEXT: James 3:9-10**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

*“Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. [10] Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.”*

The Apostle James makes it very clear in the text above what we are not to do with our mouths; we are not to curse men. The Apostle explains to us that it is out of place for believers to place a curse on any man. To curse is to pray that harm or evil may befall someone; therefore, Apostle James brings to our knowledge that believers are never to pray that evil befall any man. Any man, in context, refers to every man either male or female, boy or girl, believers or unbelievers.

In the body of Christ today, it has become a norm to find some believers proclaiming curses upon men during supposed prayers. It is not unusual to find some parents (who are believers) curse their children; the Apostle James makes it clear these things ought not to be. It is not ideal for believers to curse any man.

We are to grow in this consciousness. We are never to curse but to bless all men; this is what is ideal. This should come out of our mouths at all times; we must give heed to this admonition at all times. We are never to get provoked that we curse any man; all that should ever come out of our mouths is all that is good.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 8**

### **TOPIC: PRAY ALWAYS**

#### **TEXT: Ephesians 6:18**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

***“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”***

One really needs not know the Greek word for “always” to understand that what the Apostle Paul was communicating here was that the man in Christ must be given to prayer. The born again man must understand that he is a prayer house. He must be fully aware that he is to pray at all times. Prayer is not negotiable for the believer in the Christ. It is a must! Instructions on prayer are replete in the epistles. In all the instances where these instructions, were given, we find a reoccurring word; “always”. This means that the apostles placed a lot of emphasis on prayer, and rightly so. Through prayer, we are able to enjoy and maximize the fellowship which we have with the Father, we are able to make to bring to the fore the reality of the power ever at work in us.

Apostle James lets us know something very profound in His epistle. The book of James 5:16b says: “...*the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much.*” Of course, all the early apostles taught that every believer is righteous by faith in Christ Jesus. Here, James is letting us see the enormous power the believer has and how he is to put that power to use. The phrase “availeth much” means that the prayer of the believer (who is the righteous man) makes tremendous power available.

Brethren beloved, let us pray with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit. To pray in the Spirit is to pray in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:14). Let us be given to tongues. Let us labour fervently in prayers, making power available, causing effectual doors to be opened to the gospel, causing events to be orchestrated unto our favour, causing mighty deliverance to be wrought in many places. Brethren, we can pray. We don’t need to “feel like praying” or for the “Holy Ghost to move us” before we pray. Observe that Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:14 that “*If I pray in an unknown tongue...*” This means that prayer is within our will. If we pray, we will pray. Dearly beloved, since we can pray, let us therefore pray!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 9**

**TOPIC: BRETHREN!**

**TEXT: ACTS 19:17**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*“And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.”*

Prior to the incidence of Saul encountering Jesus on his way to Damascus, Luke, the writer of the book of Acts, had already given an information about the manner of Saul’s life in the Jewish religion and this was corroborated by Paul himself in several of his epistles, most especially in his epistle to the Galatians. According to records, Apostle Paul persecuted the church before he believed the gospel. He was so zealous about this that he sought permission to persecute the Christians in another region (Damascus). His persecution was with so many killings that people feared him.

As seen in our text, despite Saul’s (Paul’s) brutal social image to the early Christians, when Ananias a certain disciple in Damascus was to minister to him, he addressed him as „Brother Saul“. The word “brother” is a strong word that denotes being a member of the same family. In the Greek originals, it means “from the same source or womb”. It is also noteworthy that Apostle Paul made a replica of this when he referred to Onesimus as a brother in his letter to Philemon despite the atrocities Onesimus had committed before meeting Paul (Philemon 1:15&16).

It is crystal clear from the two examples above that once a man receives the gospel, he becomes a member of God’s family. He is therefore addressed a brother or sister as the case may be. Christians referring to themselves as “brothers or sisters” is not a cliché or some archaic practice. Rather, it is a way of reminding ourselves that we all belong to the same family. We have all been accepted into the beloved. In spite of our past stories or bad image, we are brethren in Christ. This is the premise of our relationship with one another in the body of Christ.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 10**

### **TOPIC: THAT WHICH MATTERS**

**TEXT: Galatians 6:15**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.”*

Apostle Paul makes us understand that whether we be circumcised or not; it profits us nothing. By observing laws and certain dos and donts, most people think they have a right standing with God. They feel that their piety and moral conduct is enough to make them acceptable before God. But alas! Apostle Paul says such a person is only a debtor to do the law and has entangled himself with the yoke of bondage. To such a person, he says he makes light of Christ’s sacrifice for sins and has fallen from grace (Galatians 5:1-4).

What avails (counts for anything, is enough to produce results, is of any importance), before God is righteousness by faith in Christ Jesus. This righteousness is predicated upon Jesus’ sacrifice. It is this righteousness that’s perfect before God.

What matters is the man who is in Christ; the new creature. What matters is the man who keeps God’s commandments by believing that Jesus died to save the world (1 John 3:23). Beloved, no man is justified by the law but only through faith which is in Christ Jesus. It is through faith in Christ Jesus that any man is justified in the sight of God. Faith in Christ Jesus; this is all that matters!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 11**

### **TOPIC: WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP**

**TEXT: 1 Corinthians 1:9**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

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

The text above needs no haggling; we have been called unto the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ. In other words, we have fellowship with Christ Jesus. Notice that this statement was predicated on God’s faithfulness. Thus, our fellowship with Christ is a child of God’s faithfulness. It is not by reason of our deeds or faithfulness or steadfastness. In other words, our fellowship with Christ cannot be broken or neutralized or destroyed by any man because it is based on God’s faithfulness. God is faithful, and he has called us unto the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Some erroneously purport that a believer can lose fellowship, but that is not true. That can only happen if fellowship with Christ was based on man’s faithfulness; but thanks be to God, it is not so. The Apostle John lets us know in his epistle that we have fellowship with the Father (1 John 1:3). To have implies that it is ours. It means we have it. He lets us know that our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. To have fellowship with Christ is to have fellowship with the Father. We are joined to the Lord and we are one Spirit with Him (1 Corinthians 6:17). This means that we are in an eternally irreversible union with God.

Hear our Lord Jesus in the beautiful gospel of Saint John: John 17:22-23:

*“22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”*

This is fellowship! We have His glory; we are in Him, He is in us, and we are forever one. Say this out loud: “I am His, and He is mine!”

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 12**

### **TOPIC: BRIDLE YOUR TONGUE**

**TEXT: Proverbs 17:28**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: [and] he that shutteth his lips [is esteemed] a man of understanding.”*

There is a popular saying that human beings have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen more than we talk. While this saying seems to be used in secular relationships or organizations, the same thought is found true in scriptures and more importantly given as an instruction to the believer in Christ.

In the text above, King Solomon suggests that one of the ways to recognize a fool is from the words of his mouth. By this, he says that not until a man has spoken, you really may not be able to say assuredly if he is a wise man or a fool. It is therefore a great wisdom for a man to know when to either talk or keep quiet. In fact, James dedicated a whole chapter, the third chapter of his epistle, to address the use of the tongue. He calls a man who has mastered how to tame his tongue a "perfect" man. He clearly suggests that if the tongue is not bridled, it is possible of causing strife amidst believers.

Every believer must note the fact that his mouth is supposed to be for blessing and blessings alone. We are not supposed to curse with the same mouth with which we bless. In fact, this is the point that James was trying to make. We therefore must learn to tame our tongue when it is capable of causing more bad than good.

Dear believer, it is a wise decision to master the act of taming your tongue whenever you are angry. You will save yourself from the havoc that wrong words can cause and the possible strife that it can generate.

**Further Study:** James 3:1-18

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 13**

### **TOPIC: FORGIVE, AS HE FORGIVES**

**TEXT: Ephesians 4:32**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”*

A natural man believes that he is justified when his actions to others are based on how they treat him. The principle of distributive justice (i.e.; giving to others what they deserve) is so pervasive in our society that the mannerism of doing well to good people and doing evil to bad people is an acceptable norm to mankind.

This knowledge, as seen in the world, must never be imbibed into the church. It is profound that the world does not know nor understand God. Hence, the principles of this world do not equate the principles of God. Concomitantly, the believer cannot emulate such ungodly principles.

The written word of God reveals the personality of God in Christ Jesus. Consequently, the mind of God about an earthly matter as this can be grasped from his written word. The Bible teaches that the believer is to treat others as Christ has treated him. This is in contradiction with the popular idea of treating people with the measure of how they treat others. The measure of our actions as believers to other people (unbelievers inclusive) **MUST** be from the standpoint of what Christ has done for us.

The work of Christ on the cross is to the effect that all sins are forgiven. This awesome work of redemption was accomplished when we were yet sinners. At the moment that man was travailing in his debt of sins, Christ paid it all unconditionally. This same character of love has been shed abroad in the believer's heart, and he thus has the ability to forgive others of their wrongs irrespective of the magnitude. Meditate on God's character of forgiveness today and let that renew your mind towards a good work of forgiving others.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 14**

### **TOPIC: WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

**TEXT: Romans 5:1**

***“Therefore bring justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”***

From the above verse, we find out that which is ours through Jesus Christ; we have peace. It shows clearly to us how our relationship with God is like; it is peaceful. This choice of words our text-verse is very definite. This means that our relationship with God cannot be different from what is stated above. It is quite very precise that we have peace; hence, we are not troubled or in discomfort with God. On this note, we are assured that peace is of God. We are confident that rest is in God, and not otherwise.

Apostle Paul unveils to us why we have peace with God; it is because we have been justified by faith through Jesus Christ. The word “justify” means “to render innocent, just or free”. This, therefore, means that we are just or innocent before God, free of all charges or guilt. Owing to the aforesaid, we are so confident, and fully assured that we are guiltless, that we are not condemned, and that we are without fault before Him; and so, we have peace with God. Note, however, that we were justified by faith. Therefore, it was not by our own works that we were justified. Hence, it is through none of our works that we have peace with God. So quit struggling, quit labouring to please God; quit trying to have what already is yours. Jesus already brought you into a perfect position of peace with God; he already declared you guiltless.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 15**

### **TOPIC: BE CONTENT**

**TEXT: Hebrews 13:5**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

Contentment comes by our absolute dependence on God and His promises. It comes from knowing what God can do. God Himself has said, “I will never leave you (desert you), nor will I ever forsake you (abandon you),” so that we may boldly say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid what man shall do to me.” Contentment comes through trusting your life into God’s hands, and not on something you want Him to give you. Contentment is not sticking to status quo; it is a firm belief in the ability of God to supply your needs. Also, if material things are where your hope emanates from and you are only “using” God to give you what you want, you will never be content, because human needs are insatiable, and you have made material things your source of hope. You get what you thought would make you happy, but the glitter quickly wears off, and you go searching for something else.

The phrase “for he has said...” lets us know that He Himself has made the promise. God’s promises are not the words of fickle men, who may mean well, but often fail. These are the promises of the living God, the one who spoke the universe into existence; the one who never fails (Numbers 23:19)!

God hammers home the assurance that there are no circumstances, ever or anywhere, in which He abandons His children. Even when believers go through horrible situations, he’s there to create a way of escape for them, (1 Corinthians 10:13). The reality of this comforting truth enables us to be content in all circumstances. We might not have all the money we need to do certain important things, but we rejoice in the truth that God is able to do more than we ask or think. Having God is all that we need for contentment! We are content because we have God, and He is our provider.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 16**

### **TOPIC: REMAIN UNDAUNTED**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

**TEXT: Mark 10:46-48**

*“And they came to Jericho: and he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and sat, Jesus, thou Son of David, Have mercy on me. And they charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David, have mercy on me.”*

We can learn a lot of things from blind Bartimaeus' story. It is clear from the passage why he persistently cried out for Jesus' attention; it was because he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was close by. Apparently, he had heard great reports about how Jesus demonstrated numerous signs and wonders; hence, he was convinced of the ability of Jesus Christ to restore his sight just as he had done in many other places in previous times.

This was evident in his refusal to be calm or quiet when he was charged not to shout by those who were around him; he rather cried out the more. We will soon see how important being resilient is from this blind man. Notice how he responded to Jesus in verse 5:

*“And Jesus answered and said unto him, what wilt thou that is should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.”*

His request showed his conviction; he was so sure of Christ's ability to restore his (Bartimaeus') sight and sure did get his eyes restored. We can learn from this man; he refused to be discouraged about his present condition but was rather convinced in the consistency of the character of Jesus Christ to restore his sight. For this reason, he was resilient; he refused to be quiet because he was sure.

Beloved, this is a man who had not the indwelling of the Spirit of God; how much more you who are a son of God? How convinced should you be, knowing that the Holy Spirit dwells in you forevermore? For how long should you be sure, knowing that you are joint heirs with Christ? We should have boldness of speech, certain that we shall have what we seek, sure that we always triumph, we should be confident because we are seated in a place of all authority forevermore!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 17**

### **TOPIC: EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH!**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

**TEXT: Jude 1:3**

*“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”*

The Apostle Jude writes unto exhortation in the text above. His words aren't one to take lightly or loosely. He exhorted us in the light of what should be our disposition towards all that concerns the Christian faith. The phrase "the faith" here is descriptive of all that concerns the Christian faith; that is, all what the apostles taught and practised, as delivered unto them by the Lord. He lets us know in the clearest manner that we must contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

There are those today who would rather sit down and keep quiet when the arrows of heresies and unsound doctrines are being shot at believers by ministers of God who haven't been diligent with studying the word. Apostle Jude tells us that such attitude is not one to emulate. He explains to us that we have a responsibility to contend for the faith. To contend for the faith is to be in defense of the faith. As a matter of fact, we aren't just to contend for the faith; we are to earnestly contend for it.

This informs us that we must be vehement in our defense of the gospel. Our defense isn't by throwing punches or violence, but by standing strong on the written word of God. Via the instrumentality of intense, passionate, and accurate preaching of the word, we must oppose firmly, rebuke sharply, and withstand strongly, the doctrinal errors of men who have veered away from the sanctity of the written word by peddling their opinions and falsehoods.

When we do this, we can be rest assured of great results made manifest amongst us. Clarity will be birthed in many hearts that have been erstwhile darkened by the veil of error, heresies will have no more place in the church of the living God, the Lordship of the written word will be mightily heralded, and the Spirit of God given free course in every corner of the Earth.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 18**

### **TOPIC: OUR OLD MAN IS CRUCIFIED!**

**TEXT: Romans 6:6-7**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.”*

The text above clearly states a reality that is common to every believer. Paul declares with all clarity of speech that the old man, whom a believer once had, is already crucified! That is; the old man is absolutely dead. Consequently, this makes the man in Christ absolutely free from the nature of sin. He is no longer held bound by the sin nature, not anymore!

Very many times, the confusion about “sin” among believers is their inability to differentiate the sin nature from the acts of sin; that is, sinful habits. They try to stop sinful habits without first acknowledging that the old man is dead; hence, the man in Christ is no longer in the bondage of sin where he was before receiving Christ. In fact, many read this text and just gloss over it as though Paul meant that the old man only fainted and has subsequently resurrected. No, the old man is absolutely dead for any man in Christ!

Do you still struggle with sinful habits? The good news is that the old man is no longer alive; there is a new life operating through you (Galatians 2:20). This new life is the life of Christ. All you need to do is to allow the new life to have expression.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 19**

### **TOPIC: TAKE CAUTION**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

**TEXT: Colossians 2:8**

***“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, the rudiments of the world and not after Christ.”***

The word “spoil” means “to lead away; it also means to “take captive”. Hence, Apostle Paul warns against being taken as captive or led away from that which is Christ’s. This is what he means; he charges us not to receive that which is not in agreement to that which is provided in Jesus Christ. Consequently, he charges us to shun, and refuse to adhere to the traditions of men, the rudiments which are contrary to what we have in Christ.

Owing to the aforesaid, Apostle Paul consequently admonishes us to be established or rooted up in that which we have received through Christ by faith; that is, we are to walk in the consciousness of that which we have received by faith alone. Only in this knowledge can we be sure and can stay away from being held captive from that which is not of Christ.

He goes further to remind them in subsequent verses about what is theirs, having received Christ. Thus, we learn from the Paul’s letter to the Colossian church that reminding ourselves about who we are in Christ, and our inheritance in him is imperative to staying clear of being led away from that which is Christ’s.

Beloved, at all times, be filled with the consciousness of who you are and what you received! Never stop confessing who you are; never stop studying about what you have received in Jesus Christ; never stop thinking of that which you have received in Christ Jesus! It is through this means that you cannot be deceived; it is through this means that you cannot be held captive by that which is not in agreement with Christ Jesus.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 20**

### **TOPIC: IT IS JESUS' RESPONSIBILITY**

**TEXT: Jude 1:24**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*“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”*

A school of thought describes the Christian faith as a track race. Their proposition is that the believer is on a heavenly race; hence he has to keep running with all diligence to get to the finish line. This school of thought presupposes that the weakness and incapability of the runner would automatically disqualify him from the race; therefore, he has the responsibility to keep himself fit till the end.

It is notable that the Bible is not a book subject to diverse school of thoughts. The Bible is an expository book to the unvarying idea of the will of God; who is Jesus Christ (John 1:1). This premise guides our studying of the Bible. We are not to make any postulations or create any thoughts outside what is clearly written.

As against the religious notion that the man in Christ has the responsibility to keep himself fit by conforming to some moral codes and principles in order to reign with the Lord at the very end, the Bible teaches us that our Lord Jesus Christ is able to keep us till the very end. Jesus' birth, death, burial and resurrection are the requisite provisions that make the believer fit to the end.

We have been perfected for Jesus' coming. It is profound that the Lord is coming for the believer, for the believer is the bride of the Lord. We are to acknowledge Jesus' responsibility of keeping us till the very end through His Spirit in us.

**Confession:** There is no occasion of stumbling in me. I am established in Christ forever. He is able to keep me from falling. I rest in His ability.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 21**

**TOPIC: CONSIDER NOT!**

**TEXT: Romans 4:19-21**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah’s womb: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”*

God promised Abraham a son though he and Sarah were well stricken in age. The text above tells us that Abraham considered not his own body now dead neither did he consider the deadness of Sarah’s womb. We could agree that he paid no attention, neither did he reflect on the physical obstacles both in himself and in Sarah, in that they were both past child bearing age.

The circumstances that surrounded Abraham and Sarah were more than enough reasons to discredit God’s promise. He was even yet to see the son God promised him. But the bible says his faith was strong in God. He believed God’s word. His faith in God rested on God’s ability to perform what He had promised.

That Abraham believed God does not imply that there was no inward conflict with doubt in his mind. Abraham had reached a point where he was fully convinced and absolutely sure that God was capable of doing that which he had promised, and that He doesn’t make promises He cannot live up to.

Beloved, we can learn a great deal from Abraham. He staggered not at God’s promises for him nor dwelt on the obstacles that surrounded him and Sarah. He did not allow his situation dictate the level of trust he placed in God. He believed God with all of his heart and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Dearly beloved, stagger not at the promises of God for you; for He who has promised is able to perform.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 22**

### **TOPIC: KEEP RENEWING YOUR MIND**

**TEXT: Romans 12:2**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

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

Paul admonished the church in Rome to ensure that they renew their minds to the end that they may be transformed. Clearly, from this text, the way to be transformed is to expose one's mind to renewal. This happens when we open our minds up to the written word, correctly divided.

He commands them to take this position as against getting conformed to this world. This means that this world has information, ideologies and philosophies that are not helpful to our minds. They are not helpful in that they will distract our minds from proving what the will of God is. We therefore must be aware that as believers, we must be ready to lay down every of our thoughts and examine them to know if they align with God's words. If they are found to be otherwise, we must always dispose them and seek for the wholesome counsel of God on such matters.

This ought to be practically ensured by all believers. Whatever are the belief systems entrenched in us based on the influence of society, culture, family, education and so on, must be deliberately uprooted if found contrary to the written word. This is God's pathway to transformation and consequently, spiritual growth.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 23**

**TOPIC: WHEN I SLIPPED AWAY**

**TEXT: Psalms 94:18**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*“When I said, my foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up.”*

Today’s devotional opens with an old fictitious story of an ambitious lad whose dream is to be knighted after he completes his ongoing training. Sooner than he expected, the training was over and on the eve to the ceremony of conferring knighthood upon him, in excitement, he had an immoderate merry night. At dawn, the ambitious lad struggled to open his eyelid, and to his dismay; he is braced with bandages as he has lost his left foot to merry. “...my dream is shattered...all hope is lost”, he sobbed.

It is common to man to give up hope of survival when he slips away. Many are faced with difficult situations today either as a result of their mistakes or the unfairness of life in the fallen Earth. Some have even resulted to suicide as a panacea to their abject state. There is one thing to learn from the patriarch David, His consciousness of God’s love and mercy kept him through difficult situations. This man David was once faced with an unpalatable situation where the enemy took away his family and belongings together with that of his people and the people conspired to stone him. But, we learnt that He encouraged himself in the Lord.

Beloved, if you give up on yourself, or the world even gives up on you, be persuaded that God never gives up on you. He has promised never to leave you nor forsake you. Only the knowledge of his love and mercy can help us up when we slip away. His love is profound and never ending. There is so much hope when we look at Jesus.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 24**

### **TOPIC: BEWARE OF DOGS!**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

**TEXT: Philippians 3:1-2**

*“1 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. 2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision”*

“Beware of dogs!” Oft do we see these words inscribed boldly on the gates of people who rear dogs in their houses, warning outsiders and intruders about the presence of a dog in their homes. Such inscriptions communicate the message very seriously, such that people always hearken to the warning by being extra-careful before entering into such compounds.

This, now ubiquitous and popular statement, was actually used by the Apostle Paul in a different context in the Bible. When Paul wrote to the church in Colosse to beware of dogs, he wasn't referring to animals. He was actually referring to an ilk of persons, a sect, a group of people; the concision. He called them evil workers. The tone Paul had set from previous chapters, and the first verse of the third chapter of the book of Colossians especially, makes us know that he was (is) communicating a very serious matter here. In fact, Paul lets us know that he had communicated this to them in past times but he considered it not grievous to write the same things to them again.

Who are the concision? They are those who preach that the Law of Moses must be kept. They say things such as “justification comes by doing the law” or “we are justified by faith but we are kept in this state of justification by doing the law.” Paul calls them evil workers. They take your eyes off what Jesus has done to your own works. They take your gaze away from Jesus and His Spirit to yourself and the flesh. Beware of them! They are evil workers, perverting the gospel of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let no man beguile you with vain words, and take your heart away from the assurance that is in Jesus.

Dearly beloved, let us beware of dogs!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

**DAY 25**

**TOPIC: LET EVERY MAN WORK**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

**TEXT: 2nd Thessalonians 3:10-12**

*“For even when we are with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.”*

It is very clear from the verses above that believers are to work and earn their living. It means that believers are never to be idle or lazy. Apostle Paul exhorts against this and instructs that we work. Many, believers having misunderstood what resting in the finished works of Christ is, have become lazy, unwilling to work, and waiting for “the miraculous” to happen. Apostle reveals to us that this is very wrong. Paul lets us know that being idle leads to disorderliness, whereas being engaged with something (working) gets our lives in order.

Finally, Apostle Paul also makes it known that those who work should enjoy the fruits of their labour, which is described as “eating their own bread” in the verse above.

Beloved, we should never be caught lazing around. We must be engaged with doing something. Don’t be disorderly, rather get something doing, and also enjoy the fruits thereof.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 26**

### **TOPIC: UNTO EDIFICATION**

**TEXT: 1 Corinthians 14:3**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

***“But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.”***

It is not unusual today to see believers give words of prophecy, either in visions or revelations. In fact, it is laudable that churches are more effective in the use of the gift of prophecy. This is to the glory of God who has endowed us with all spiritual gifts by the indwelling of His Spirit in us.

However, it is saddening to see believers whose lives are in a state of abjection owing to some prophecies they received from a said “man of God”. Many have abruptly ended their promising marital relationships; the sanctity of some family unions has been soiled in many instances where a man receives a prophecy that the instability in his life is caused by a human agent in his family. These, to mention but a few, are the hazards caused by the abuse of the spiritual gift called “prophecy”.

Recourse to our scripture text shows us that prophecies are for edification, comfort and exhortation. The person who is to prophesy to the church must be abreast with the intent of prophecy. Prophecies are not meant to breed fear, discomfort, hopelessness, confusion or insecurity in the recipients of those prophecies. Rather, prophecies unveil in clarity all that Christ has accomplished as it relates to individual situations. This in turn births strength in the man who has been made to see the awesome provision of God which surpasses his weakness or challenges. Hallelujah; in prophecies we are also edified.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

**DAY 27**

**TOPIC: PASSED FROM DEATH TO LIFE!**

**TEXT: John 5:24**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”*

Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. He alone has the authority to give eternal Life (John 5:26). In the above text, Jesus gives an assurance of eternal life to anyone who hears his words and believes in him. He says because such a person has eternal life, he will not face the judgment that comes with transgressing the law.

Eternal life is the possession of anyone who believes in Jesus. Such a person has moved from spiritual death to spiritual life. This eternal life is not only for the present; it is forever! It is an entitlement for the man who believes in Jesus. Such a man is no longer alienated from the life of God. He will not face condemnation for his sins any longer because Jesus has paid for them. That man now has the life of God. His spirit is life because of righteousness. The Spirit of Christ dwells in him thereby making him a life-giving spirit.

Hallelujah! We, who have believed, have received eternal life. We have passed from death to life. We will never perish! We rejoice in this truth forevermore!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 28**

### **TOPIC: REMAIN STEADFAST**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

**Text: 1 Corinthians 15:58**

***“Therefore; my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”***

The above is a charge to believers to remain steadfast. The Apostle Paul admonishes us to remain steadfast, to be unmoveable, and to always abound in the work of God. The word “abounding” in our text-verse means “to excel”. Hence, Apostle Paul charges the Corinthian church and, by extension, all believers to always excel in labouring in the work of the Lord. The word “always” used in the above verse makes it very clear that it should be continuous. This means that at no time should we stop being steadfast; we should not at any time stop labouring in the Lord and excelling at it. This should be our earnest desire; we should not be weary or discouraged in labouring in the work of God, but should rather be given to labouring therein.

The Apostle Paul gives us the right understanding for earnestly serving God in his work, it is in knowing that our labour is not in vain in the Lord. Our labour in the Lord is not a waste of time or effort; it is not fruitless, it is productive in the Lord, it fulfils a purpose.

We are encouraged on the aforesaid, that our labour is not for nothing in the Lord: through our service, many will get saved, many will be established in the faith, many will be delivered from bondages, many will be comforted by us and much more than this, we will receive eternal rewards.

My beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

## **DAY 29**

### **TOPIC: UNANSWERED PRAYERS?**

**TEXT: 1 Peter 3:7**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with [them] according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”*

The major discussion in this passage was submission and love between husband and wife in a Christian home. However, some people have misunderstood a phrase in the text to mean that God may not answer the prayers of the husband if he's not dwelling with his wife according to knowledge. While it must be emphasized that the will of God in Christian families is that the husband and the wife must dwell together in accordance with the written word, we must however correct this misunderstanding.

First of all, to suggest that God will not answer the prayer of the husband because of the character weakness is to contradict several other portions of the Bible. It is clear that God does not impute sins unto the believer in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:19). This is consistent with the crux of the New Testament where God has promised that He will not remember sins and iniquity, (Hebrews 8:12). God is a Father who listens to His sons irrespective of their character defects, though He wants all of them to live in accordance to His will.

Moreover, the phrase “that your prayers be not hindered” is simply saying that the husband must seek to dwell with his wife in accordance with God's word so that he's not stopped from praying. What may be hindered is not the answer to the prayers but the act of prayer itself. Be reassured that God hears you always and pray more effectively.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

**DAY 30**

**TOPIC: NOT TO CONDEMN, BUT TO SAVE**

**TEXT: John 3:17**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

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

The above text lets us know that God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn the world; rather he was sent that anyone who believes in him might be saved.

Most preachers portray God as an unloving entity that sent Jesus to condemn the world for their sins, hence making some persons scared of going to God for fear of their faults and weaknesses being exposed.

In John 8:12, Jesus calls himself the light of the world. He did not come to bring to light our failures; rather, he is the light that shows us how perfect we are before God because his blood has washed away our sins. His light reveals how spotless we are because of his perfect work on the cross.

So when you approach the Father, you go boldly; knowing that he doesn't condemn you but sees you as his righteousness. Hallelujah!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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

Further Study: 1 John 4:14

## **DAY 31**

### **TOPIC: WE ARE HIS HOUSE!**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

**TEXT: Hebrews 3:6**

*“But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.”*

We find a truth most profound in the text above; we are the house of God. This is almost unbelievable! Men, and not buildings, are the dwelling place God. This shatters many notions that have been held in many quarters that God dwells in temples and buildings built with the hands of men. The writer of Hebrews reveals to us that God has a house, and shocks us by letting us know it isn't a magnificent physical edifice or structure. The believer is the magnificent edifice that God dwells in. He is the house of God. Paul resounds this truth in his epistle to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 3:16

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

Awesome! The man in Christ Jesus is the temple of God. He is God's building, God's home, God's place of abode. We must never forget this, and pay more attention to the physical structure wherein believers gather than to those for whom the structure was built; that is, believers. Physical structures are good, the klieg lights are a lovely thing to have, the air conditioners are very nice things to possess; but we must never forget that the believer is the reason for the physical structure, and not vice versa. Rather than go unnecessarily crazy about building jaw-dropping edifices, we must be crazy about labouring in the word, that the believer may be well taught and fully equipped for the work of the ministry.

Brethren beloved, we must never forget that we are His house; the mansion of God, where He tabernacles forevermore!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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