

VOLUME 6

COMPASS

A daily devotional



SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2019

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Practical Thoughts For a Productive Day

COMPASS

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PASTOR'S ADDRESS

Glory to God. This is the 6th edition of COMPASS. It is only by the mercies of God that we could have come this far. You are holding the labour of men in your hands. It takes a man to start but it takes a team to finish well.

To my amazing team who help to collate. You spend days and nights ensuring that we have the right scriptures, confessions and prayer points. What can I say about the page layout and the entire design work? From those who work daily to ensure that we have the COMPASS and those who work quarterly to see that it all takes shape, the Lord bless you.

To all our beloved partners, we do not take the gift of your support for granted. There are some I have never met before yet your commitment is so inspiring.

You are holding in your hands a daily devotional that can stir your heart to love the Lord, His Word and His people. There are practical thoughts that will stir your heart to be a better Christian.

Like we always say, this is not a replacement for Bible Study. Get into the Word yourself. Do not forget that the finest revelation of God's Word is a changed life and not just a deep teaching.

PARTNERSHIP

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God bless you.

See you in 2020

A stylized, dark gray clock face is visible in the background, featuring a large, dark, triangular hour hand and a smaller, dark, circular minute hand. The clock face is partially obscured by the text.

SEPTEMBER
2019

ONE WAY FAVOUR WORKS (Text: Proverbs 4:13)

"Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life"

Right after the meeting that evening, he had a chat with her. He said, "I learnt you are getting married, I would not be needing a lot of things in my kitchen any more. You can have them".

The interesting part is that she would not have been in that meeting on a normal day if not for pastoral rebuke combined with admonition.

When she came running and smiling, I said to her, "That is how favour works".

Friend, miracles are preceded by instructions. For the Red Sea to part, it could be 'lift up the rod'. For the water to become wine, it could be "Fill the pots with water".

For the leprosy to be cured, it could be "Go and wash in Jordan seven times" or "Go and show yourself to the priest".

If you do not like instructions, you may not see the miracle of favour.

Favour must also meet you at the right place at the right time. The kingdom of God runs on the timing of the Spirit so you must be sensitive.

The day I wanted to give excuse and stay back at home rather than go to church on March 20, 2011 was the day the light of my Pastor shined on me to share an exhortation in church yet I

was a corp member.

I would have slept my way out of favour.

The day I met my wife on March 23, 2012. I was so tired but Dad sent me on errand to stand in for him in a preaching engagement. I would have grumbled my way out of favour.

Be sensitive to moments that you would rather grumble or give excuses, favour may just have been ordained to sit right before you at that meeting and your space was vacant.

If you have been praying for a miracle, stay sensitive to instructions. The miraculous is always preceded by instructions.

This season, you will not excuse or grumble yourself out of the miraculous.

Amen.

CONFESSION

I walk circumspectly, I have an understanding of times and seasons, and recognize opportunities as soon as they present themselves before me

PRAYER

In Jesus name, I do not despise instructions, and I see the miraculous in my everyday activities. Amen

WHEN THE WATER BREAKS (Text: Habakkuk 2:3)

"For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay"

One of the things they kept telling us at antenatal appointments close to the day of delivery was "Once the water breaks, start coming to the hospital".

breaking of the water and the delivery of the baby were heightened heartbeats, random groans and pains, consolation words, some things that cannot be described.

But they did not mention that between the

There are things on the journey that you will not

be told but you must surely experience. You will get to the palace but you will go through the pit, Potiphar's and the prison.

But all I want is the baby and I have seen the water, what is it with the pains in-between? What is it with the labour pangs? What is it with the suspense that is not so much of fun?

I want to say to a person of vision today, you are burdened and you do not even know how some of the process will be sorted, you are in the labour season.

In labour time, be surrounded with friendly faces who tell you to keep at it. Give more airtime (ear-time) to friend than you give to critics.

Imagine a woman in labour surrounded with pessimists and naysayers. They will chase them out. Let no one start giving you tales of those who did not make it.

Surround yourself with midwives- people who are on the outside yet can see into the inside. People who know what you are going through but will encourage you to where you are going to.

Friend, push. Push in prayers. Push in asking for what you need. Let them say No and then ask another.

The water has broken that is why you are pressured- nothing can stop the bringing forth now.

You are two days away to the event and your

heart keeps having that clog of "Will it work?" Hey! It will work.

You are few days to the wedding and you sense the pressure- the water has broken. The baby will come.

The project is halfway and finance is now low. The water has broken. The baby will come.

You were called into ministry. You have obeyed but you are in some stormy season, trust God. The water has broken. The baby will come.

Can I pray for you?

Your vision will see the light of day. You will be here to smile at the end.

That dream will not fail. That call is of God- it will not die. Your seed will not die in you.

Do all it takes. Pray. Draw Insight. Call out resources. Talk to People. Take the next step toward delivery.

That devil is a liar. Receive strength now!

CONFESSION

I declare that my God given vision prospers in my hands, backed up with necessary celestial and earthly resources. I see its manifestations, and I rejoice at the fulfilment of Your Word

PRAYER

In Jesus name, I receive strength in my inner man to forge ahead with Your vision in me, and I enjoy the blessings of resources needed for its accomplishment. Amen.

TUESDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 3, 2019.

MORE THAN I ASKED (Text: Psalm 103:2)

:"Praise the Lord , O my soul, and forget not all His benefits"

When I got the invitation to speak at the event, I got my prayer gear engaged. I knew I needed God all the way. I prayed. I waited on God.

The meeting was an outstanding time. Something shifted even in me.

But the real deal was a day after. The Holy Spirit woke me up at about 2am with a song in my spirit.

The last line of the song said literally, "After this encounter, let us see you (the Lord) before we leave".

Then the spirit of God laid it on my mind how I spent a lot of times in prayers before the event but I have not even given a fragment of it in thanksgiving.

I repented!

Most times when we are trusting for a miracle, we are always praying and trusting God. After we get answers to prayers, we give a casual "thank you" Lord and move on with our lives.

We must not be like the nine lepers who did not return. Jesus asked, "Where are the remaining nine?"

When the one that knows it all is asking questions, there is a problem.

Like the one leper, we must learn to return with a loud voice and a heart of gratitude. Some of us pray with the whole of our being but return with some garnished and sandwiched attitude

of thanks.

Stop that habit!

If God has done for you more than you can ask or imagine, return a praise more than you received also.

After Moses and the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, there were songs of thanksgiving. They danced and played instruments.

But after Joshua and the people crossed the Jordan, there was no record of thanksgiving. They simply went on to the next task.

Which one is a picture of your lifestyle?

CONFESSION

I declare that I am not oblivious of God's faithfulness in my life, and I promptly give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the Father's will concerning me

PRAYER

In Jesus name, I consciously engage my heart towards gratitude. I am not given to a nature of ingratitude. Amen

WEDNESDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 4, 2019.

THE SPOT WHERE WE SEE (Text: Psalm 91:1)

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty"

Most times when the library door closes, the girl I had my eyes on would always go to another part of the campus to read.

Trust me, even when I am sleepy, I still try to also find another place to read so I can have the privilege of accompanying her back to the hostel.

Over time when we became close, when I ask by text message about where she was, we termed that spot, "The secret place".

I would get a text that says "I am in the secret place".

The irony of our secret place is that it is not a

private spot. It is simply secret because that is where we get to catch up.

Friends, our relationship and bond grew because of the secret place. In the same manner, your relationship with God grows when you understand the power of the secret place.

He that dwells in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Jesus in teaching us about prayer said that our Father dwells in secret. Jesus would normally go to a secret place.

Relationships blossom when some things are

kept between the two parties. The things that are not said in words are perfectly understood.

A secret place is simply that place where you know it is only between you and the one you love. There are no distractions. You look into his or her face. You soak in every word.

If someone ever stumbles into the two of you, you get "annoyed" because you do not want a third party.

For most people now, your intruder in your secret place can even be your phone. You set a time and a place to spend a while with God but as you read the Word, other applications keep intruding. Work on that!

Do you know what Peter said?

(And we have to listen to Peter because Peter slept most times Jesus prayed. He slept at the Mount of Transfiguration and in the Garden of Gethsemane)

"Since we are approaching the end of all things,

be intentional, purposeful, and self-controlled so that you can be given to prayer." 1 Peter 4:7 TPT

If you have a problem with sleeping and concentrating in the secret place like Peter, please listen to him!

Do you know he was the one that told us to be sober and vigilant also because of the devil who roars like a lion?

Peter knows something that we must also know- "Don't joke with the secret place"

CONFESSION

I declare that I am given to intimacy with my Father. I regard the secret place above all other things, and I download all I need for life and purpose through this union.

PRAYER

In Jesus name, I exercise discipline in setting my relationship with God as a priority in my everyday affairs. Amen

THURSDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 5, 2019.

WEIGHT GAIN IS EXPENSIVE (Text: Hebrews 12:1)

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us"

A dear father told my sweetheart on phone that "When I see Pastor Temi, make sure he has added weight". We had a good laugh over the phone.

Amazingly, we got to visit him. As we were exiting, I mentioned that I have added weight. He said, "You are looking good actually but adding weight is expensive. Your wardrobe has to be changing".

There are things that maturity will take away. There are friends you will lose because you grew up. You do not get to go to the same places again.

A decision as simple as getting to church early rather than late will make you drop out of

certain companies.

The decision to wake earlier and spend some time in the Word and Prayer is enough to shake some things off your list.

It is interesting how with growth we realize that some things we thought were important are actually not as important as we thought.

Growth comes with regular changes. I have a daughter that is growing and cloths and shoes have to change periodically and at times with amazing speed.

Imagine that my daughter loves a shoe so much and then refuses to grow because of that shoe? Awkward! Weird!!

But that is how we are sometimes. You love your company so much that even if they are not growing, you choose not to outgrow them.

You love your habits so much that you choose not to outgrow them.

Have you had a favourite dress or shirt before that you outgrew? At times, you want to force yourself to still wear it but you are no longer comfortable. You may tear it if you are not careful.

Same way, you realize you cannot sustain conversations again with some people- values have changed! You no longer think the same way.

Leave peacefully or the tear may make things worse.

Rejoice. Growth is taking place.

Would you still struggle to wear what you have outgrown? Or would you rather wave bye and

trust God for the new that He is bringing?

By the way, when the baby outgrows the womb, discomfort begins and delivery takes place.

Let me pray for you: May you become uncomfortable in the wrong places. May you deliver great things to your world.

CONFESSIONS

I declare that I partner daily with the Holy Spirit to let go of hindrances to my growth in all spheres of my life. I let go and let God. My growth is at the core of my heart, and I daily engage in activities that facilitates my growth

PRAYER

In Jesus name, I break off from unnecessary associations and activities that slow me down on the path of destiny. I am intentional about my growth. Amen

FRIDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 6, 2019.

MY FRIEND'S DAUGHTER (Text: Ephesians 5:15)

"Be very careful, then, how you live- not as unwise, but as wise"

I was visiting with a dear friend sometimes back and we got talking about how smart kids can be.

She said she kept noticing that the drinks kept in the shelf up on the wall kept reducing. The height of her kids could not have possibly gotten to the shelf.

She had asked her husband whether he was the one taking the children's drinks. He said he was not.

Until a day she was home and then saw the strategist- her young daughter.

She gently pulled a small chair close to the table under the shelf. She climbs the chair and then the table and gets to the shelf.

My friend was in shock.

Her daughter opens the shelf and brings out two small packs of Hollandia Yoghurt. She calls her elder brother to have one and she drinks the other.

My friend had a great shock at the skilfulness of her daughter.

There are things that are kept for you. There are benefits that the grace of God has supplied. There are heights that are ordained for you to attain.

When it looks impossible, there are resources within the house that you can put together to get what you need.

There is a chair of "faith" that you can pull close

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to the table of "skilfulness" while you open up that locked shelf of God's favour with great "persistence".

There is a divine leverage that can get you from where you are to where you desire to be.

Leave the past behind.
Build New Expectations.
Value God and His Word.
Commit to Excellence.

Relationships must not be taken for granted.
Add Character to your pursuit.
Be committed to Growth and just like my friend's daughter, ensure that you share God's blessings with others.

You may be close to kingship and you do not even realize it. It could take the counsel and the coin of a servant to get you into the proper position to fulfill a divine mandate.

Stop running around and ask God to reveal to you the resources in the house that you can pull together to access all that has been prepared for you.

What is in your house that can bring what you desire to see in your hands?

CONFESSION

I declare that I am resourceful in fulfilling my purpose. I find ways to improve myself daily, and my eyes are open to see subtle opportunities and windows that can cause the needed change in life.

PRAYER

In Jesus name, I recognize what You are doing in my life, and I partner accordingly with available resources for excellent results. Amen.

SATURDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 7, 2019.

I LAUGHED AT HER (Text: 2 Corinthians 9:8)

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"

My daughter stood at the door and attempted opening it. She could not because her hands barely reached the handle.

She looked at me for help and I laughed at her. I teased her saying, "You are not even tall".

But guess what, I sat in the living room a week later and there was a miracle.

My daughter walked towards the door and I was so sure she could not open it. But I was wrong.

The next moment, I saw the door open right before me. She opened the door.

What could have happened in one week? What...? Oh my God...! I called my wife and alerted her.

Be careful. Young madam can now open the door. She is as tall as the handle. And she does

not bother us anymore. She goes straight for the door.

Hey! You are about to shock those who mocked you. While they laughed at you, they did not know you were getting taller, waxing stronger and becoming better.

Friends, if you can just hold on a little more, doors that were closed and impossible to open last year, last month will soon open with ease.

Sometimes, what you struggle with only needs a little time to see you grow. Growth can simply solve some things you are struggling for.

There is a person of vision who is simply frustrated reading this now- keep growing internally, the external spread that you desire will soon be evident to all.

Do not allow pressure make you give up or compromise. Do not cook your son like that woman in famine, not knowing that it was just 3 days to the end of the famine.

Someone reading this is spending his last night in "prison-like" circumstances. Tomorrow, the palace will send for you.

Do not commit suicide a day before the good news. That devil is a liar. Reject depression. Fight for your joy. Dance and rejoice till your spirit man gets the code of the kingdom rewired into your entire soul.

Be patient. Do not steal that money at work because it is tough.

Your hands will soon reach the handle and your doors will be open.

CONFESSION

I declare that I am beyond limits and boundaries. I stretch out and reach for all good things that is mine through the finished works of Christ. The divine nature is at work in me, I cannot be stranded.

PRAYER

In Jesus name, I am not given to sadness or despair. I believe God and all His promises to me, and I rejoice as I await their manifestations. Amen

SUNDAY

■ SEPTEMBER 8, 2019.

I LIED. I ESCAPED (Text: 2 Corinthians 5:21)

"God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God"

In my days in the Junior Secondary School, it was one of those routine days that the teacher walks in and request for your class notes for inspection.

Those whose notes were not complete were always flogged.

My notes were not complete. It was right in my bag but I had to lie to my teacher that I forgot it at home.

While he flogged other culprits, he said to me, "Ola, I know you are a serious and brilliant student. Let me see your notes tomorrow". I escaped.

My goodness saved me on the class judgement day

!

But friends, on the day of Judgment, there will not be a scale where God will measure your good deeds and bad deeds to see which weighs more.

Some folks think if they do enough good, they can bribe God for a space in heaven.

It is not by works! You will not be able to boast. It is simply by His grace alone.

Jesus through his death took your place. He became the substitute. He came on the field and took all the hit while you stepped out and stepped into His rest.

If you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour believing that He paid the price for your sins, you will then have to pay it for yourself.

Your goodness will not save you!

If you say, "But God is loving, He cannot overlook all the good things I have done?"

Well, If a stranger comes to your door at 12 midnight and says to you, "I am a good person. I want to spend the night in your house".

What will you say? You will likely say, "I am sorry. I do not know you".

Do you know Jesus shared a parable where he

mentioned that some people who did a lot of good things will be told, "I do not know you. Get away from me..."

Access is by relationship.

I lied and escaped. But on the day of judgment, no smart plan or smooth lie will save the day.

Friend, there will not be a time to do repair work. You will not hear, "Okay. Come back tomorrow".

It is ordained for man to die once and after that judgment.

Your good works will still fall short.

Would you accept what Christ has done or would you pay the price for yourself?

CONFESSION

I draw daily into my consciousness the price and finished works of Christ over me, and I do not make light of it. I am also given to the ministry of reconciling men back to God

PRAYER

In Jesus Name, I receive strength to live as someone bought with a price, and I commit myself to spreading the gospel of love to the ends of the earth. Amen.

MONDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 9, 2019.

WEANING PAINS (Text: Jer.3:15)

"Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding"

When it was time to wean my daughter, we thought it was going to be a simple thing like, "Baby, you will not have breast milk again".

But it was not so. We had to use different methods and my daughter protested but we stayed the course. We probably looked wicked

But we thought it was just going to be painful for Danielle not knowing it was going to be painful for Mummy too.

Mummy also went through pains and there were days she felt like getting Danielle to still take some milk. But she had to endure also.

What is the point?

Both the mother and the child went through the pain of getting the child to a new phase and maturity.

One of the toughest things your pastors, mentors and teachers have to do at times is confrontation and correction.

At times, rather than tell you that "Brother Wole, you cannot be sleeping over in a sister's

house", he will try hard to make you see it. Leadership also takes courage.

But a good teacher is not one that keeps overlooking your wrongs but the one that calls you out and demand that you grow up. It is tough too.

Both the coach and the players go through the pain of training. When he gives a time, he also has to be there before that time- you both go through it.

Do not focus just on your pains. Do not get fixated just on your own convenience and comfort. While you scream from the pains of growth, know that they are are going through the same pains also.

It is so easy not to rock the boat.

However, be grateful when the Lord has blessed you with mentors who are as bold as John The Baptist yet as wise as Prophet Nathan. If you do not have people to train and confront you, challenging you to leave the milk and go for the meat, you will not grow.

Honour your parents! You will not understand the pains of some of their "NO" to you till you become a parent too- weaning takes two!

Honour your pastors! Before they could raise that issue of your short comings with you, they spent time thinking of how best to get you to understand- weaning takes two.

Before you scream that your teachers are too hard, remember that they are going through the pains also.

The shepherd is never far from the sheep!

Who do you have to tell Thank you today that you thought was just being wicked while they trained you?

CONFESSION

I declare that my heart is not rebellious to corrections and my pruning processes. I stay on the course, I stay trained and tutored.

PRAYER

In Jesus name, my heart is open to shedding off whatever is necessary to move me to the next level. Amen

TUESDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 10, 2019.

"I HELD YOU BACK" (Text: James 1:3-4)

"...because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be matured and complete, not lack anything"

We were driving home in the evening after some light purchases when I heard Danielle release a sound that shows dissatisfaction.

Just before I turned my head to find out what the issue really was, I heard her mum say to her, "Be calm. I held you back because I can see what is ahead".

(Apparently, her mum knew I would apply the brakes and Danielle had a drink in her mouth)

But those words never left me- "I held you back because I see what is ahead".

Have you ever wanted to cross the road with a friend or sibling or elderly one and they held you back just as you attempted crossing because they saw what you did not see?

You always turn to them with a sigh of relief and a thank you!

I want to talk to someone who has palace dreams but is having pit and prison moments!

I want to talk to someone who followed the star but you are somewhere in the manger!

I want to share with someone who feels held back and you are dissatisfied.

What if you simply trust God that he knows what is ahead?

What if you simply hold on to His promises knowing that all things will work together for your good?

Why don't you dump that idea of a competitive spirit that keeps getting you depressed?

The "holding back" definitely has a reason. Sometimes, it is to build extra capacity because there are giants to bring down.

There may be fleshy tendencies like the desire for attention that must be cut off and sacrificed so that pride does not take away what grace has supplied.

If you feel like a stone in a catapult, fear not! The first thing we do after placing you in is to draw you back.

Why?

So you will not drop back at the very same spot where you were picked from.

So you would travel with precision and move with speed when you are released from the catapult.

When you drive into a fuel station, you wait while the car is being refueled. You do not get envious of those who rode in a motorcycle and left before you- your capacity is not the same.

You are not envious of other cars because you know you will not be at the pump forever also.

Be calm when God holds you back, he sees what you do not see. He is building your

capacity. He is dealing with tendencies that can wreck your future.

Take a deep breath and say, "Lord, I trust you. I will be calm".

CONFESSION

I declare that I not held back by setbacks. I am positive in all situations, nothing steals my joy, because I know You are working for my good

PRAYER

In Jesus name, I find strength in Your Word for tough times in my life. I choose to stay encouraged because my testimony is sure. Amen

WEDNESDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 11, 2019.

"GO, JESUS IS WITH ME" (Text: Ephesians 3:20)

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us..."

Mum was to attend the annual Holy Ghost Convention many years ago. I was still a little boy and she thought it would be tough to leave me behind.

She was already thinking of how she would go with me. The next night she had a vision where she saw herself wanting to walk with Christ but her handbag would not allow her.

The moment she let the handbag go, it was a sudden flight.

She woke up in the morning thinking of how to explain to her small boy why she would have to leave me behind.

My response shocked her, "Mummy, Go! Jesus is with me".

Let me tell you this: God will take care of what you are worried about. God told me once that "None of yours will suffer".

Faith is a risk that is backed up with the

integrity of God. It can never fail. It can never crash.

There will be things you want to hold on to sentimentally yet God is demanding of you bigger commitment.

When you are called to a ministry assignment, you can be worried about bills. It is legitimate. But if men can pay, God can do much more!

If it is a divine assignment, it will be backed by divine resources. God has shown up in my walk with Him supernaturally.

You cannot be put to shame in God. When it looks like it would not work out, hold your peace! He may not come on your terms. But He will surely come.

When God is calling you off that wrong relationship that pays the bill, fear not! He is the good shepherd.

Some people are trying to hold on to Christ and

their flesh at the same time. It does not work that way pals. You either trust God or you don't.

Also, if you know that a relationship is not adding value to you anymore or it has become a burden that occupies space in your heart, but you keep thinking you are the "Messiah", God will take care of it. Simply let it go!

Look at how worried you have become. There is no flow at all. Emotional cracks here and there! You know you are in the wrong place and worship no longer flows but you are doing repair work!

Let it go! God does more than repair. He

renews and replaces!

Nothing must hinder your fellowship with God. Trust Him. Get rid of sentiments.

Do not get stuck in the "bills".
Get lost in His will!

CONFESSION

I declare that God is my sufficiency. I have a faith that works, and a heart that hopes. I am unshakable as the promises of God.

PRAYER

In Jesus name, I am not agitated by anything, because I know whose I am. I stay strong and strengthened. Amen

THURSDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 12, 2019.

COMMITTED TO GIVING (Text: 2 Corinthians 9:7)

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also"

I had made an earlier decision to give more to the Lord each time there is an opportunity to give. I was committed to it every week.

But then there was a meeting that was to last 5 days and about 9 sessions.

When it was time to give, I developed cold feet. I began to calculate. I did not want to give what I had promised to give.

I looked at what I had. I thought of needs. But then I sensed strongly that the Lord would have me give without reducing it in all sessions of the meeting.

My flesh screamed. But I obeyed. God did more than I could imagine. Before I had to give, He provided more than I needed.

Friends, your condition must not change your kingdom commitment. Do not be pressured out of giving your best to God.

What was the condition of Abraham when he

went to lay Isaac on the altar? God is always a step ahead of you.

Many times, we fail His test because of the demands of our flesh and the fear that grips our soul. Yet it is impossible to outgive God!

The true test of commitment comes when we have seemingly credible options that can replace kingdom giving. Giving must also be by faith and not by sight.

He that goes forth bearing the seed in tears will surely return rejoicing.

I know your bills have piled up but it is not an excuse to reduce your giving to the Lord.

The month you want to pay rent suddenly gets to compete with your weekend offering.

You must have decided on what you want to give and then give it. Do not reduce the sacrifice- you are missing out on learning commitment!

We give first because we love God. We give because we fear and honour God. We know God is first and no one or even nothing else.

Friends, your bills does not determine His will. His will is your commitment.

When it comes to giving, I would rather adjust my lifestyle than reduce divine commitment.

FRIDAY

■ SEPTEMBER 13, 2019.

MY FIRST OVERSEAS TRIP (Text: Hebrews 10:36)

"You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised"

I walked up to one of my lecturers in the faculty and I explained to him- I have an invitation to speak outside the country but it is clashing with our end of the semester examination.

He said to him, "You will have to choose one". I was sad.

At the long run, I did not travel to preach because other challenges came up also but you know what- I am grateful it did not work out eventually.

Why am I grateful? I would have gotten a stage without the necessary preparation.

The reason why some people fade away so soon is simply because they got the stage too early.

Opportunities are great. But before you cry and pray for opportunities, spend double the energy investing in building character and capacity.

Talent will open doors for you but character and capacity will keep you in the room.

A baby takes nine months in the womb and behind the scene. Why are you in a hurry to get out?

When Solomon was building the temple, the stones were cut and shaped off site. They were

CONFESSION

I declare that I am committed to kingdom giving. I acknowledge that all that I have is of the Lord, and therefore I hold on to nothing when God requires its use.

PRAYER

In Jesus name, I develop a heart of cheerful giving, when convenient or not. Amen.

only fixed noiselessly on site.

There is a divine quarry where men are shaped.

There will be things you will go through that will seem to have no link to what you want to do. Be patient.

There will be times the cutting will be painful. It will seem as though you are losing opportunities. Be patient.

There is a lot of noise in the quarry so there will be silent impacts on site.

If you are still fighting for attention, seeking fame and popularity, and honestly struggling to fit in, you must have missed the quarry site.

Many people get into the future that they desperately hungered for and realize that there were lessons they missed in their previous season.

Stop crying. There are times God is not showcasing you yet not just because you are not ready but much more because a good opportunity must not become the end of greater opportunities.

If God does not finish working on you internally, it will take a lot of kingdom resources working on you while on the stage- it can even affect a whole generation.

A lot of details goes into the making of masterpieces- You are God's masterpiece.

The strokes and lines must be perfect. Let Him paint the picture of His eternal purpose on your heart. Let Him clean up all the stuff that does not look like His plan.

When He is done and He showcases you, you will shock not just your world but even yourself!

Can I ask you: Why are you in a hurry?

SATURDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 14, 2019.

HARD BUT I WENT (Text: Galatians 6:9)

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up"

When they called the second time about the meeting, they had a lot of explanation about how they did not have the means to "take care" of me as they should.

(By taking care, they must have meant honorarium and all that comes with it). I loved their sincerity. Some never get sincere and treat their guests in a shabby manner.

They had gotten to points where they felt like shutting down the meeting.

Well! I was about saying I would also not be there because I also did not have the finance for that distance and other needs especially that it was a vigil.

But God says to me to "Go". I raised some funds that was just adequate for the trip and I went. I still gave to support the meeting.

But as I settled down in the room where I was to stay (I also had to pay for it), I got a random message online requesting for my account details saying God told me to seed you a seed!

Ahhh! God. It was timely. It was more than enough.

Hear me friends, you are commanded to go not

CONFESSION

I declare that I am given to patience. I am calm enough to partner with the Holy Spirit as He works out His perfect will through me. I do not get to the stage of performance before my time, I am given to diligence

PRAYER

In Jesus name, I submit my plans, purposes and pursuits to the Lord, and I am always guided on the right track, as I follow in obedience. Amen.

just to places where it is convenient but also at times into places where it is not.

The Holy Spirit can still lead you into the wilderness where the tests of the pride of life, the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh must be passed.

If you do not go to and through these hard places, you will not return in the power of the Spirit and the fame of what God can do will not spread abroad.

God can send you to places where you are also not celebrated. You are simply a servant and a soldier doing the will of the Master who has called.

But the joy is this- God does not owe! God will always pay. Faith goes like Abraham "not knowing".

We have to dwell in tents in cities where the Lord has given us to inherit.

We do not say No to His process. Wings of pride can never take flight in the winds of process. It makes the journey stressful and slow.

A vital combination of humility and

submission to His will is a powerful combination that releases men into divine destiny.

On your walk with God, you will have to make hard choices. You will see the wealth of Egypt but still choose the suffering of Israel.

You will be invited to be King but you will still have to run away because that is the celebration that buries destiny.

There are times you will have to make really hard choices but remember that God owes no man.

If indeed He called you, then be patient enough

to trust Him. You are His servant and not a Chief Executive Officer! Do your duty. Let Him do His will.

Be willing to go even when it is hard. God never disappoints.

CONFESSIONS

I declare that my service to God is not based on convenient conditions. I am strengthened to forge ahead even when it seems hard, and I bask in joy all through those seasons

PRAYER

In Jesus name, I stay in humility and submission to Your will, and I am patient enough to trust You. Amen

SUNDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 15, 2019.

HE LOCKED THE DOORS (Text: Proverbs 4:23)

"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life"

I was taking an evening walk while I also took some time out to pray. While walking in the compound of a secondary school, I noticed some new buildings were now there.

Well! I walked towards the building to see the inscription on the wall. I wanted to know who donated it.

While I stood reading, a young artisan walked towards the door closest to me after I had greeted him, pretended as though he wanted to check something.

He went inside and stylishly locked the door with the bunch of keys and as I strolled away, he also strolled off.

They must have kept some valuables in that particular room.

He did not care if I was cool looking or not, all he saw was a stranger and valuables must be well kept.
We must learn as believers to shut our door

from strange thoughts and practices also.

You need to shut out that thought that says to you, "You need to watch porn to help those addicted to porn". Your doctor does not become sick in order to help you.

Must you romance prostitutes in red-light districts because you want to evangelize? That is a strange thought!

You are a sheep. When you hear the voice of a stranger, you must not follow it at all. Never!

Do not give the devil a foothold at all in your life. Shut down every strange thought pretty fast.

Lock up the door of your heart. Guard your heart with all diligence because out of it flows the issues of life.

If the enemy succeeds in planting a seed, he will return to search for the fruit.

Shake off that thought about that lady or that man. Stop giving them ear-time knowing well what you are breeding.

The progression of sin is simple:

"The temptation to give in to evil comes from us and only us. We have no one to blame but the leering, seducing flare-up of our own lust.

Lust gets pregnant, and has a baby: sin! Sin grows up to adulthood, and becomes a real killer."(James 1:13 - 15MSG)

What are you giving breeding space in your life? Shut out the stranger.

CONFESSION

I declare that my mind is guarded with the Word. I do not breed careless thoughts, emotions or intentions. My heart is fixed on the Shepherd of my soul.

PRAYER

In Jesus name, I am daily renewing my mind to who I am in Christ, and I align my thoughts to those realities. Amen

MONDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 16, 2019.

"THAT IS WHY WE SUPPORT YOU" (Text: Hebrews 12:11)

"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it "

I had an issue just around the time ministry started. One of the things I had to do was apologize to elderly ones.

They are amazing people and I did not want to offend anyone but I knew I had to do the will of God.

When I was done stating my position on the issue, one of them looked at me and obviously disappointed said to me, "And that is why we are supporting you".

No need to mention that the support ended that day. I knew I had to do what the Lord had asked me to do.

First, a support that comes out of pity can never be sustained on the journey of purpose.

Do not let someone marry you out of pity, you will forever remain a victim in their sight. Do not let anyone have the privilege of a Saviour's Complex around you.

Second, if it is a God-given assignment, believe you me, no one must be able to play God. Else, they will determine all your moves and decisions.

Saying goodbye to such people may be tough

but it is healthy. It is healthy for you and the vision.

Finally, on the journey of vision, you will go through the circumcision phase. It is a painful cutting off of people and resources that are very dear to you.

It will be painful on the flesh but needed by the spirit. As a matter of fact, it will take a while for you to heal but you definitely will see the hand of God on you.

The fact that you do not have it all now does not mean you should lose your confidence. The fact that you had a past must not make you an object of pity.

While you see a poor and helpless victim, God looks ahead and sees you grafted into His plans.

Get yourself together.

Be circumcised.

Cut it off.

No more pity supports.

Feel the Pain.

Heal.

Then you birth the promise. Afterwards, you birth the covenant.

To birth the covenant, circumcision must happen!

CONFESSIONS

I declare that I am intentional about Your vision for me, and I am deliberate about actions

that brings out its manifestation.

PRAYER

In Jesus name, I am committed to my growth in faith and knowledge of Christ. I do what is right by the Spirit always. Amen

TUESDAY

■ SEPTEMBER 17, 2019.

"IS THIS WHAT YOU USE?" (Text: John 1:46)

And Nathaniel said unto him, can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip said unto him come and see

As we drove on, my dear friend spotted my phone. I should not be surprised when he said, "Is this what you use to send out the broadcasts?"

I said, "Yes now".

The screen is almost gone with different strokes and lines popping up. I had a good smile.

Can I talk to someone who has been through seasons and feel useless?

Can I talk to someone who looks at himself or herself and all you spot are the broken pieces?

Can I talk to someone who has been through stuff and feels so disqualified?

Can something good come out of Nazareth? Yes!!! Jesus did.

The woman on the way to the well that afternoon had all the baggage you can ever put on her yet unseen by many.

Her steps were heavy just like our heart was! She walked under the weight of an unseen burden.

But she got to the well about to do her thing when she spotted "another man". Actually, the summary of her life had been "Men".

She must have felt like "Oh! Not again". No one must meet me here talking to another man. The whole town will hear about it.

But the pull was much. As she opened her mouth and talked to him, her heart was melting. The baggage seems to lose its hold.

Something was different about him- his looks are not promiscuous but the smile is healing. She knew this was not just any one of them. Before she knew it, her heavy heart became so free that it affected her feet.

She came walking but left running. She came with a pot in her hands but left with a well running from within her heart. She came without a voice but she left with a melody.

What has broken in you and you feel so useless?

What is missing and you feel so worthless?

What is lost and you feel unloved?

You are God's raw material to pour His love into and send a message to a broken world.

He loves you more than your mistakes and disqualifications.

Friend, let the streams lose.

Your world is waiting for your feet to run through the city with a message of impact gushing from the lips that no longer kisses sin but have fallen in love with the saviour. God still use broken pieces.

CONFESSION

I declare that I am the love child of God. I declare that I am the chosen one and a special person. I am not worthless; I am worthy. I am the one the world is waiting for. I am possible.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I pray that out of my ashes, the beauty of God burst forth. Amen

WEDNESDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 18, 2019.

WHEN I MENTIONED MY POSTING (Text: Hebrew 11:15)

And truly if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have the opportunity to have returned

When I got my posting letter, I did not go straight to the Local Government where I had been deployed. I spent the weekend in a familiar place having the best of fun.

However, reality struck when I visited my place of personal assignment and I saw the state. I placed a call through to someone and mentioned that I had reported.

His response was, "But I told you to send me your call-up number so an organization can request for you and you refused. Well! You will have to enjoy where you have been sent"

Friends, heaven deploys us for assignments too. Often times when we see where we have been sent and deployed, our legs shake and fear comes in.

If liked the Israelites, we longed for where we came from, we could have returned.

But like Moses, we need to grow up and come to terms with what counts- suffering for Christ while we look forward to His reward and not the treasures of Egypt.

There are times people will ask why you would be so foolish to choose to suffer while there is opportunity for enjoyment- genuine concerns will arise.

Peter loved Jesus Christ so much that he rebuked him against dying, not knowing that it

was the pathway to His glory!

Celebrate those who love you enough to see you do God's will. Be cautioned when there are those who love you away from where God has deployed you!

Keep your eyes on the invisible. Take each step each day. Learn to listen to the one who deployed you. Follow instructions. Wake up with faith. Go to bed fulfilled.

Only His process will deliver His promise. Only His instruction will deliver His inheritance.

Stay on it soldier of Christ. Live at your duty post. If need be, die there under God. Make sure you are where He has placed you- nowhere else is better.

It is not a call to convenience- it is a call to covenant. Covenants are bloody! It is a commitment of life.

Will you stay where He has sent you or will you shiver and abandon the journey?

CONFESSION

I confess that where the Lord will want me, that is where I will be, no matter what.

PRAYER

Lord, I am totally submitted to you. Where you lead me I will go. Amen

WHAT DID YOU TELL GOD? (Text: Hebrew 2:1)

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip

Just some months before my service year, I told God that it was going to be a year that I spend in communing with Him.

I would pray and listen while I build capacity for the things He has laid on my heart. At the same time, I was to trust Him for what He would have me do.

I was serious with this during the days of orientation and some weeks into service year.

Then, all of it began to slip away. I still prayed. I still studied but I was not doing His will- the plans and purposes He had laid on my heart.

It was 3 months to the end of service year that I woke up to His purpose. Those 12 weeks were the best:

I invested in teaching teens. I started out a vision called TOUCH. I finished writing a book.

First, what is it that you told God that you would do? Have you forgotten or you are simply carried away? We do not slip into purpose. We slip away from it.

Second, communion with God is the power source that connects us to our eternal purpose

as kings and priests. Intimacy must produce fruits. If we do not see the fruits, we doubt if there is intimacy.

Third, never let the devil tell you it is too late and never let him tell you to wait till you have 'made enough money'. We do not set times and seasons. Who knows when your time will end here?

The heartbeat of God is not about how much is in your account. Rather, it is about whether you lived out His purpose and will for your life.

Finally, doing the things God would have you do is what brings you into significance.

What did you tell God you will do? What has God told you to do?

When will you do it?

Do not get carried away. Obedience must both be prompt (on time) and complete.

CONFESSION

I confess that I am fully committed to the promise I made to the Lord. I will not be distracted, nor will I be carried away

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I do the will of God

IT IS "MY DADDY" (Text: Matthew 6:9b)

Our father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name

Whenever Danielle wants to call her mum or myself, she will rarely ever say "Daddy" or "Mummy". You will hear her personalize it as "My Daddy or My Mama".

The same applies to her grandparents. They are all "My Grandpa or my Grandma". She makes

it personal.

She says it so much that her cousin came visiting and also started calling her mum, "My mummy".

Positive Influence.

Jesus teaching us in the Lord's prayer says to us that prayer is rooted in the revelation of a relationship. We pray saying, "Our Father..."

He is not the Father of those who have amazing testimonies alone, He is your Father also.

Jesus drove it home after he resurrected when he said that "I am going to my Father and your Father".

A revelation of the Fatherhood of God changes everything. You do not need an intermediary. It is a fellowship of sons with the Father and not just a gathering of strangers.

This is the strength upon which we do all we do.

It is the reason why we give thanks when it looks tough- my Father is there with me.

It is the reason why we pray without ceasing- it is not just routine. It is a Father and Child talk. There are days I say bye to my Dad and he picks up another discussion that keeps us talking for the next 40 minutes.

It is the reason why we rejoice at all times. It is His will.

He is your source. You derive your origin from Him.

That is why His name is "I am". So next time you introduce yourself as "I am Temiloluwa", remember it is not just English, it is your Kingdom Surname(I am _____).

Step out this day with the consciousness of the Love of the Father. Be bold in the face of crisis. Rejoice in the face of difficulty.

Why?

He is YOUR Father.

CONFESSION

I affirm that God is my beloved Father and I am his beloved son.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I come into full comprehension of the relationship between me and God, as my father. Amen

SATURDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 21, 2019.

"OUR GIRLS WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU" (Text: Lamentations 1:9b)

...she gave no thought to her, now she lies in the gutter... (NLT)

Just after signing the letter accepting me as a corps member in the organization, she looked up and said, "You will be idle if you just stay around here although we have a good accommodation for you".

Then she continued, "You are a professional. I think you should get to practice in the state capital"

And then the warning landed, "But if you choose to simply stay around, our girls around here are really nice. They will take care of you".

I picked the sarcasm and I also picked race. A battle that was forewarned does not meet the lame man in the town let alone killing him!

Friends, some decisions are simply destiny decisions- no more no less. You look at the weight of your destiny and that of the compromise and you know it is not worth it.

The challenge most times is we do not consider the weight of our destinies. We take for granted the magnitude of our future.

Do you know how Jeremiah puts in his lamentations?

"She did not consider her destiny; Therefore her collapse was awesome..." (NKJV)

"She...gave no thought to her future. Now she

lies in the gutter..." (NLT)

She played fast and loose with life, she never considered tomorrow, and now she's crashed royally (Msg)

(Lamentations 1:9)

Have you ever changed lanes in traffic thinking it is faster and just then, the lane you left behind suddenly seems to move while you remain stuck?

Friends, consider the weight of your destiny before you make decisions.

If Joseph caved in to pressure, he would have just been enjoying bigger plates of food playing

hide and seek while he would have missed out on national prominence.

Do not be profane like Esau who for a plate of food sold his birthright. He ate up his future in a meal. When his eyes got cleared, his tears could do nothing.

Be warned!

CONFESSION

I declare that my decisions are made with the firm consciousness of the destiny I carry.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I will not carve in to pressure. I consider the weight of my destiny before I make decisions. Amen

SUNDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 22, 2019.

"SHE DOES NOT WANT TO BE MIXED UP" (Text: Acts 3:13)

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus

An elderly one told me a story of how he took his daughter to the clinic. In a bid for the family doctor to put her at ease, he asked her a simple question:

"What is your name?"

Her answer was not that simple. She went ahead to mention her name attaching that she is a princess and mentioned categorically that she is the daughter of this titled person.

The father was shocked and asked, "Do you have to say all that?"
The doctor responded, "Leave her. She does not want to be mixed up"

The character of the disciples were so distinct in Antioch that they called them the name Christians.

They looked at Peter and John, seeing they were unlearned but noticed their boldness, they concluded they must have been with Christ.

The Character of the Believer is the distinction that our world sees.

We show forth fruits of the Spirit. Trees that grow should not struggle to be fruitful. A growing believer must win the conflict of the flesh and the Spirit.

When last did someone say to you, "I just know that there is something different about you" in the positive sense?

Dressing and talking like the world does not impress the world- you are not winning. You are actually losing grounds!

A friend told me the story of how he got to drink to prove his friends wrong that there was nothing about it.

Years later, his friends were trying to get someone else to drink and used him as reference that "Even this man that we thought was a pastor also drinks".

He realized the folly of proving a point and the

pain of compromising what you stand for.

Grow in character. Be rooted in your Christ identity.

Let them give you titles- "Pastor", "S.U.", "Spirikoko", "Mummy Church"! At least they know they cannot mix you up.

Live a life that no one can misrepresent. If you misrepresent Christ, you cannot present Him properly to your circle.

What is your name?
What is your identity?
Where do you stand?

CONFESSION

I hold on to the faith. I will not lose my identity in Christ the Lord

PRAYER

I declare that I will maintain a firm standing in the faith. I will not be conformed to this world in the name of Jesus. Amen.

MONDAY

■ SEPTEMBER 23, 2019.

LET US BUY FISH (Text: Acts 10:28)

...but God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean

We were returning from a trip outside town when I spotted a woman roasting fish just by the road side. I said to my wife, "Let us buy fish"

She looked at me in shock and said, "Are you sure?" I reversed and we got fish. She was in shock.

Her first attempt of giving me a delicacy laced with fish was an absolute disaster. I told her, "I don't eat fish".

There are things that it appears you do not love now simply because you have created a bias all along.

Your bias and traditions can actually block you out of the new moves of God.

God is nudging Ananias to reach out to Saul. Ananias is telling God that "God, you are not up to date with who Saul is".

Could it be that the next finest move of God is locked up in a "Saul" dimension of vision?

You are so locked up in the history that you cannot perceive that destiny is taking place already.

God is nudging Peter to ministry to the

Gentiles but Peter keeps saying, "I do not eat anything unclean".

Could it be that the pride of your tradition is stealing you away from the revelation and new directions that humility will provide?

God will not do a new thing that will contravene His Word! As long as there is room in the Word for it, be open to it.

And it applies literally to marriage also, could it be that you have not dug deep enough? Could you make knowing your spouse a full-time work? You will discover that it is your assumption that is wrecking your home.

Finally, God is calling this generation into great things. He is changing the diet of some people. He is calling you to eat "Fish". Your bias should not hold you down.

If Ananias did not step out in faith, he would have denied himself the blessing of being a part of God's great move- Ministry to the Gentiles and Epistles we still read today!
His role may look small but it was a key role and yet unforgettable.

I still wonder how the discussion of Ananias and Paul went after the encounter. It must have been like, "Brother Paul (tough to say), this can

only be God. This is unbelievable". Follow God and you will discover unbelievable things also that will be expressed with unspeakable joy!

Let your bias not hold you back!

CONFESSION

I confess that no bias, mindset or stereotype

TUESDAY

■ SEPTEMBER 24, 2019.

"DO YOU TRUST US?" (Text: Proverbs 12:19)

The truthful lips shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment

It was a long night of discussions (well, more like debates). My parents were having tough issues with us- especially the fact that my sister now uses "attachments".

Mum had caught her while she was away from home using it. Well! Wearing trousers two were major issues.

It was a night of back and forths. We were now grown kids with a lot of questions about what we were told.

The image of "a lady that wears trousers or uses attachment is a prostitute" does not seem to stick anymore. We saw ladies who fit that description but had amazing godly character.

But at the end of it all that night, the question we asked our parents was, "Do you trust us? Do you believe that you have raised us to fear the Lord?"

They answered in the affirmative. They may still have some hesitation but they know that we all fear God and we will do His will.

Trust is at the foundation of every great relationship. Trust is the thread that holds the fabric of relationships together.

All you need is to gain the trust of your parents and they will not doubt you the day you will have reasons to stay out till 8pm. There will be

will stop me from obeying and fulfilling the mandate of gate.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I break away from every mindset I carry that will hinder your move. I am yielded. Amen.

no fear whether you were in the wrong place.

When you gain trust, if you have to travel out of town, your father or mother will not become a monitoring spirit.

Gain the trust of those who hold you accountable- a lot of things you argue about will become irrelevant.

Trust is the capital for all outstanding relationships. Even when we have diverse opinion on issues, trust will hold us together as one.

Never betray trust. Once trust is lost, all is lost. Opportunities are lost.

Give no ground for your spouse, friends, pastor and colleagues to have doubts about you!

Are you where you said you will be?
Do you do what you say you will do?

What is your trust quotient? High or low!

Trust will quench fires of gossip and kill the seeds of strife!

Can you be trusted?

CONFESSION

I declare that I will live a trustworthy life. I speak the truth always and I live the truth always

PRAYER

Lord, may I always be trustworthy. May my

parent, my spouse, my children, friends heart safely trust in me. Amen

WEDNESDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 25, 2019.

REVIVE YOUR TROUBLED SOUL 1 (Text: Luke 18:1)

Now Jesus was telling the disciples a parable to make the point that at all times they ought to pray and not to give up and lose heart

During courtship, my wife and I were having a disagreement and I was scheduled to preach in two different meetings that were kilometres apart that day.

Since I did not succeed in placating her, my heart was heavy. I began to wonder how I would carry through the day.

Well! I resorted to praying in the Spirit as I drove. Before my first engagement, I told God to help me. And He sure did.

From the first song, I knew the heavens were open. And at the second meeting, a young child was among those who got baptized in the Holy Ghost.

Friends, there is a link between your Spirit and your emotions- a strong link.

Jesus, close to death, in the Garden of Gethsemane, was overwhelmed. He said, "My soul is crushed with grief even unto death".

Then he said, "Stay here and keep watch with me" to the men in his inner circle. Afterwards, he went a little further to pray.

First, there will be times when we are overwhelmed. Everyone comes to such moments in varying intensity. Some will actually feel like life should just end.

Second, be sincere with your inner circle. Even

if you are the Pastor (man of God), make sure you have a Peter, James and John that you can talk too. If Jesus needed to share with someone, what about you?

Third, do not just talk to men, find time to also talk to God. The men you tell may sleep and say "All will be well. Is it not Jesus?" But God will minister strength to you.

Jesus came out of that encounter with fresh strength. Prayer ignites your Spirit but also strengthens your soul.

And I am not talking about some "mouth chewing" prayers here. Jesus prayed at least one hour on each watch.

He got ministered to by angels and he did not return with bitterness against Peter and others for sleeping but with strength and courage to confront the assignment that God has given him.

There is no alternative to prayer! Pray!

CONFESSION

I declare that I am not weak in prayer; I pray in spirit and I pray in understanding

PRAYER

Today, I draw my strength from You. My strength is renewed. Amen

THURSDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 26, 2019.

REVIVE YOUR TROUBLED SOUL 2 (Text: Psalm 105:18-20)

Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron: Until his time that his word came: the word of the Lord tried him. The king sent and loosed him; even the ruler of the people, and let him go free

Just after Mum lost her sight, she embarked on a fast, the word she got that season remains a strong point of light for her till date:

"Count it all joy when you fall into different trials. Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience" (James 1:2,3)

And then the Lord said to her that, "Oluwafunmike, life will still get better".

She did not sit and begin to brood in her condition. She went to work with the Word. She became a full-time staff in the ministry. She became the caregiver to nursing mothers who left babies with her. She baked and we sold home-made bread.

She never gave up- there was a Word that kept strengthening her. She keeps remembering- count it all joy!

Now, her school was birthed eventually out of all the moments of trouble and crisis.

What a great God!

A word from the Lord revives our soul. Paul spoke about how he kept seeking that particular condition should change and nothing happened but when he got a word, he began to glory in the midst of it and the strength of God was expressed through what was meant to be a weakness.

You are 35 and not married- find the word! You have graduated over 10 years and there is nothing to show for it- find a word. You are sick and it seems it is the end- find a word.

You are in debt that wants to sink you- find a word.

The devil can keep a man who has not found what God has said down but he loses his grip on a man who knows what God is saying!

You can choose to fold your hands and brood. If that is what my mum did, she would have

probably given up on life.

Joseph was in the pit and then falsely accused and then forgotten by those he helped. He did not say, "God has forgotten me" or complain saying "That is how men are. You help them and they forget you".

If the butler had helped him, maybe at best he would have become Personal Assistant to the Butler on Stores and Book-keeping. God had bigger plans.

His heart was constantly fixed on what God is doing. How come you know so much about what the devil is doing in your life and nothing or so little about what God is doing?

Where is your focus?

Let your heart refuse to be a wayside heart where the seed is eaten up by the birds of the air.

Refuse your heart permission to be a rocky one- where seeds sprout with excitement but cannot weather the storm.

Permit not your heart to be the thorny soil where the cares of the world, bills to be paid and deadlines to meet or the bodily time clock lie to you- even Sarah received strength to conceive.

Receive a Word.

If the devil succeeds in divorcing you and the Word, he will succeed in getting you married to depression.

Fight the good fight of faith.

CONFESSION

I confess that your word is more than enough for me. I affirm that your word can keep me going, so I choose to hold on to your word. Amen.

PRAYER POINT

Lord, let my word come. Speak to me Lord.

where the cares of the world, bills to be paid and deadlines to meet or the bodily time clock lie to you- even Sarah received strength to conceive.

Receive a Word.

If the devil succeeds in divorcing you and the Word, he will succeed in getting you married to depression.

Fight the good fight of faith.

FRIDAY

■ SEPTEMBER 27, 2019.

REVIVE YOUR TROUBLED SOUL 3 (Text: Colossians 3:16)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord

I woke up from sleep that night and all I knew was that two of my roommates were running from room to room chasing themselves and laughing.

Well! They were already drunk. They would stand in the middle of the room and laugh. Then they will run again. It was a sight to behold.

They even said to themselves, "Do you know we are mad? We have tests tomorrow and we are already drunk". I could not believe my ears.

Friends, tests and trials will surely come our way but it is only in a drunk state that we can laugh, dance and shout in the face of such test.

What did Peter know that made him sleep a day to his execution?

What did Jehoshaphat know that made him take singers to face swords and arrows?

What did the Shunamite woman know that made her saddle her donkey after she saw her dead son and all she kept saying was "It is well"?

What did David know that made him go against Goliath with just a sling and a stone?

CONFESSION

I confess that your word is more than enough for me. I affirm that your word can keep me going, so I choose to hold on to your word. Amen.

PRAYER

Lord, let my word come. Speak to me Lord. Amen

The dancing steps of a Christian will never be the same as that of everyone else because we listen to a different drummer.

What will make me keep singing the song "God will do wonders but how He will do it I do not know" a day to the deadline?

In the face of your tests, let the words in your heart erupt into songs of the spirit in your mouth.

When the enemy requests of you to sing the Lord's song in the midst of strange circumstances, sing a loud one- they just requested their funeral song!

There is nowhere in the Word where they shouted or sang out of revelation in the midst of crisis that the situation remained the same- walls come down, spoils are gathered, prison doors fling open.

Let the Word of God dwell in you richly in normal times so that songs and laughter can burst forth in tough times.

Sing!

CONFESSION

I declare that I am a worshiper. I am not afraid. I laugh in tough times for God is my anchor

PRAYER

Lord, I pray that when things are tough, let

songs burst out from my spirit to my mouth.
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

SATURDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 28, 2019.

REVIVE YOUR TROUBLED SOUL 4 (Text: Psalms 40:8)

I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart

She did not tell me this until after she said "Yes" to my proposal: She was always losing her peace whenever she said to herself that she does not want to marry me.

I understand it all. Who wants to marry a man who has mouth but no money? Who wants to marry a man who cannot answer questions like, "How do we pay the bills- diapers, dinners and dresses?"

For her it was an "I love you as a person but this thing you do and this place you are does not just fit my dreams" moment.

She struggled. But every time she struggled with what she knew as the will of God, she lost her peace.

Friend, if you do everything else except the will of God, your soul will constantly be in a troubled state. Your soul is only wired to rest in the will of God.

There are things you can do that can bring you what looks like peace but it never gets to last. When you are back to yourself, you notice that there is still that huge void- an emptiness!

There is nothing else like doing God's will. Nothing in this world can satisfy like walking with Him. Jesus is the cup that never runs out.

Listen to how Jesus puts it:

"Are you tired? Worn out? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life...I'll show you how to take a real rest (Matthew 11:28 MSG)

Lasting rest is found in leaning on and learning from Christ. Anything else is a mirage.

A believer will not find rest except he or she does the will of God.

Why do you have to drive home annoyed with life, hitting the steering wheel when there is peace in doing His will? You know you need to yield to His call.

You keep losing your peace when you cross the lines with that guy or babe but you keep covering it up with "At least we are getting married". His will is sanctification. That you abstain from sexual immorality.

Why do you have to roll and sigh all night when all you need do is confess to your spouse and fight for your marriage rather than cover up?

In your desperation to get wealthy, you have lost your consecration. You want to cover it all up by "sowing into kingdom projects" but you still do not have peace- God wants rest for your soul and not your money!

Friend, if you do everything else except the will of God, your soul will constantly be in a troubled state. Your soul is only wired to rest in the will of God.

Do His Will!

CONFESSION

I confess that nothing else is more satisfactory and peaceful than doing your will. So, I declare your will is my desire. Let your will be done

PRAYER

Lord, let nothing else take the place of completely doing your will in my life. May my heart not be hardened. I receive grace in Jesus name. Amen

REVIVE YOUR TROUBLED SOUL 5 (Text: 1 Corinthians 16:18)

I am glad of the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus; for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied. For they have refreshed my spirit and yours: therefore acknowledge such men

When we drove out of that city, my wife said to me, "Thank God for fathers. This is a place to visit regularly. I feel so refreshed"

If anyone had said we would be that refreshed in 24 hours, it would have been difficult to believe- we just barely made it through a rough evening!

Friends, there must be people in your life who look you right in the face and out of love tell you the truth you need to hear at the moment.

If all you have around you are buckets to fill and no pump to replenish your empty tank, you will soon run dry and empty. You will open the tap and all you will get is an illusion of what is really meant to be.

Your soul will hit the lowest point when you keep giving out without taking in. You will begin to try all you can doing what you know how to do but with frustration.

Do not just remain in the circle of those who commend you; ensure you spend time with those who correct you.

If you spend all your time dispensing without refueling, the queue that is giving you goose pimples now will soon turn and leave you.

Do not be afraid to tell people "No". We all know that there is a need for refreshing. Say "No" to office work at home and spend time

with your family.

When you offer your best gift with a frustrated wrapper, your best becomes a trap. People's applause will become an addiction while internally, you are being torn apart.

When you are running dry, check whether the pipes that replenishes you are still connected.

There is nothing like "I am over-refreshed". You may need just one stone to kill Goliath yet there is no harm in having five stones in the pouch.

Routine can be draining if it is not sustained by the discipline of replenishment.

As a Pastor, when I do not pray, study and learn from others, even preaching and teaching becomes a trap of performance.

You may end up frustrated at what you love to do if you do not have points of refreshing and circles that replenishes you.

Identify where you are replenished. When last were you there?

CONFESSION

I am daily refreshed. I refused to be physically, emotionally, financially or spiritually drained

PRAYER

Lord bless me with relationship that refreshes me. I will not burn out. Amen

WE BROUGHT THE BUILDING DOWN (Text: 2 Corinthians 5:17)

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

When we took a walk to that community project, we began to assess it. It had been there before I was born.

There were no doubts as to what we needed to do- the walls were weak; the structure was already giving way.

We pulled down the old. We dug new foundations. We made new pillars and had to connect them with new beams.

The old building could not carry the new demands- it was weak.

Friends, our struggle with the flesh will become a thing of the past when we realize that the old life cannot be mixed with the new life.

God did not come to do a renovation work on your spirit. No! You are a new man.

The old is gone. The new is here.

A new baby has no record of wrongs. A new baby has no regrets, shame, guilt or condemnation. All that is on his or her mind is growth.

When you came to Christ, your history disappears- all cleared away. The history of abortion, the shame of wrong associations, the pains of poor decisions are all converted to the joy of salvation.

If you do not know this, you will lack the audacity that a new life in Christ has given you and you will not be confident.

What will make Paul have the audacity to preach to the same people who saw him

support the stoning of Stephen, drag people in prison, turn wives to widows and sons to orphans

Only salvation in Christ can do that! Nothing else can do that.

The man who stole is dead- you are new. The girl who laid on that abortion bed is dead- the life you have now is a new life.

Jesus tore that old building down and He has erected a new one for you.

Why are you stuck to shame and guilt like you are still a victim of your past?

God did not renovate an old life. He pulled it all down.

He gave you a new one totally.

Your new life in Christ is not "second-hand", it is "tear-rubber" new.

CONFESSION

I declare that I am a new creature in Christ. Old things are passed away. All things are new

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I walk in the newness of life that Christ has made for me. Amen

A stylized, dark gray clock face is visible in the background. It features a large, dark, multi-pointed hand pointing towards the bottom right, and several small, dark circular markers along the inner edge of the clock face.

OCTOBER
2019

THE FIRST HOUSE WE LIVED IN (Text: Romans 12:2)

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

I had wanted to get an apartment in that particular place for months. When I eventually got it, it was a terrible shape.

I had to decide whether to take it or not- roof had issues, toilet was in bad shape, kitchen was a sorry sight.

When I told Mum, she said (while Dad was still thinking it was a waste), "Money will fix it".

When my fiancée saw it, she was surprised and in shock.

Gradually, I began to fix the new house- partial re-roofing, chemical cleaning, new tiles in various places and then repainting.

By the time my fiancée (as she then was) saw it a second time, she gave me a huge thank you hug and smile- it was now befitting.

Friends, when you gave your life to Christ also, you came under new management. You became a new creature.

However, the garbage in your soul has to go through renewal. The lustful thoughts have to be dealt with, the unforgiving nature must be flushed out, the anger problem must become a thing of the past, greed must be buried.

The doors to your soul that had holes for rodents of impurity to sneak has to change.

The leakage that brings those lustful thoughts must be removed and renewed with pipes that come straight from the Word.

The haggard and ugly floor is now covered with tiles of the Word and Prayer.

We replace condoms with conviction to live a pure life and bottles of beer with praying in the Holy Ghost.

Friend, your life is now under new management. Poverty mindset, Sickness and Stagnancy is dealt with.

You cannot do this alone- you do it in fellowship with others. I simply surrendered the house to experts.

You cannot complain when you see things being pulled down or knocked off- painful but it will return new.

Bad habits can be difficult to let go but with support from God's Word, surrender to His Spirit and submission to learning, you will emerge a new house.

People will look at you and wonder "What changed?" You will smile and say, "I am under new management"

CONFESSION

I confess that I am under new management. I give myself to the word and prayer and I am surrendered to the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER

Lord, today, I yield my soul to you. Take away everything that is not fitting and bring a beauty out of my life. Amen

"ASK ME FOR BIG THINGS" (Text: John 16:24)

Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete

Some few years into ministry, a dear friend of mine said to me, "Pastor Temi, please do

not call me when the request is small. Kindly call me when the request is huge and ask me for

big things”

Do you know what? It is not as though he has it all ready-made but his heart is amazing.

And it is interesting that there has never been a time that I asked for big things that he has defaulted. He stretches and he gets it done.

Is it not interesting? A man places such a demand on himself and he gets to fulfill his promise no matter how convenient.

Wait a minute! If a man can keep his word, God will do exactly what He says He will do.

He says to you, "Ask and you shall receive and whosoever asks shall receive"

Prayer is a loaded gun. Faith is pulling of the trigger. Leverage on prayer. Leverage on Faith. Pray and then act.

The action may be to go and ask for that favour. Kick out fear and then go and ask. The bigger the demand, the better.

In my 7 years of pastoring, I have learnt to make huge and dangerous requests from God and sometimes from men.

I do not say a man's "No" on his behalf. I do not assume God's role either. Faith does not place a limit on God and God has not placed a limit on

faith.

Ask God for big things. Ask for giants. Ask for nations.

Can you imagine a dancing lady asking for the head of a national prophet and the king had no option?

If men being evil know how to answers the requests of their children, how much more will God answer you.

You will see more.

You will have more

Enter a season of "much more"

Do not freeze in fear. Unleash in faith. Leverage on prayer. Leverage on faith.

We rebuke folded hands of "I am confused". We bind bowed heads of "I don't know what to do".

Lift up that head. Let faith be stirred.

Ask for big things.

CONFESSION

I do not place a limit on what god can do for me. I ask for big things.

PRAYER

I declare my faith rises up. I ask for the nations. I go out in faith and I come back in joy. Amen

THURSDAY ■ OCTOBER 3, 2019.

IN A BID TO CATCH UP (Text: 2 Corinthians 10:12)

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise

We were visiting with a dear brother. Since we could not find our way there, we had to drive behind him.

Unfortunately, my host drove a bit fast and simply forgot that he was showing us the way.

Well! I tried keeping pace but it was hard in the twists and turns of the city of Lagos.

I was trying hard. At a point, my side mirror knocked someone by the hand. I did not even notice but my wife did.

The person picked a bike and began to chase us. He caught up and I had to park- my host had left us behind. I apologized and then began to move at my own pace until we connected with them through phone calls.

Friends, the journey of life can also be exactly like that.

In a bid to catch up with deadlines, you could end up hurting people. There are people who rise fast in their career but have lost their connection with their homes.

In a bid to catch up, we enter into competitions that are not healthy. You are trying to keep up but you end up losing out.

In a bid to get wealthy, we stop living healthy.

You need someone beside you in life who sees what you do not see- the people you are hurting with your decisions.

They can tell you to take it easy because you already do not notice that your wife is getting stressed.

You were too busy to see your child's first step or groom your child through homework.

You are a stranger to that which you should

bond.

We would not all get it at the same time. What I get at 25, you may not get at 35 but do not kill yourself in a bid to catch up.

Do you know what Paul said? He said, "They that compare themselves with themselves are not wise"

There is wisdom in running your own race without a sense of competition.

Your own time will come. Calm down. Be patient. Do not let the pressure of keeping up end up making you to lose out but much more hurt others.

CONFESSIOIN

I am driven by another man's time. I am patient. I am not rude. I express love always

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I will not be led by competition. I will not run on another man's time. I operate according to God's time. Amen.

FRIDAY ■ OCTOBER 4, 2019.

THE VOICES IN THE CROWD (Text: Hebrew 12:1)

There, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witness, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles us. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us

It had been a pretty tough and rough weekend- I was emotionally down in those early days of ministry. I locked myself up in my room to just lean in on God for a restoration of my strength.

Just some few hours later, there was a knock on my door and a voice saying, "Mummy is calling you. Bishop _____ is around".

As I stepped into mum's office, this dear father says to me, "Your mum just told me that you have left all to serve God in Eruwa. I am excited".

He then began to pour out words of prayer and encouragement. The heaviness over my soul melted as the tears also rolled.

I knew God sent me a word in the midst of it all. He sent me one of his fine soldiers of the faith.

Friend, one of the things that keeps us going and enduring in this spiritual race is the quality of the witnesses in the grand stand watching and hailing us on.

We are surrounded by a huge cloud of witnesses. The quality of the encourager has huge impact on the quality of the encouragement.

Think about it: Your business seems to be on the down turn and then you get a mail from the leading business man in your country saying, "I admire what you do". Your spirit will be

lifted.

Friend, do not give up. There is an invisible cloud of witnesses. They are not mean men or women at all.

Think of Abraham hailing you on telling you that you can do it.

Think of David screaming and saying, "Yes! That's how we do it. We get the forehead of that giant. We run towards that challenge"

Think of Paul saying to you, "Pick up yourself. I was worse off. I started later than others but I still attained the prize".

Think of Mary saying to you, "If God says it is possible, it is possible".

Think of Rahab the Prostitute screaming, "Your

past is not enough to keep you down. There is Salmon around the corner. There is a Boaz in you. There is a David in your Boaz and there is a Messiah right down the line. Keep at it"

The quality of your encourager determines the volume of your strength.

The people cheering you on are not small fries. They are the big deal.

Keep at it.

CONFESSION

I am encouraged. My spirit is lifted

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I am fully encouraged. In discouraging times may I hear the voice of those witnessing with me. Amen

SATURDAY ■ OCTOBER 5, 2019.

THERE IS NO BREAD AT HOME (Text: John 8:35)

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty

Just after preparing a cup of beverage for her that morning, I handed it over to her. I did not hear what she said initially but when I asked again, I heard "Daddy, bread"

I looked at my daughter and said to her, "There is no bread at home".

It reminded me of a childhood memory- our neighbour's house always had sliced bread. It was available for anyone who was hungry.

Do you know that in the tabernacle, right in the Holy Place, there was a table of shewbread? That table must never lack bread. As a matter of fact, the bread on table must be freshly baked every day.

That was the bread that David ate when he got hungry while running from Saul.

Jesus also told us to pray in this manner, "Give

us this day our daily bread".

Friend, there is a bread that proceeds from the mouth of God every day for you. Unlike me, when you ask God for bread, it is never lacking.

Jesus even said that "Healing is the bread of children". It is always available. Even at midnight, the friend had bread to give to the man who had a late visitor.

There is bread for the day. There is bread in the night season. There is bread here!

If the crumbs can heal the sick, then you can think about what the loaf can do.

You are a child. You do not get crumbs. You are a child. You do not eat from that which falls off the table.

You are a child. You can say, "Daddy. Bread"

And trust me, God will never say, "there is no bread at home".

CONFESSION

I am daily satisfied with my pleasant portion

for the day. I will not lack anything good.

PRAYER

Lord, I pray that I will not lack any good thing. I receive this day my daily bread. Amen

SUNDAY ■ OCTOBER 6, 2019.

HAVE I EVER DEPRIVED YOU? (Text: Psalms 37:5)

I have been young and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread

I was spending my break in school with a dear uncle of mine. As a matter of fact, I was staying temporarily with him before going to my final destination.

One morning, after getting the preliminaries out of the way, I walked to my Aunt's door, knocked and said, "Ma, I am hungry".

She responded, "Since you got here, have I ever deprived you?"

I felt sad that I went to trouble her!

But our God is not like that. He loves it when we knock on the door. He loves it when we ask. He is our Father.

The Psalmist knows some unique things about God:

God will not deprive you of good things. He is a sun and a shield. He bestows with favour and honour. No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.

He again said, "I was young and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread... Their children will be blessed".

And it is not just the Psalms, Paul also said that God will meet all your needs according to his

glorious riches.

And you do not have to worry about what you shall eat or drink or the cloth you will wear because your heavenly father will not deprive you.

Most of what you are worried over are already taken care of.

I have seen God show up in amazing ways with exactly what was needed.

Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God and you will not be moved. Believe His Word and you will prosper.

That bill will be paid. That need will be met. That answer will come. You will not be put to shame. You will not beg. Your days of sighing are over. You will return with a testimony. Amen

CONFESSION

I confess that my heart is not troubled. I believe in you and your word. Therefore, I will prosper

PRAYER

Father, may I always trust in you. I believe in your ability to fight my battles and supply my needs, therefore this day, my needs are met and the battle is over. Amen.

MONDAY ■ OCTOBER 7, 2019.

SIT DOWN AND LISTEN (Text: Luke 10:41,42)

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken from her

We were visiting with my spiritual father and we had a great time talking over breakfast. He was sharing quite a lot. I even took a notepad to keep notes.

Out of courtesy, my dear wife stood to assist in clearing the dishes. Once she stood, Mummy looked at her and said, "Sit down and listen. It is quite rare having such moments with Baba".

She took the counsel. She sat and she listened.

Every day, there will always be something that competes with the moment of sitting, listening and learning as you study the Word of God or read up what inspired men have written about the Word.

Friends, your timeout with God is not a joke. Sit down and listen. Take notes. Leave the schedule out of your mind. Honour God with your concentration.

Study. Pray. Meditate. Do it daily. Do it consistently.

There is a reason why Jesus prayed long before dawn. There are no distractions.

I do not know about you but every time I get to feel low or I begin to compare or I begin to feel

like life is slow, it is always because I dropped the ball in my personal devotions,

Again, if you are gifted, it is so easy to want to jump at activities rather than sitting to learn especially in your local church. You can easily get carried away.

Every time we have a meeting in church, I tell my people, "Take care of guests but do not forget to learn".

Do not get carried away with serving Him that you actually do not learn from God. Get to know Him and then serving Him will become easy!

Friend, sit down and listen. That is the secret of inner strength. It is the trigger of lasting impact. Your standing in public has a lot to do with your sitting and kneeling in private.

CONFESSION

I declare that I will not allow myself to be distracted or too busy that I will not learn from God

PRAYER

I pray that I do not slack in my devotion, first to God. Amen

TUESDAY ■ OCTOBER 8, 2019.

WE CANNOT KEEP HER FROM RUNNING (Text: Philippians 3:13b)

...but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before

By the following morning when she stepped out to greet Dad, I spotted a swollen eye and some bruises. (I came in late the previous night)

"What happened to Danielle?" I asked
"She fell while running from the gate yesterday" Irewamiri replied

Guess what! From then, we keep saying to her, "Be careful" or "Don't run" or "Stop that" or "Remember that is how you fell".

But she would not take all those from us- she stays full of life, playing when she wants and how she wants.

I honestly believe that when Jesus say we says we should have faith like a child, this is part of the deal.

We must not allow our past falls keep us from running again.

If all you keep doing is reminding yourself of

how you fell when will you get a grasp on the vision on how you will stand and run and impact your world?

When an adult falls, he starts analyzing why he fell so it would not happen again- it is good. When a child falls, the child cries and few hours later begins to run again.

I think in our life's journey, we need this super combo- the wisdom to weigh our past mistakes but the courage and faith not to also sit in them and make them weigh us down.

When your past failure becomes a weight, do you know what you do to it? You lay them aside and you run the race.

A lot of things will be going through your head but let it not keep you from taking leaps of faith- huge ones.

A lot of people get stuck in their past simply

while their future keeps calling but the fear of a fall keeps them from the trophy that faith supplies.

It is righteousness to stand after you fall. Do not sit in your fall. Get up! Soldier. Get up. Comrade. Get up. You have a crown to receive.

When you fall, do not stop running. What you need to do is what Hebrews said to us: "Run with patience".

CONFESSION

I declare that I will not remain or get stocked in a mess or error. As a righteous man, even if I fall or fail, I will rise up.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I receive the wisdom to weigh my past mistakes but the courage and faith not to also sit in them and make them weigh me down. Amen

WEDNESDAY ■ OCTOBER 9, 2019.

NEW THINGS AND STAYING POWER (Text: 2 Timothy 4:7)

I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course. I have kept the faith

Back then in school, when I got a new note or a new term was just starting, I was super organised- I write the topic for the day and I underline it with red ink.

I put in my finest efforts into every line and stroke. But the finesse rarely lasts a month. I begin to write and my notes no longer have the red ink lines that brightens it.

After a while, I just do not care about the finesse, as long as I have a note, that's perfect!

Occasionally, I begin to skip notes and then borrow to complete missing ones. Courses like Yoruba Language suffers this kind of fate.

Everyone can start a new thing- marriage, business, walk of faith and all. But the real deal is with those who have staying power.

I am glad that you started but the question is "will you stay?" If we come back 10 years from now, would you still be burning with the same passion with which you began?

If the devil cannot stop you from starting, he is definitely plotting so that you do not finish.

New things give us goose pimples and excitement drives us but would you still show much enthusiasm when the honeymoon is over?

The prize is not for those who start the race; it is for those who ran to till the end to obtain the prize.

Someone asked my brother, "Is Temiloluwa still in Eruwa pastoring?" My brother said "Yes". He was surprised. Why? He started many years ago but did not last.

Be swift.
Be strong.

But much more- Finish Well.

If the flames of soul winning is still burning 20 years after, that is the real deal. If the coals of romance in your marriage is aflame 40 years after, that is the real deal.

May all you speak about not be "We used to be..."

It is a long journey. Run with caution. The devil is not in a hurry to get you.

CONFESSION

I declare that I will not run out passion for the work God has committed into my hands. I affirm that I will be strong and patient and will see it through. Amen

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I will finish strong and well. Amen

THURSDAY ■ OCTOBER 10, 2019.

THINGS YOU MUST TEACH A CHILD 1 (Text: Genesis 18:19a)

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment;

Few weeks after Dad and Mum dropped me off in the State University I first attended; I fell ill. It was my first time away from their watch and care.

It became so terrible in the middle of the night and I was all alone and I had no phone. As the tears dropped, I remember that Dad and Mum would always call on God in such moments.

My prayer was, "Oh Lord that my Dad and Mum pray to, Heal me tonight". I slept off and woke up better.

The spiritual foundation of your children must be solid. Let them learn faith by following what you do and things you say. Let them learn wisdom by listening to your words and watching you make decisions.

Let them learn prayer because they saw you on your knees in both good and tough times. Let them learn to speak kind words because you speak no evil of anyone to them.

What do you gain when you call an Aunt or Uncle a witch or wizard? Why must your children become an extension of your malice and anger?

Their coat of many colours may be ripped apart but let it be that their garment of character and

decency remains untouched.

Show them the way they must go because you are also going the same way.

I see my Mum wake up to pray every 4am. Once the clock chimes, you know it was Mum's time. From one hymn to the other and then the voice of prayers. Today, I do same.

Family devotion (morning and evening) is a must. Daddy's clap was our alarm clock. He led by example. Today, I am trying to keep their standard.

What spiritual foundation are you laying for your children? What do they see you do? What do they hear you say? Where do they see you go? Do you pray when pressure hits or you hit at them with unkind words?

CONFESSION

I declare that I take up the sole responsibility of leading my children in the way of the Lord. I provide a solid spiritual foundation for my family.

PRAYER

Let my spiritual life be on fire for God. My prayer and study life is contagious. Amen

THINGS YOU MUST TEACH A CHILD 2 (Text: Proverbs 22:6)

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it

Dad wanted to buy a V-boot Mercedes Benz (Station Wagon). He gave the money to someone he believed was trusted who had helped in car deals for others that he knew.

We kept waiting for the day the new car would arrive. Unfortunately, it never did. It was such a moment.

But I saw Dad and Mum handle the disappointment and the pressure. The shocking part was that they forgave the dealer who cheated them. For years, the refund was paid in trickles.

We must teach a child kindness and how to handle disappointments. We must show them that in life, forgiveness is essential.

Let your conduct show it loudly that "Forgiveness is not a weakness".

There is no way that offences would not come but every parent must teach a child how to be kind to people and how to forgive when people disappoint.

A child must be raised to know and understand that tough times come but it does not define us.

Teach a child to stand strong when all he invested has crashed. My brother went through a huge loss and couple of terrible experiences but he withstood the pressure.

Teach a child to love when the other option is to hate. Teach a child faith knowing that God can turn circumstances around.

Do not be a hurting parent. Hurting people hurt other people. Your decision to be hurt is personal but the consequences can be grievous.

Do not let disappointments take you into terrible habits such as drinking, keeping late nights, wife assault, emotional abuse and all. You are already failing as a model.

Why should you be pressured at work and then you take it out on your family? Drop the pressure at the office and return to show your family love.

When tough times hit, know that it is your finest moment to teach the next generation how to handle the pressure of life- do not blow huge opportunities.

CONFESSION

I declare that my life, my character is a perfect example of a believer. I do not pass on bitterness, pressure or hurt but love and godly character

PRAYER

Lord, I pray that my character is only shaped by your word and not what the world dictates so that my children will learn the ways of the Lord. Amen

THINGS YOU MUST TEACH A CHILD (Text: Proverbs 22:6)

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it

I was visiting with my uncle when he told me a story: He would normally drop his kids off in school before heading to his office. One day, his daughter and son began to fight over who will sit by the door.

My uncle got displeased. His judgement was simple- The two of them would return from school with public transport. He carried out his promise.

They became sober that night. It was not comfortable being in the bus amidst the heat, the rush and the stench of tired bodies. They saw the other side and became grateful.

One of the things you must teach a child is the power of process. Let the child know that tables are prepared before food gets on them.

Let them see the workings and not just the results. Do not let "I do not want them to go through what I went through" deny them the place of learning principles like hard work and diligence.

A lot of children who inherit wealth end up squandering it because all they saw was the result and no one showed them the process.

Only those who know and have mastered the process can sustain or improve on what they have been given.

A child that is not deliberately built would destroy what took years to painstakingly build.

Be intentional. Create conditions where they

learn that process is part of life. Show them and do not just give them.

Let them know that wealth is built. Show them that they would not always have what others have but it does not make them less.

We cried to my dad that we wanted bicycles because our neighbours had. Dad simply taught us that life takes process. We should be proud of what we have.

Do not just show them your acts. Show them the way also. Let them know the workings and they will reproduce and improve upon whatever you give to them.

CONFESSION

I am not slack in training my children and showing them the power of discipline, hard work and process. I perform my whole duty as a father/mother

PRAYER

Lord, I receive wisdom to train my children rightly. Amen

SUNDAY ■ OCTOBER 13, 2019.

THINGS YOU MUST TEACH A CHILD 4 (Text: James 1:17)

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the father of heavenly light, who does not change like shifting shadows

In my second year in the University, I was getting more involved in the business of video coverage. I was making some good money also.

At a point I boasted to my Dad that I was making some good money. He gave me a stern warning, "I sent you to school to study Law and not to do business".

When I had challenges in the business due to my ignorance and I needed help, my parents were not willing to help. I ended up facing my studies alone and forgot about business.

Constantly be on the lookout for seeds in your child and when you find one, nurture it and

begin to help him groom it. Do not talk down on it.

Education is more than a certificate. It is the ability to apply acquired knowledge to bring about needed solutions.

A child should "face his studies" but must never neglect his skills also.

Teach your child financial intelligence that leads to financial independence. Today, many folks have certificates that they cannot convert to skills that produce result.

Education must be a leverage and not a bondage. Do not talk down on things they love

to do- rather be patient to find the strength in it and show them.

Let them master the basics early. Let them keep practicing it. Let them make their mistakes early when the consequences are not grievous. Be their coach.

Teach them accountability when they start making some money. Talk to them about delayed gratification. Programme them to last.

Train up a child in the way of financial

intelligence and skillfulness and when he is old, you would not have to be sponsoring and paying his bills.

CONFESSION

I confess that my children are wise. They learn financial intelligence. They are brought up in the way of the Lord

PRAYER

I pray that I am seed spotter, I see the gift of God in them and I groom them in that way. Amen

MONDAY ■ OCTOBER 14, 2019.

SEEDS AND DEPOSITS (Text: Psalm 127:3,4)

Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth

We settled to feast on the pounded yam and vegetable soup. We were already quite hungry. Danielle had her own in a small dish. As we began to eat, we noticed she did not eat.

She kept looking at us as though she expected us to do something. Finally, she said, "Bless this Amala in Jesus name".

We were shocked and remembered that we did not pray. Well! We paused. We blessed the meal. Then we all continued eating. She wanted us to pray before eating.

Twenty-four hours later, my wife said to me, "Ah! What she did challenged me"

There is nothing you deposit into a child consciously or unconsciously that is a waste. They are arrows in our bow. The parents determine how far, how fast and where they go.

In your day of weakness, may your seed be strong. David would have died in battle killed by a giant if he did not raise other giant killers.

Your deposit in a seed will someday return to you as a bonus or as a burden. Your child can

challenge you to good works also.

There was an evening I asked for my dad after I returned from school and mum said, "You have infected your dad. He has gone upstairs to pray".

Your deposit in your seed will return as a bonus or as a burden.

If you go a mile, your seed will likely go two.

There is a song we sing when I was in the Juvenile Choir in our Baptist Church. When translated it means:

"We are children. We are the heritage of the Lord. Like arrows in the hands of a mighty man so we are in our parents' hand. It is what you request of us to do that we do:

If you lie, we will lie If you steal, we will be robber

If you are lazy, we will do much more We simply do what we see you do and we do not see anything bad in it"

Children follow conducts and not just words.

What deposits are you making into your seed?

CONFESSION

I daily commit myself to living right. I will not compromise on values. I am deliberate about how I live and I become a true example to my children

PRAYER

I declare that I live by example and through my life my children know the right way to live. Amen

TUESDAY ■ OCTOBER 15, 2019.

AT THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE! (Text: Mark 11:23 NLT)

"I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea', and it will happen."

My brother and I sat behind the house that day. Before we knew what was happening, a lady began to run towards our direction. She seems to have scampered out of a house down the street.

Our guess was that when the young man living in the house had the sound of his elder brother's car, he had to send the girl out.

Humorous but this is the deal:

There is power in the sound of your voice. David understood the power of the voice. He said, "Strangers shall submit themselves unto me: as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me. Strangers shall fade away, and they shall be afraid out of their close places" (2 Samuel 22:45 - 46 KJV)

It is an anomaly for a believer to be quiet in the face of contrary circumstances. Jesus mentioned that you must speak to the mountain and you will have what you say.

What have you been saying to your mountain? In this season, refuse to keep quiet. Your life will rise and fall to the level of your words.

If you do not want to see it in your life, call it out from its hiding place. If you want to see it, speak it into existence.

There is no time to waste with brooding and worrying. Those twins have refused to grow and they change nothing. Cut away from them.

Be immersed in prayer and the word. Dig up

treasures. Find what the Word of God has said about the situation (including your responsibilities. For instance, your confession for financial increase must include the responsibility of not spending all you have). Declare it boldly.

Write it down. Let it settle into your subconscious. I stumbled on something I wrote in 2012 that we will have publications in ministry. Today, it is a reality yet I did not remember writing it.

Do not be quiet. At the sound of your voice, situations can be altered. Strange things are shaken out of place.

Stop cowering in fear. Stop bending under the burden. Your voice is powerful. Activate it by the Word. Launch it in prayers. It still works.

When you start speaking, you will initially look or sound stupid but when the flood comes, you would have succeeded in building an ark that will not sink.

You will have what you say!

CONFESSION

As from today, I stop worrying and I confess the word of God. I am not silent; I declare the word boldly.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I declare that the word of God is working in my favour as from today. I call forth the hidden treasures. Amen

"So that your charitable acts will be done in secret; and your father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you."

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love..."

The nurses were discussing with the lady and I honestly thought she came in for antenatal care. She kept on the conversation with ease.

Then one of the nurses said that she is in labour and was already halfway gone. I was in shock. She made no sounds. She was still talking and smiling.

As I was leaving, I still spotted her talking with some other women as she leaned against a wall. If anyone told you she was labouring, you would doubt it.

There are people going through silent labours. They are unnoticed and unrecognised but their labour cannot be denied.

In the kingdom, there are people who are not holding microphones and mounting pulpits or leading songs yet they are silent kingdom labourers whose labours cannot be denied.

There are men in interiors whose faces do not don billboards and have no social media account yet they are doing silent kingdom labours.

There are men who are locked up in intercession for others and at times cities, yet without accolades from men but their labours cannot be denied.

You may be in a season where only you and God knows that you are going through labour pains. You are about to birth something great. Keep at it. You do not need the "pity" of men to fulfill the purpose of God.

There are things you are doing that men would never say "thank you" for but honestly stay rooted and keep doing the work of the kingdom.

There were silent labourers in the journey of Paul. They were not in the forefront but they made things happen. If God has called you to help another, do not fight to take the lead.

When Moses says He will be behind the scene praying on a mountain and Joshua has to be in the heat of the battle taking all the hits, do not try to compete or complain. Stay on your lane.

Do not be discouraged because you are labouring and people do not notice- you are not doing it for them. You are doing it for the sake of destiny.

Imagine a woman in labour saying she is no longer interested in labouring because no one notices that she is in labour or because she is being criticized- it is impossible. She does not care what you think!

But that is how we live at times. We quit because people are not grateful or because we are being criticized. Friends, this is a labour to finish.

You must not look back.

Keep giving your best even when there is no thank you.

The reward you seek is actually hidden in the labour. You will soon hear the sound of the baby!

Don't Quit.

CONFESSION: I serve with honour, I do not serve with expectation of reward from men. I serve according to your will, I fulfill purpose.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to give my best in the place of service. Help me to serve with your purpose in view in Jesus name.

THAT IS THE HOUSE (Text: Psalm 25:4-5)

"Teach me your ways, O Lord; make them known to me. Teach me to live according to your truth, for you are my God, who saves me. I always trust in you."

We had checked on the house about three weeks earlier and I told my wife that we were not going to rent that particular place and I had my reason.

She did not argue with me. As I drove into our former residence, the Holy Spirit impressed it in my heart that the house I rejected was actually the house to rent.

Today, I know why the Lord would have us to stay in that house.

There are times when the Lord is leading us but we only get to understand in retrospect. How many times have you woken up months or years later to say "I now understand why so and so happened"?

The first important thing we must learn is to trust God even when we do not understand him. Putting our trust in God must be our priority.

The prophet Isaiah said "His understanding is unsearchable". You will have challenges with following Divine prompts if trust is poor.

There will be times when the thing the Lord will ask you to do will not make any sense to you and people around you.

For instance, till date I still have to answer questions like, "Why are you not practicing Law?", "You are so smart. Why did you leave Law for Ministry?" Or "Why did you decide to be in Eruwa of all places?"

Trust is a key part of our journey of faith. When

faith starts in obedience, it always ends in thanksgiving.

On the journey of faith, there are no two pairs of eyes, just one! Make sure God is the seeing party. Be the blind party.

Let him hold your hands while you follow his leading. Let him tell you when you walk and where you place your feet. Let him tell you when you stop and where to step.

When Paul told the men not to set sail because he perceived in his heart that the journey was going to be full of troubles, they discarded it. They followed "expert" opinion.

Expert opinion is credible but it is based on experience. Revelation of God is incomparable- it is a withdrawal from what has not happened yet.

There are things the Lord will ask you to do today that may take the next 10 years to make sense to you. Please, just trust Him. Be the blind party. Let Him lead you.

When we follow God in trust, we will always return with thanksgiving.

Trust God.

CONFESSION: I trust your leading Lord; I follow divine prompting doing what you want me to do and going where you want me to go. I lean on your divine guidance.

PRAYER: Father, help me to trust in you completely, I yield to your promptings. Amen

I KNOW YOU ARE A WISE YOUNG MAN (Text: Eccl 11:1 AMP)

"Cast your bread on the surface of the waters, [be diligently active, make thoughtful decisions], for you will find it after many days."

My phone rang and the conversation was "Temi, are you in town already. Please make sure we see before you leave"

I sure kept the appointment. When I saw her, she said to me, "Temi, we have been thinking of what to give you for your wedding. We thought of sponsoring your honeymoon. This is a token for you. We are so sorry".

She handed me an envelope and said to me, "I know you are a wise young man and you will know how to utilize this". When I got to base, I was in shock. It was a huge gift in foreign currencies. I did not use it for honeymoon.

Friends, Wisdom attracts resources- human, financial and material. People give you according to your capacity. We invest a lot of time seeking money rather than building capacity.

Your capacity will determine whether you have five, two or one talent. There is a way we unconsciously weigh people before we give them things.

Do not waste time chasing money. Invest in gaining wisdom. Solomon said, "Of what use is money in the hands of a fool when he has no desire to gain wisdom".

Resources flow in the direction of those who are wise and flows away from those who are foolish in management. There is a reason why money is called liquid.

One of the marks of wisdom is the ability to manage resources- turning five talents into ten. After the ten talents, you can still have an extra one of the person who does not know what to do with what they have.

Wait a minute. Nebuchadnezzar took gold and silver from the temple and palace Solomon. But when they got to Babylon, he did not ask for the silver and gold, he requested that they bring him the finest brains among the young men of Judah. He knew something.

Nebuchadnezzar went after human resource that produces material resources. Anytime you place money or material above people, you will fade and become irrelevant.

Whatever God has given to you is premised on the faith that you are wise enough to handle it.

If you give 10 million to a man who has a mindset of 100,000, he will reduce the 10 million to 100,000 but if you give 100,000 to a man who has a 10 million mind, he will turn it around.

Are you dealing prudently?

CONFESSION

I do not live as the unwise, I am prudent; I manage resources well. I Invest in the right venture.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I declare multiplication upon my investment. Amen

SATURDAY ■ OCTOBER 19, 2019.

VINEYARD OR VEGETABLES (Text: Psalm 32:8 ESV)

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you."

"Temi, we know you can pioneer a youth church for us. Kindly think about it and let us know" Those words were enough to send me on a thinking spree.

Could the Lord be saying something? Maybe Eruwa was just a test after all? Maybe my

season in Eruwa is over at last. This was after my second year in ministry.

To make matters a bit interesting, there were people in my life who also thought it was a great move- a better offer, a great church, life in the city and all.

There are moments in life that you are going to have great offers like the one Ahab gave to Naboth. Naboth had a vineyard that Ahab wanted.

Ahab told Naboth, "Since your vineyard is so convenient to my palace, I would like to buy it to use as a vegetable garden. I will give you a better vineyard in exchange, or if you prefer, I will pay you for it."

Did you see that, "I want to buy your vineyard and turn it to a vegetable garden. I will pay you very well for it".

But I love the response of Naboth. He said to Ahab, "The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance that was passed down by my ancestors."

I love Naboth. "No matter how great your offer is, the Lord forbid that I sell legacy for money". Legacy is more important than money. There are decisions you will never take if you think of legacy.

He has a huge cash flow. He does not know the Lord yet he wants a god fearing lady like you. The Lord forbid.

You are trusting God for your dreams to come to pass. Mrs. Potiphar wants to invest in your new start-up but you have to be servicing her lust. The Lord forbid.

You are becoming a big brand with invitations pouring in but your spiritual growth is already endangered. You now skip meetings that edify you. You do not have time to sit and learn from your pastors again. The Lord forbid.

You got a new job with higher pay. Your family is at risk. You do not have the time to love your wife or raise your seeds. The Lord forbid.

There are offers that can convert vineyards of legacy to vegetables of convenience.

Can you imagine Naboth walking by the vineyard he sold and his father's labours five months after and all the trees are uprooted and replaced with vegetables?

There are people looking back at decisions they made and they know that they sold vineyards of legacy for vegetables of convenience.

What is your take- Vineyard or Vegetables?

CONFESSION

I am destiny focused, I do not settle for less. I do not entertain ideas that can truncate my destiny, I refuse to trade away my destiny.

PRAYER

I declare I know what to do per-time, I am not confused on choice making. I trust in you to lead me through in Jesus name. Amen

SUNDAY

■ OCTOBER 20, 2019.

BARNABAS MOMENTS (Text: Prov 27:17)

"As iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

When my phone rang and I picked it up, it was a dear father on the other end of the line. He just finished speaking in a church in Lagos.

While discussing with his host, the host mentioned that their youth convention was on the way and he was still thinking of who to invite.

This amazing father did not waste time to say

to him, "I know just the right person". Right there, he called my phone and it was all done.

Fathers are midwives. They see your potentials, know your capacity and are willing to take your delivery.

Fathers are guarantors. They stand for you and believe in you. They are ready to take a 'gamble' with you even though their name is on the line.

Asides fathers, there must be men like Barnabas in your life who get to Antioch and will notice that it is an assignment that you are called to do.

A Barnabas will come all the way to Tarsus (your place of hiding) to look for you and bring you back to Antioch (your place of assignment). They know there is something about Antioch, your assignment and your destiny.

Do you have friends who know what you are called to do? Have you been trained to recognize opportunities? Can a father spot an opportunity with your name on it and send for you?

There is an Antioch waiting for you. At

MONDAY ■ OCTOBER 21, 2019.

THEY WANTED TO CALL IT OFF (Text: 2 Tim 2:15)

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

I got sufficient notice to be a part of the meeting in a higher institution. I put it to heart. Weeks later, the organizers were honest enough to call me and relay their financial challenges. They requested that I should not come since they could not bear my travel and accommodation cost.

I asked them to give me a while. I sensed God would have me go. I found means of raising my own funds. I paid my own bills. I even became a supporter of the meeting- even my car was used (not to talk of the slight damage)

But God always rewards. As I settled in for the meeting. Someone I had not met at all sent a message saying, "God asked me to send you a seed". The seed paid my bills and all else.

One of the things that must be settled in your mind about your service to God is this- "I am doing it for the Lord". It will be tough to give your best to God if you consistently have human expectations.

Jesus shared an interesting lesson on our

Antioch, relationship blossoms. At Antioch, potentials are groomed. At Antioch, there are Prophetic releases for divine calling. At Antioch, there are launch pads for God's call.

May your Antioch moment not pass you by. May the Lord bless you with men like Barnabas who sees opportunities with your name on it.

CONFESSION

I enjoy the gift of faithful men, I enjoy favour with God and men. My opportunity will not pass me by.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, Opportunities are mentioned in my name. Let men favour me. Amen

service to God: There is a servant who had gone all day to work. When he returns, the master did not say thank you. 51

Rather, the master asked the servant who had been walking all day to serve his meal and wait on him as he eats.

Shouldn't the servant be annoyed? Shouldn't the master have said "thank you"? Do you want to know the conclusion of Jesus?

"Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'" (Ref.: Luke 17:7-10)

Let your attitude towards service to God change! Give your all. It is a privilege to serve God.

CONFESSION

I receive a teachable spirit; I learn in silence. I

do not value the reward more than the service.

PRAYER

Father, give me a serving heart, help me to serve with my all. Amen

TUESDAY ■ OCTOBER 22, 2019.

WHEN I DID NOT SEE CLEARLY (Text: Jeremiah 33:3 NIV)

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

From my primary school days till my first three years in the secondary school, I do not get to see the board clearly because I am short-sighted.

I would have to leave the back of the class and get my seat close to the board so I can see what the teacher had written on the chalkboard. I had earlier had some bad experiences of copying the wrong things.

I want to say to you: When you don't see clearly, draw closer! Can I say that again? When it is not clear, draw closer. Do not just copy. Draw near. See the original before you compare, if at all, with the duplicate.

Moses saw the burning bush but did not clearly understand what he was seeing. He turned aside and drew closer and then God spoke through what he did not understand. There is a message in that confusion but draw near for God's clarity.

God is unquestionable but He is not afraid of questions. Ask Him the What and the Why. Do not be like the crowd who hear what they do not understand and yet return home. Be like the disciples- Go to Him and ask questions.

The error most people make is rather than draw near to know what they do not

understand, they stand aloof and criticize, seeking for faults like the Pharisees. Be a Nicodemus- God is not scared of your questions.

Draw Near to God and He will draw near to you. As a matter of fact, He has been waiting for you all along.

When you mess up like Adam, do not run away. He comes looking for you and you don't have to hide. Everything you call a weakness is what you have hidden from God's light. Draw Near.

Draw near. Ask Question. Grow Intimacy. When you ask Him questions and you get answers, when life ask you questions, you will also have answers. Intimacy with God keeps us through tough moments. You will always have an answer drawn from trust for that storm.

Draw Near and let it get clear.

CONFESSION

I will not stay aloof, I draw near to you Lord; I grow in intimacy with you Lord.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I receive clarity as I daily read from the pages of your heart. Amen

WEDNESDAY ■ OCTOBER 23, 2019.

WHAT IS YOUR TEMPTATION? (Text: 1 Cor 10:13 NIV)

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

I was teaching a group of young disciples and we got talking about temptations. One of

them asked, "Pastor, what is your temptation?"

I thought briefly and said to them, "I get tempted when there is no money on me". I am tempted to take money that is not mine and spend with the hope that I will return it.

I shared a brief story of how the office released money to fuel my car for a trip. I ended up not going and I had not yet bought the fuel. I wanted to keep the money with the thought that, "What if I had bought the fuel, will I return it?"

That's my temptation! Someone replied, "But that's no big deal. At least, it was released". I responded, "But I did not use it for the purpose it was released".

Friends, temptations are part of our Christian walk. It will test your trust in God. If it ever tempts you, it is because you have what it takes to overcome it.

Paul tells us that God has screened the test that comes our way knowing well that we can overcome it:

We all experience times of testing, which is normal for every human being. But God will be faithful to you. He will screen and filter the severity, nature, and timing of every test or trial you face so that you can bear it.

And each test is an opportunity to trust him more, for along with every trial God has provided for you a way of escape that will bring you out of it victoriously.(1 Corinthians

10:13 TPT)

How do you overcome this temptation? First, call it what it is. Do not try to colour it at all. Call Sin a Sin. Fornication sounds scarier than premarital sex. Adultery raises an alarm louder than extra marital affair.

Second, be accountable. Temptation thrives in secret. Let there be at least one person in your life that you can pour your heart to when you are tempted. The person must be free to poke nose in your business.

Third, be brutal with sin. Your destiny is involved. Do not smell what you will not eat. Stop picking the call. Stop visiting that house. Remove the password on your phones. Let your spouse have access to all your chats and calls.

Deal with temptation. There are people who fell and they never get to rise again. They did not come out of the pit of sin and were slain and laid in the grave of ungodly decisions. Beware!

CONFESSION

I refuse to give in to temptation, I live a disciplined and controlled life. I overcome all tempting sin, the grace of God is sufficient for me.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I declare no temptation will overpower me. I am an overcomer. Amen

THURSDAY ■ OCTOBER 24, 2019.

I SHARED THE MONEY EQUALLY (Text: 2 Cor 9:6-7 KJV)

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

The first time I was invited to come speak in a teens camp, I went with some of my dear friends. I knew God was going to do amazing things through our lives in our generation.

It was some distance from school and I paid the

charter for the cab. After the meeting, the honorarium was handed over to me. I divided it into equal portions and gave all of them.

They argued that I cannot pay for the cab and still have equal share as all of them. I saw

beyond the present. It was my test!

Do you remember when David and his men went to recover their wives, children and goods from the Amalekites? Out of the 600 men, 200 were tired and stayed back.

After the win, the 400 when they saw the loot told David that the 200 who stayed behind would only have their wives and children and no portion of the recovered loot.

David said to them, "Families don't do this sort of thing! Oh no, my brothers! You can't act this way with what God gave us! The share of the one who stays with the gear is the share of the one who fights—equal shares. Share and share alike!" (1 Samuel 30:23 - 25 MSG)

You must pass the test of entitlement. It was not your skill or sword that brought the victory—God gave you! What do you have that you did not receive?

There are times we think we are where we are by effort. We simply forget about the mercies of God. It is the mercies of God that has brought us this far. A man who obtained mercy must also be merciful.

If you think others must go through what you went through to get the results you get, Jesus proved you wrong when he told Peter to also walk on water. Jesus did not say, "Who are you

to walk on water? Do you know who I am".

Miracles are not done to prove a point. Miracles are done to draw men to God.

Wait a minute! I am still in amazing relationship with my friends till date. Greed travels into your future, burns every bridge and destroys all you need before you get there.

The blessing of God makes rich and adds no sorrow but if you handle the blessing with pride, you will destroy valuable relationships.

If your promotion at work is making you lose your valuable relationships, something is wrong. If the "blessings" of God is making you disregard relationships you should honour, all is not well!

Whether your phone gets a 10,000 or 10,000,000 alert, the sound does not change. The blessings you enjoy must not change you—stay humble!

COFESSION

I am blessed with resources and I enjoy the gift of friends. I am not greedy, I give cheerfully. I do not exploit my friends and family; I sow into the Godly relationship around me.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I come against every deposit of greed in my life. I learn the act of giving without expecting back. Amen

FRIDAY

■ OCTOBER 25, 2019.

REFLEX RESPONSES (Text: Rom 12:2 KJV)

"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."

In our early days in marriage, I had a funny habit that I had developed over time and I do not think about it before doing it. When someone sneezes, my response is always "Same to you".

I only meant it as a joke but it did not go down well with my wife. I still know the exact spot where we were when she said, "Is it so hard for

you to say 'easy', 'bless you' or even 'sorry dear'?"

I had to change.

Habits are not built overnight and they are not changed overnight. Habits, just like computer programmes, are actually developed. It is a string of codes that is now producing that reflex action.

We are constantly programming our lives to either succeed or fail. The reflex response for a man in fire is to run and not smile! You are programmed to run from pain.

We have programmed ourselves to be spenders and it becomes tough to save. We at times are programmed to borrow; it is now tougher to be patient and delay gratification.

When Paul says that we should not be conformed to this world but we should be transformed by the renewing of our mind. It meant that we should be reprogrammed by changing the input (language and codes).

It is better to be programmed before crisis than wait for crisis to program you. Think about it like this- Do you prefer seeking solution in the midst of problems or having solutions before the problem arises?

Begin to programme your mind now with the Word of God. Do not wait for a spiritual attack to load your arsenal. When a gun is pointed at you in a dream, let your response be laughter and the Word (It takes programming).

If you watch too much of some of our movies and listen to all the evil news without a requisite knowledge of the Word, your response will be fear. On the grounds of fear, you will definitely lose. Program your mind.

If you constantly feed on the failing marriages and you don't dig to find that "He that finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favour from God", you will be programmed for a

failed marriage.

Every day, there is intense programming going on- gist in buses, media programmes, social media, unfavourable reports but there are also teachings of God's Word, godly music, encouraging friends, testimonies of God's faithfulness- the choice is absolutely yours.

Program your body and soul also. Pray. Study. Eat Healthy. Exercise. Take Rest. Do your medical checkup. Faith is Wise.

Program your marriage to last. Be intentional about spending time together. Pray together. Play together. Do not just hang out with the boys or babes. Hangout with your spouse.

You need to begin to declare to yourself: I am programmed to last. I am a long distance runner. I have staying power. I have a great home. Things work in my favour.

Do you see that life has programmed a lot of people to give angry responses? It seems like a reflex action these days. Refuse that path.

CONFESSION

I daily draw nutrient from the word of God, my mind is renewed. I give myself to studying, I give myself to prayer. I have staying power.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I pray for the grace to constantly fix my gaze upon the word of God. I receive a renewed mind. I do not slack in preparation. Amen

SATURDAY ■ OCTOBER 26, 2019.

BREAKFAST FOR ONE (Text: Proverbs 11:25 NIV)

"The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."

I was out of town for a meeting and I had stay in a hotel. I went with one of my men. The hotel bill came with complimentary breakfast for one person.

From experience, knowing that hotel meals

could be expensive, I gave him some cash to get some meal at an eatery for breakfast.

When I got to the restaurant in the hotel, I realised that I could not finish the complimentary breakfast. As a matter of fact, it

could feed the two of us conveniently. I should have ordered a room service instead!

We would not have needed to spend so much extra if we knew that what was available was more than sufficient.

Friends, there is nothing God blesses you with that is for you alone. God is not so frivolous to deposit grace in you just to service your stomach- He wants you to give out to another.

God gave you the gift of salvation so you can pass on the testimony to another. That chain must never be broken. Since you got the gift of eternal life, whom have you passed the life on to?

God did not give you Joseph to just satisfy your thirst for a child; He knew a generation has to be preserved. God did not give you Samuel to "shut up" Peninah, He gave you Samuel because He needed a Prophet to "spot a man after His heart".

God did not just bless you with a car so you can cruise. He gave you one so you can begin to build relationship with two other men on your street who head in your direction daily till you can introduce Christ to them.

Don't look at the bank alerts and just smile. Tell God "I am steward. What do you want to use this for?" You will be surprised that there is no gift from God that should lay dormant.

That good voice is a gospel sound. That smile is a kingdom asset. That gut is needed beyond the boardroom and business deals.

How dare we think that the eternal God will give us gifts for mere ephemeral purposes? How dare we think that the platform, the promotion, the possession and the profession is the end of the testimony without finding the purpose?

You cannot be doing thanksgiving that God made you Queen while you lose sight that Hanan is about to wipe out the Jews. Who knows whether you were given the gift for such a time as this?

While you carry that baby, whether in your womb or in your hands, kindly know that you are raising God's gift for a generation. You may just have been paid to raise the one who will pull Israel out of Egypt- you must not fail!

After salvation, the next mindset you must build is that of assignment. The next question Paul asked after "Who are you, Lord?" was "Lord, what will you have me do?"

There is nothing God blesses you with that is just for you. Serve the purpose of God in your generation like David. Destiny is not a complimentary breakfast for one- be a blessing to another!

CONFESSION

I do not withhold what you've given me, I sow sparingly. I am generous in all my dealings, I use my resources, my gifting, my time to propagate the kingdom of God

PRAYER

Dear Lord, give me the grace to consistently use my gift for the effectiveness of the kingdom. Amen

SUNDAY ■ OCTOBER 27, 2019.

THESE MUST NEVER BE FORGOTTEN (Text: ." Psalm 82:6, Daniel 11:32b)

"I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High."

"but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits."

The police officers were ready to play the delay game. I stood by the car while they went away with my car particulars. They

reasoned I was not going to "rub their palm".

After a delay of about 30 minutes, I walked up

to the most ranking officer and said to him, "There are two reasons why I would not give you anything sir. First, I am a Pastor. Second, I am a lawyer. These are meant to be noble professions". Well! I got my papers back without argument.

On the journey of life, we will get into moments of crisis and there are two things you must never forget in such seasons.

First, do not forget your identity. You are of God. You are "Sandra of God". You are "Felix of God". You are of God. Crisis comes to question our identity- "Jesus I know, Paul I know, Who are you?"

Do not try to hide or change identity in the midst of crisis. Your identity can save you. Ahab still died even though he disguised in the battle. It was a random arrow that pierced his ribs.

No matter what anyone thought, the scarlet line must not leave the window of Rahab. The opinion of anyone was irrelevant. It was a token of a covenant. It was an identity.

The screams of Goliath must not make you appear in Saul's armour. It is not your identity. Pressure must not make you change your identity in Christ. Your shepherd's bag and sling is actually enough.

The second thing you must do in crisis is to speak from your identity. Do not speak like your condition. Speak from your position and identity. King Jehoshaphat would have died in kingly robes if he did not scream out. They recognised that he was not the one they sought.

It is alright to be quiet when you are finding God's will in a matter. But once you find it, you must begin to speak it. You must declare it. There is a time to be quiet. There is a time to

speak.

Jesus knew that there is a time to be calm and write on the floor thoughtfully but there is a time to stand and speak to all accusers. Do not just speak about the crisis, speak to the crisis.

You will have what you say. Speak till your heart believes it. Speak! That is what will get you out of that crisis. Speak! That is what makes the mountains to quake and move.

Speak to your mind to focus on God and your identity in Him. Do not just think about the challenge. Speak to the challenge. The crisis must not change your identity. Challenges must not steal your voice.

Goliath can't speak for 40 straight days and all you do is listen. Your fear will build. Shut him out. Walk by the stream. Pull out five smooth stones. He must not have the final say. Use one of the stones to shut him up permanently.

David spoke before Goliath was killed. The others got back their voice only after Goliath died. David spoke to Goliath. Others spoke about Goliath. Speak the Word in the midst of the crisis and you will see the end of it. If you wait for the end before you speak to it, you may never see the end of it. Selah!

CONFESSION

I know who I am, I am a God. I am not shaken by situations because I have God on my side, I am more than conqueror. I know who I am and I know my God, I will do exploit. No longer shall fear intimidate me, I have the mind of Christ.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I come against every intimidating situation. I enjoy peace all around. Amen

MONDAY ■ OCTOBER 28, 2019.

HONOUR FROM THE HEART (Text: 1 Timothy 5:17)

Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine

I was watching a dear father teach sometimes ago. It was on a YouTube channel. While watching, my wife called that she needed my attention. I did something that shocked me.

I said, "I am sorry sir" before I paused the video and went to see my wife. It dawned on me later that I was not even in his presence. But I was so engrossed that it felt like I was having a personal conversation with him.

That is what honour is about. It is not eye service. It flows from the heart. Friends, honour means that you esteem someone greatly.

Honour is not lip service. You would never do behind a person you honour what you cannot do in his or her presence. It is not honourable to talk about your pastor or teacher in a derogatory way because they are not there.

Honour is painstaking. You cannot walk out on a person you honour. Your Pastor is teaching and you are already walking out. It is not honourable (not even to pick a call).

If you were sitting right before him, would you do the same? Honour reflects who you are even more than how you value another person. Whatever you give will definitely return to

you.

When your pastor is teaching, it is honourable to take notes. You are simply saying that you value what he is sharing. It is not honourable moving from one social media page to another rather than listen.

Honour keeps to time. Honour does not go late for appointments. If for any reason you will be late, you must ensure that you communicate such. Do not keep people waiting even if you are the boss.

Honour is from the heart. If your heart is right, it will be easier to flow in honour. Honour does not just respect the pastor, it also respects the associates and the unit heads. You cannot say you honour the head while you dishonour the system.

Do all things honourably today

CONFESSION

I affirm that I will not pay lip service. I live in honour. I honour people right from my heart

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, my heart is set right. I will not walk in dishonor today and for the rest of my life. Amen

TUESDAY

■ OCTOBER 29, 2019.

DEFEND YOUR PASTOR (Text: Colosians 4:3)

Withal praying for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds

Throughout the meeting, as my Spiritual Father taught us and led us to pray, I could see that he was a bit tired. He had been on a national tour leading a prayer movement. It was a hectic season.

Just before we wrapped up the meeting. I went to fetch my cheque book and wrote him a token. As I handed it over to him, I told him to please use it to take some good food and have some great rest also. I saw him smile and I was glad.

Friends, you can be a strong defence to your pastors also. David would have been killed in battle by a giant due to fatigue if not that he had a sensitive soldier close-by who sensed that his king's life was in danger.

I know Pastor can wake up at night with a burden for someone in church but have you ever woken up with a burden to pray for your pastor?

I remember the sad incidence of the pastor who committed suicide in his office right in the

midst of a service when his church was waiting for Pastor to bring a word. Who feeds the feeder?

Your pastor brings you a word of encouragement and your spirit is lifted but have you ever wondered who encourages your Pastor? When last did you say "Thank You" because of what he has taught you? Who feeds the feeder?

Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem and realised that the Levites have abandoned the temple to go work on farms so they can have food to eat. The people no longer bring provision to the temple. Nehemiah was sad. He immediately restored the Levites and charged the people to do what was right (Neh. 13:10,11)

I see faithful pastors suffer. I also see lazy ones take advantage of people. But if you know that you are pastored by a shepherd with a sincere heart for the flock, you owe him a sensitive heart.

People talk to pastors about their needs but have you ever asked who pastors talk to about theirs? Do you know that a lot of Pastor's spouses battle emotional depression? They rarely have a best friend to talk with.

Do you know most children of Pastors in ministry have made a vow never to become ministers? They see their parents give their time and money to others and they become defensive and offended. And yet the same people pay them back with that phrase of "Are you not a Pastor's child?". They get hurt and

become rebellious.

Can you help us love your Pastor and His family? There are times they have given their best of health and time to the church and it is only their tired minds and bodies they bring to their family. It takes a lot of guts for a pastor to say "No" at times.

Can you help your Pastor finish strong? Send him a message saying thank you for the teachings and the grooming. Do you even have a plan to bless him? Plan it. Can you stir other church folks to insist that your Pastor should take a break and you pay the bills? If all you keep looking for are his faults- it is unfair. Can you sneak to confirm whether he has paid all his bills for his kids fees and house rent? Surprise him.

We can help fix a Pastor's family. Let the spouse and kids be able to say they are proud of what he or she does. I know there is a reward in heaven but do not let your attitude send your Pastor there earlier than normal.

CONFESSION

I declare today that I will put my Pastor in mind to be of help and not a burden. I will not only be a receiver but also a giver. As he blesses me with spiritual/material things, I also bless him with material things and prayers

PRAYER

Lord, give me a shepherd's heart. Let love from my heart to the Pastor you have ordained over me

WEDNESDAY ■ OCTOBER 30, 2019.

DIGNIFY YOUR PASTOR (Text: 1 Tim 5:17 TPT)

"The pastors who lead the church well should be paid well. They should receive double honor for faithfully preaching and teaching the revelation of the word of God."

I attend a monthly ministers seminar with my Spiritual Father. I had occasion to leave earlier that day so I sent him a text very early in the morning apologizing that I may exit while he was yet teaching because I had to receive a special guest for our meeting in church that

night.

I ended up staying till the end of the meeting. When he spotted me towards the tail end, he said "Son, you are still here". I just could not bring myself to exit while he was still teaching.

Friends, dignify your pastor. The way you treat others actually says a lot more about you. If you are sitting with him one on one, would you stroll out to pick a call? How you behave in a crowd speaks volumes. Do not hide in the crowd and act dishonourably. You conclude that no one sees you. Your heart will soon show you acts.

One way to dignify them is by exceeding expectations. When you are rebuked for coming late or dropping the ball in service, don't ask them if they pay you for want you do. It says a lot about your heart. There are folks today who do for a living what they learnt in church for free.

Church is the safest laboratory in the world- things that will earn you a sack letter in the world gets you an admonition and encouragement in the church. You must never turn round and now point fingers even if the church is not perfect- you also are not!

Dignify your pastor by communicating effectively. If there is a reason you would not be in church or a meeting, take permission! Send a text. Call them. Let them be able to vouch for you. People have escaped huge problems because their pastor could vouch for them.

Dignify your pastor by refusing to entertain gossips about them. Ensure your space is not the place to dissect how Pastor preached or the dressing of his wife. Do not put a sword on their backs while you smile at their face.

If you cannot accept instructions from the mouth of a Pastor, it is better you find another

church family rather than causing division because you are disgruntled.

Remember the admonition of Paul to Timothy that those who labour in word and doctrine deserve double honour. It is carnality to treat your boss with class and treat your pastor like thrash. You take corrections at work but you despise rebuke in church.

Dignify your Pastor by giving him healthy feedback. If enjoy access to him, see his efforts before you see his faults. Ensure that you give him information that will help his work.

If you are on his team, talk like a team member. If your hands are on deck, you will be too busy to point fingers. If someone in church raises an issue, speak with the mindset of a team member. Do not say "That is how they behave" or "Me, I don't know o".

Do not forget Pastors are human too. They will be held doubly accountable for what they teach and decisions they take- help make your Pastors work easier. Dignify them.

CONFESSION

I honor my pastor. I do not trouble my pastor and I make his/her work easy. I do not cause strife, I am a team player.

PRAYER

My Lord and God please bless my pastor, grant him/her grace to carry out Your assignment on earth properly. Help me o Lord to help make my pastor's work easy. May I not be part of any rebellion or opposition towards my pastor or the church. Amen

THURSDAY ■ OCTOBER 31, 2019.

IF YOU ARE CLOSE TO A PASTOR (Text: 1 Cor 16:16 TPT)

"I urge you to honor and support them, and all those like them who work so diligently for the Lord."

We sat in the car that day and he said to me, "Pastor, today I want to apologise. For the past few years, I never saw or accepted you as my pastor. Today, I want to say I am sorry. I am accepting your role as my pastor".

I understood perfectly. And it was not absolutely his fault. For the first few years of Ministry, I was also simply running without being thoroughly trained.

If you are close to a Pastor, there are things you

must know and settle fast. If you do not settle it, you will walk into offence and it will truncate your relationship with both God and man. It will cause you pain and hinder purpose.

Access is the best gift a man can give to you. If you do not know how to handle it, you will be locked out of your training school.

Michal, the daughter of Saul, the wife of David, knew David from the days he showed up in the palace as that shepherd boy. She saw him rise in the military. She saw her father Saul scheme to kill David.

She knew David in his "small boy" moments. She did not connect to the kingship, priesthood and prophetic dimension of David. The image of that "shepherd boy" never left her. Therefore, when David did his thing in worshipping God, she despised him. She never accepted his priesthood.

Do you know David was on his way home to bless his family and met an angry wife? Rebecca accepted the priesthood of Isaac and barrenness ended. Michal despised the priesthood of David and died a barren woman.

People who are the closest to a Pastor are the ones who despise correction most times. You can hang around a grace and it does not smell on you. Why should the son of the prophet die in debt yet his wife ran to the same man he served and got a miracle?

If you are a close to a Pastor, double up your walk of honour. You will see their weakness but

never take it for granted. You will see faults but do not let it lead you into offence. Remember that they are men. Honour them. Honour is not worship.

This is the rule- Anytime you to see the faults, remember that it is because you have access. Access is a gift.

If you are married to a Pastor, it is a tougher demand. It will be pretty hard at times knowing when to relate with him as your pastor or as your spouse- be discerning.

People can share testimonies about how your spouse has been a blessing and you look at your life and wonder if they are simply lying. Some people never stopped seeing Jesus as the carpenter's son. Know when relationships have shifted. Align with it.

Settle it fast. Choose either you want the Pastoral Relationship or all you want is the friendship and fellowship. They are different realities.

CONFESSION

I enjoy access, I do not take it for granted. I am discerning, I recognise the shift and I align with it.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, I thank you for access. I pray that I do not misuse it. Grant me a discerning spirit, may I know when a shift occurs and help me align with it. Amen

A stylized, dark gray clock face is visible in the background, partially obscured by the text. The clock face features a large, dark, triangular hour hand pointing towards the bottom right, and a smaller, dark, circular minute hand. The overall design is minimalist and modern.

NOVEMBER
2019

WIN YOUR PASTOR'S CONFIDENCE (Text: 2 Cor.12 :18)

"I urged Titus, and sent our brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did we not walk in the same steps?"

We were running late from a meeting with my Spiritual Father and it was the day of our midweek service. Right on the way, I began to think of the person on ground to give instructions to carry on. All the Ministerial Team was on the road.

Just after we gave a call and passed on instructions, I said to my associates with me that, "This is how to know who indeed is faithful. The question is Who can I send or who can go for us or who will do it responsibly?"

Paul also had the same challenge at times in ministry deciding who to send to places that situations and circumstances would not let him be.

When He sent Timothy to the Philippians, he said to them: "Yet I'm trusting in our Lord Jesus that I may send Timothy to you soon...Timothy is like no other. He carries the same passion for your welfare that I carry in my heart. For it seems as though everyone else is busy seeking what is best for themselves instead of the things that are most important to our Lord Jesus Christ. You already know about his excellent reputation, since he has served alongside me as a loyal son in the work of ministry. After I see what transpires with me he's the one I will send to you to bless you" Philippians 2:19-23 TPT

Do you have the same heart for the people like your Pastor does? A pastor cannot send someone who would bruise and hurt the sheep.

Wait a minute! Do you think that a Pastor would send a perpetual late comer to stand in for him at a meeting? Or would he send someone who would pick "an important call" and abandon the sheep at the last minute?

And when he sent Titus to the Corinthians. He had this testimony of Titus also: "When I urged

Titus to visit you and sent our other brother with him, did Titus take advantage of you? No! For we have the same spirit and walk in each other's steps, doing things the same way" 2 Corinthians 12:18 NLT

If a Pastor knows that you will take advantage of the sheep, he will not send you. You cannot be winking at the girls or guys of Zion and expect to be trusted.

Have you caught the heart of your Pastor for the vision? Do you walk in the same spirit and in the same step? A leader can only entrust things to a person who will do things the way he would have done it or even better.

You cannot commit the destiny of a call into the hands of a burden to the call. You seek those who have been a blessing to relieve the burden.

Friend, the burden on your Pastor is a lot already but he needs trusted hands to help with the sheep. He does not want a hireling that a business call would constantly take away from the place of assignment. He does not want a wolf in sheep's clothing that would befriend the sheep before dividing the spoil. He wants a sheep who has the heart of the shepherd.

Can you be trusted?

CONFESSION

I am full of trust. I am not a hireling, I do not neglect the sheep. I am not a wolf in sheep clothing, I do not deceive the sheep. I am a sheep who has the heart of the shepherd. I can be trusted.

PRAYER

My Lord and my God I ask for grace to be a blessing in relieving the burden. Whenever a person to be trusted with a task is searched for, May I not be found wanting. Help me Lord to be a trusted hand to help with the sheep. Amen

BUILDING STRONG MARRIAGES 1 (Text: Gen. 2:24, 1 Cor. 11:11)

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

"Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman."

That Sunday, my wife looked into the congregation as she taught and said to them, "I troubled my husband in the first two years of our marriage". I smiled at her. I knew what she meant. She told them the truth.

Strong marriages are not products of some magical constructions or assumptions; they come out of strong decisions to make the marriage work.

Look around you: Everything that you do not take the pain to understand will become your weakness. Everything you take the pain to master becomes your strength.

There were subjects you started out hating but at a point, you gave it enough attention and you began to appreciate the subject more. What changed? You took the pain to understand it. You can never understand what you fight and hate. You can only understand what you decide to master.

You become a mediocre in everything that you give up on. I gave up on learning to play the keyboard, the drums and the guitar. I am a mediocre in all of it today. I have an idea but I am not a master.

If you give up on knowing your spouse, you will be a mediocre wife or a mediocre husband. Your home will just be a place for average- there will only be routine. There will be no spectacular moments.

There was a 'silent night' we had at an early phase of our marriage. I begged my wife for hours to know what the matter was. Eventually she told me, "I don't think marriage is meant for me". I collapsed. I was shocked.

If you are not patient enough to master it, you cannot enjoy it. One of the priceless qualities you must come into marriage with is patience.

See every conflict as an opportunity to work as a team and become better.

Why must you keep burying issues when they come up? Talk about it. Talk as team members and not as opponents. Do not score points while you lose your marriage. It does not make any sense.

Most likely, you both came into marriage with two different images of how things are done. Be patient enough to sync your images into God's ideal image for the home. In the process, you will lose some habits and gain new ones. There is no big deal as long as they are godly.

Marriage is a life time commitment to be a student. You will keep on studying and mastering the art of knowing your spouse. You must come in clothed with teachability- that is your shock absorber!

Teachability does not mean suppressing your emotions. Do not be like the student who does not understand what the teacher taught but he refuses to ask questions because he is timid.

Ask your questions in love. Do not wait till you are angry to ask questions you could have asked in love. Do not say "Why do you behave like this?" in the midst of conflict. Ask in an atmosphere of love.

No student asks questions in the examination hall. Learn before the examination comes.

CONFESSION

I am patient, I am not a mediocre spouse. I resolve issues as a team member. I am teachable. I master my marriage.

PRAYER

Dear Lord please help me be patient to master marriage. Save me from mediocrity. Help me be teachable. Amen

"Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you- guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us."

Just as I drove to the gate of the estate where we lived, the Holy Spirit said to me, "Go back home and apologize". I made a U-turn. I returned home and apologized immediately to my wife. Interestingly, I did not even know that she was annoyed until the Spirit of God pointed it out.

Friends, no matter how much our world underplays spiritual things, a strong marriage is built on the foundation of the couples relationship with God and their ability to master His voice.

There are times I would ask my wife in the midst of a conflict, "What is the Spirit of God saying to you?". In annoyance, she would shrug away my question. But when I ask after the conflict, she would say, "The Spirit of God told me to apologize but I only wanted you to feel the pain I felt too". We would both have a good laugh.

You can carry on for a day without talking to your spouse and still claim that you are a believer- that is absurd. You can say hurting words and carry on as though nothing happened. Does not your heart burn within you?

I remember raising my voice once on my wife in the midst of a conflict and I was already apologising even though we had not resolved the issue at hand. Do not keep on justifying nonsense. It is either you have a yielded heart or a hardened heart.

And by the way, the Holy Spirit can teach you to be romantic. Everything in marriage will test the fruit of the Spirit in your life. You will love when you do not feel like it. You would have to be patient. You would know that your spouse is not the source of your joy. You will not burden them with a responsibility that is not theirs.

The Holy Spirit will nudge you in the area of

your weakness. Your heart will almost pound out of your chest until you hold the hand of your spouse and say "I am sorry. I love you". Your grand-standing will turn to a broken heart. Pride will be replaced with humility. Ego will fly out of the window. You will hold your peace when you want to actually scream.

What makes your marriage strong is not the gifts of the Spirit, it is the fruit of the Spirit. You can speak in tongues and the Holy Spirit says to you, "My friend, go and fix your mess". That takes walking in love.

If the devil begins to attack your personal devotion, you will soon notice that you are becoming indifferent in your marital responsibilities also.

I remember grumbling once about my wife and the Lord said to me, "Whatever is wrong in her life is your responsibility". I was shocked. Well, I took my place and began the work of the "bridegroom" and "husband-man". Or does both names not show that you have an assignment to nurture? Focus on your assignment and stop grumbling.

Remember, except the Lord builds a house, the builders labour but only in vain. It takes wisdom and understanding to build a house. Do you know that there is the Spirit of wisdom and understanding? You cannot build a great home without the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION

I am taught of the Lord, I listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. I have the fruits of the Spirit, I build a great home.

PRAYER

Dear Lord I pray that you teach me to be a better spouse. Help me listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Give me all I need to build a great home.

*"He that walks with the wise shall be wise, but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."
 "...But in the abundance of wise and godly counselors there is victory."*

It was a trying period. We were gradually coming out of it due to the counsel of teachers. Our emotions have come under severe stress. We looked at the season and the challenges at the time raised a lot of questions.

Fortunately, we had a chance to hang out with another couple- our friends. We were vulnerable as we shared our experiences. They spoke about their journey also- seasons when the wife had to wash one of her private wears every day at the close of work so she can use it the next day.

We (the men) told both our wives about how the needs at home already puts us under pressure before they even ask at all. We mentioned that there had been times we held the steering wheel of the car and shed tears as we looked to God and racked our minds.

What is the point? If your marriage will be strong, take your journey with teachers who challenge you and friends who are real. If your circle of friends puts you under unimaginable pressure, you will stress your marriage.

If your home is surrounded with only talks about "perfect homes" who go on summer breaks and shopping spree or gist about party cloths and all you talk about are things that have no long-lasting impact, you will stress your marriage.

Friends, surround yourself with teachers who have gone ahead but have not lost touch with where they have been. They teach you from the pains of their process and not just the pressure of their present status. They remind you that they did not get to blend or prosper overnight- keep them tight!

There are people who have forgotten the days that they could not afford to buy cloths from expensive stores but they keep telling you that is what you must wear- run fast. Run! Thank them for their love but run.

Do not lose out on the joy of your process through the burden placed on you by those who have either forgotten theirs or are simply not being real.

Yes! There is safety in the multitude of counsel. But do not forget that "Who" is more important than "What". Who is giving you the counsel? Even the devil can say the truth.

One of the finest counsels we got before marriage was so simple- "Own your journey. Laugh at your mistakes. Do not take yourselves too seriously". When we have a lot, we laugh. When it is not enough, we laugh harder. We love up on each other while we wait trust and plan for better days. Why should you lose what you have over what you do not have?

What is your company like?

CONFESSION

I am delivered from every pressure that is not God's will for me. I enjoy the process the Lord is taking my family through. My marriage is surrounded with teachers and godly friends. Through wisdom and godly counsel my marriage is established.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, bring our way godly friends and teachers you have ordained to help us build this great home. Open our eyes to destiny relationships that help keep the bound of marital unity. Amen

And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, let not the wife depart from her husband; ...and let not the husband put away his wife.

That evening when we returned from the engagement ceremony of my Aunt. Mum made an unusual request. She wanted Dad to help her clear her dishes after eating. Dad obliged. Once Dad returned, she told him that she cannot see him again. Her sight was lost. Daddy lifted up his hands and she did not know the number of fingers. Daddy sobbed.

At that moment when it seem all came to a standstill and hearing her lover sob, she asked, "Are you crying?" Dad held on to her two hands. He lifted them up and touched his own eyes and said to her, "From today, these are your eyes".

First, if your marriage will be strong, there is something you must settle and that it is the fact that you own nothing. You have nothing- not even your body. It is not your house. It is not your car. It is not your money. You cannot say, "Pack out of my house" or "You cannot go out with my car".

One of the things that has killed marriages is that self-centred singles become self-centred couples. If yourself and your spouse both have a selfless heart and a committed mind, you will both realise that you keep outdoing one another in expressing love.

Second, marriage is still "for better and for worse". There will be rough moments on the road- broke days when there is nothing yet your emotions cannot fluctuate with your bank balance. It is so easy to know when some men have money and when they are broke. It is written on their faces and perceived by their mood.

My parents did not want that night but challenges (just like opportunities) do not give

you notice. You cannot even pray against them. They are part of life's equation. They simply arrive as guests. You must know how to treat them. You must be prepared before they come.

There is now a generation that is arising that has been told that "once you confess it, it will all just be good". Even if you confess it, it will only all work out for your good. And that is if you are prepared to master it.

You cannot build a great marriage when you have an exit plan. You better tell yourself before marriage that "I am in this to give my all" and be sure that your partner is on the same page.

Homes have broken because a spouse lost a job. Some have broken because another had a terminal illness. Some have broken because the other had an accident and they could no longer endure it. Some homes break and parties become unfaithful because there is no child yet!

If you know that marriage is a covenant and you understand what a covenant is, you would know that indeed it is for better and for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness or in health and till death do us part!

CONFESSION

I am committed to my spouse and marriage. I stay true to my marital vows. I declare no challenge will be able to overcome us. We receive strength to stand strong in the days of adversity.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, impress on our heart the sacredness of the marriage covenant and help us to stay committed to each other no matter the storm along the way. Amen

WEDNESDAY ■ NOVEMBER 6, 2019.

BUILDING STRONG MARRIAGES 5 (Text: : SOS 1:15-16)

Behold, thou art fair; thou hast dove eyes. Behold, thou art fair, my beloved, yea, pleasant: also our bed is green.

After the birth of our first daughter, it did not take up to a month before my wife

and I noticed that we were gradually drifting apart. All attention was on our new baby.

Irewamiri suddenly had sweet words for Danielle. You hear "my love" or "I love you" couple of times in a day and I became jealous.

Friends, there are couples who think that they are actually in love but they are only comrades joined by a common ground of raising children. When children get old and leave the home, the couple wakes up to the fact that they raised their kids but lost their friendship.

Fight for the friendship in your home. It is natural for you to want to turn your attention to your kids. Your discussions are now solely tied to school fees, pocket money, kid's health and all.

Take a pause. When last did you spend a minute looking into the eyes of your spouse, holding his or her hand until a smile breaks out and wrinkles disappear? When last did you hear the heartfelt sound of laughter that melts the heart?

Do you now turn and groan yet he does not hear because he is fast asleep after a stressful day of working to pay the bills? There are couples who drop tears and silent sobs yet the other party have no idea.

Hold it! Do you see how easy it is to share good news with someone else now before you have an awakening that you have not even mentioned it to your spouse?

The friendship in your home is the lifeline of your marriage. If your marriage becomes lost in the rituals of duties and lacks the unplanned moments of deep hearted laughter, you have a battle to fight.

From today, tell yourself "I will consciously look into the eyes of my spouse every day. Give

him or her a huge hug and drop a compliment before they exit the door".

You need to stop during the day and bring back the days of checking on your spouse and simply say, "I just wanted to hear your voice. It inspires me". Stop and do it!

Do not lose the friendship you share. Do not just get home and face the Television set or check social media updates. No! Check up your spouse. Read the news of the day on her face. Browse through her mind and click 'like' as she pours out her thought.

There had been times my wife returns from work and meets me preparing a teaching for a meeting. She naturally wants to tell me something about the day. I used to be indifferent as I just drop some sounds at intervals yet I was not listening. But now, I have planned my schedule to give her the listening ear and smiling face with some slice of troublesome touches.

Friend, what does it cost your marriage if you give your best to the whole world and lose the spark of friendship in your home?

CONFESSION

"I will consciously look into the eyes of my spouse every day. Giving him or her the compliment that refill our bucket of love. I refuse to allow the routine of daily life drain the bond of friendship between me and my spouse.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, help me to constantly keep the flame of friendship alive in my marriage. May I not give my best to the world and lose the spark in my home. Amen

THURSDAY

■ NOVEMBER 7, 2019.

BUILDING STRONG MARRIAGES 6 (Text: 1 John 4:18)

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."

I was the youngest in the Pastors meeting. All Others had been in ministry for at least 25 years. It was a privilege to be in their midst. One of the nights, there was a prophetic moment. We began to intercede for one another and relay what God would have us say.

All the elderly preachers told me the same thing: "Do not force your wife into a mould. It will break her and it will hurt you and the ministry. Watch her evolve. Let the seed become a tree and it will be fruitful and remain a blessing". A dear father in the faith told me the same thing before marriage.

One of the major causes of conflict in marriage and by extension in life is unmet expectations. You have that ideal image of how a husband or a wife should be and you want your spouse to conform to that image.

You have an image of your mum and you think your wife must be exactly like her. You married her and not your mum. You have an image of an uncle and you want your husband to be like him, you did not marry your uncle.

And by the way, did you ever sit to ask your mum or your uncle how many years it took them to evolve? Why on earth would you punish your home by comparing some people's Chapter 8 to your Introduction?

If you love people for who they are, it will give you room to see who you desire them to be. Marriage tests all the fruits of the Spirit. Your full joy is linked to walking in love. Focus patiently on who they are and you will find treasures.

Even in the parable of Jesus, the treasure was hidden in the field. Buy the field and enjoy the treasure. The treasure is in the field but it is not the only thing on that field. Focus on the treasure and the field would be priceless. If you

focus on other things without seeing the treasure, the field will look worthless.

Earlier in marriage, I had that perfect image of a Pastor's spouse and I expected my wife to simply make it there. We had issues. We fought. My expectation was already frustrating her. She fought back.

Then I began to love her for who she is. I lived out the proof that she can do things in her unique way while I affirmed her. I showed her what I have learnt along the way and today, it has all changed. She is the one that even challenges me now. I am now seeing the treasures I was blind to.

I know you love a perfectly shaped woman but it was also the seed she carried for your sake that altered the natural state of things. Be patient. Love her still. Celebrate her always. Affirm her. Take a walk with her. It even bonds you both. Be involved.

Do not allow that perfect image spoil and wreck your home. You can love people in their process. Love is patient. Love is Kind. Love keeps no records of wrong. Love endures all things. When the fruits emerge, you will still be the first partaker of the harvest- be patient!

CONFESSION

I am patient, I am kind, I love completely. I love my spouse/people through their process. I stay focused till I see the treasure. I do not ruin my home with the expectation of a non-existent perfect image.

PRAYER

Dear Lord I ask for grace to love my spouse completely. Help me to look to You for the perfect image for my home. Give me staying power to love people through their process and when their fruits emerge may I be the first partaker of the fruits. Amen

FRIDAY

■ NOVEMBER 8, 2019.

BUILDING STRONG MARRIAGES 7 (Text: Prov. 4:5)

"Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth."

I was away from home for a couple of days. On one of the days, I did not get to call my wife early as I would usually do. When I called her, the first thing I said was, "I am sorry I did not call early". And her response made me fall in love again. She said, "I am sorry. I should have also called".

You cannot build a strong marriage when you have a strong and needy sense for entitlement. You cannot build a strong marriage when you are not willing to give what you crave to have.

Marriage is sweet when both parties are givers and forgivers. Can you imagine both of you planning a secret surprise for one another for your anniversary? Can you imagine that as you were saying "I am sorry", the same words drop from the lips of your spouse?

Grand-standing does not help in any way. How many times have you gotten what you wanted by giving the silent treatment? Afterwards, you now get annoyed because your spouse did not read your mood. Your spouse is human and (s)he is not the Holy Spirit.

My wife could have become annoyed that I did not call as usual early in the morning and begin to imagine how I am becoming unfaithful and worry herself over what does not exist. Then she could have said, "I would not even call him"

But the same way I was carried away with work, so she was also. She was not playing the blame game. She simply took responsibility also for the issue. Blame shifting is never honourable. You cannot paint your self as the

Saint and your spouse as the evil one. Take your portion and work on it.

By wisdom of communication, a house is built. By understanding that there will be moments of disagreements, a house is established. Through knowledge of how to respond to your spouse in all things, a house is filled with treasures.

A wise spouse would do all it takes to build the home. When all hands are on deck building the home, which finger would you use to point accusingly to another?

Most times, the things that makes us feel insecure are pains and hurts from the past. If you grew up knowing infidelity in close range, you will become suspicious of every thing that seems to look like it when it is not it. So once he does not call, he must be with another woman.

Heal fast. Do not allow your wounds from the past disturb your bliss in the present. Remember, marriage is made up of two givers and forgivers. Outdo one another in expressing love and forgiveness. You cannot overdo it.

CONFESSION

I heal fast, I do not allow my past disturb my present bliss. I express love and forgiveness always, I do not play the blame game.

PRAYER

Dear Lord please help me deal with my past completely. Give me grace to grow in trust. Teach me to love and forgive. Amen

SATURDAY ■ NOVEMBER 9, 2019.

IN THE MIDST OF PLENTY (Text: Deut. 8:10-11)

"When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. "But that is the time to be careful! Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the Lord your God and disobey his commands, regulations, and decrees that I am giving you today."

Just as I was called for breakfast, I began to hurry up. As I stepped in to the bathroom, the Holy Spirit reminded me that it was the day of the week that I normally separate to wait on

God. It felt like an arrow pierced my stomach. The pain was real. The hunger became more intense.

Just then I opened my mouth and said, "Thank you Holy Spirit for reminding me. I grateful". But it was after then that the hunger became real. It was going to be a long day.

You may not know how it feels to have the king's portion and Daniel and his friends have to "purpose" in their heart not to defile themselves with the king's portion. Could they not have quoted, "Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies"? At least it was in Babylon.

There are things that are going to look extremely inviting and will test your consecration. You will have to say "No".

One of the questions that Samson's parents asked is "What will be his rule of life and work?". Can you imagine Samson growing up and not cutting his hair and his mates are teasing him for such a bushy hair, he knows his destiny depends on it.

Can you imagine at a wedding ceremony in the midst of plenty and the scent of food, people keep looking at why you are smiling at the food instead of devouring it?

Our will to obey God will always be tested. There are things that are not necessarily sinful. They are only needful. Growth does not come cheap. The price of growth is responsibility.

The true test of our resolve to serve God is not always when we lack or we are in need. It is more in the season of abundance. My pastor taught me that, "You would not know how much of a sinner you can be until you have money. You need money to finance adultery"

Remember the charge of God to the Israelites about getting to the land and enjoying plenty. And he gives them this warning: "When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. "But that is the time to be careful! Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the Lord your God and disobey his commands, regulations, and decrees that I am giving you today." Deuteronomy 8:10 - 11 NLT

Don't get carried away in the midst of plenty. Let prosperity not become your slide out of a walk of consecration. It is easy to slip away from holiness. Stay watchful.

CONFESSION

I am not carried away in the midst of plenty. I pay the price of growth, I am responsible.

PRAYER

Dear Lord please help me stay watchful. May I continuously live for You whether in plenty or little. Amen

SUNDAY

■ NOVEMBER 10, 2019.

I GAVE HIM MONEY INSTEAD... (Text: John 4:34)

"My food, said Jesus, is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work".

While I sat on the barber's chair for a haircut, I knew deep within me that I was to share the gospel with that young man. But I was afraid. I wanted to just stick to professional conduct.

When he was done, I gave him the money for his service and then like a big boy told him to keep the change. I walked away. Then the Holy Spirit said to me, "Will your money pull him out from the path to destruction? Can your

money replace the Good News?"

Friends, I know we have said that you can give to the gospel or go for the gospel or groan in the prayer for the gospel but I say to you that you must do the three. You cannot be praying for souls and not speak to souls.

Money can never replace the gospel. We have an assignment to open our mouth and declare the good news of Christ. The gospel not

preached is not good news. Can you have the cure to cancer and keep quiet as a friend dies of same?

Honestly, it was out of the guilt that I did not preach the good news that made me give the money. Many are like that also- you want to hide behind the curtain of your cheque book and mission offerings! Jesus tore that curtain friends- now you have to proclaim his glory.

Talk to your cab driver. Ask him if he knows where you are going. Then ask him if he knows where he is going. Tell him there is a Jesus Map that leads us to eternity with God. You cannot miss your way when you take that map.

Let passion arise. Let flames be stirred. We must not be comfortable talking about sports without asking about the crown of life. We must not be comfortable talking about real estate and not about the treasures of the kingdom hidden in a field.

You cannot talk about fashion alone and not mention about the man who went to the king's banquet without the right clothing. How dare we talk about politics and not mention about the soon coming king.

Burn for the gospel while we are here friends so that souls will not burn in hell where its flames are never quenched. How is it that someone

relates with you for a month and never heard you talk about Jesus?

Can you hear the voice of the Rich man in hell screaming, "Send Lazarus"? Can you be that Lazarus of the Gospel to someone? Would you not rather continue your talk at the same address in eternity full of light and joy than hear the sounds of regrets and pain?

Truth is we do not have all the time in the world. We must not be in a hurry to spread gossips while we shy away from spreading the gospel. Which is rewarding?

Share the good news today! Do not hide behind what you give. Thanks but we need you to talk that colleague also. Be productive and excellence oriented at work but we still need you to talk to your boss too. Scared of losing your job right? How about him or her losing her life in eternity? Be a Christian aflame.

CONFESSION

I declare that my priorities are right. I give attention to the ministry of reconciliation I have been called to. My resources are for the gospel.

PRAYER

Lord, help me burn with passion for souls. I refuse to be complacent about this assignment. Amen

MONDAY

■ NOVEMBER 11, 2019.

THAT NIGHT CHANGED EVERYTHING (Text: Isaiah60:1)

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you"

We were just to stop by with our dear teachers and we planned to spend the entire day before continuing the trip. Some few hours into our stay, we hinted that we would be leaving. They protested and said, "We planned to host you for lunch and dinner".

We knew it was a privilege. We rearranged our schedules immediately. We made necessary calls and decided to spend the night with our teachers. That night changed everything- a simple question at the dinner table brought my

wife into a new season that changed our marital lives forever. A talk over food brought a seed into my heart that erupted weeks later as a major blessing.

Friends, Jacob went into an all night conversation with the supernatural, he emerged the next morning a different person. He went in as Jacob with all his limitations, fears and struggles but he emerged an Israel, a prince of the Lord with the sun announcing a new season for him.

Forget your schedule. I know you are a detailed person but if you ever have something bigger than you coming for you or if you ever have a vision bigger than your heart can handle, you better get yourself into an alone moment with what God has prepared. Interact with the divine and return with strength for the journey.

You must get into that moment where distractions are all shut out. Raise your voice like a trumpet and pray out what you want to see. Let the divine ask you questions like it happened for Jacob and my wife. Let the questions reveal your shortcomings and in all sincerity, give answers that introduce you to who God wants you to be.

Do you remember the woman at the well? A simple question of "Where is your husband" opened her up to the new season that God has prepared for her. She came with an empty pot but left that encounter with a river flowing from within. She could not keep the gush on a leash- she was unleashed.

Hear me- this is the season where everything changes for you! There are depths locked up within you and may the Lord bring you into conversations that unlock the flow of destiny.

In the name of Jesus, you come into a season of

illumination that brings you into an overflow. Your cup runs over this season. There is a spillover of all that you are loaded with. This is a season of impact for you. May the Israel emerge from your Jacob.

Your limitations are buried. Your possibilities are speaking forth. The line is crossed and the barriers are broken. The sun rises over you. Welcome to your new dawn. You come to meet the you that God kept in you!

You confront your Esau in the cloak of divine favour. What planned to consume you will have friendly conversations with you. You birth things bigger than you can imagine. You discern seasons and move with accuracy.

May this be the day that changes everything. May you not miss the night that turns the conversation. Welcome to a new season.

CONFESSION

It is my season of change. I align appropriately to the dealings of God with me, and I am better for it

PRAYER

Lord, have your way in me. Do that which only You can do, and bring the best out of me. Amen

TUESDAY ■ NOVEMBER 12, 2019.

I DID NOT WANT TO SPEAK (Text: Romans 10:14)

: "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

By the time the cab stopped in front of where I was lodging, the cab man said to me "I know it must have been God that made me pick you this night. My soul is lifted. I am going back a different person"

But the irony of it was it took a huge struggle for me to open up my mouth and preach the gospel to him. Afterwards, I realised he was a Christian going through a tough time that had affected his faith- out of job and lost a child.

Everyone you complain about is someone to share the gospel with. Do not expect God to do what He has commanded us to do. Do not just keep praying for that boss, open your mouth and share the gospel also.

Prayer is good but it must be backed up with open mouths that preach the Word. Good news is not good news until it is preached and heard. Prayer loads the gun. Preaching the gospel pulls the trigger.

The most timid amongst us will not know the volume of boldness stored up within until he or she steps out to preach the Word. Preach the Word in season and out of season. Do the work of an evangelist.

What did the early church know that made them win entire cities? Jesus Christ was not embarrassed to pay the ultimate price for our redemption. Why should we be embarrassed to share the good news of what He has done?

There is no Christian who cannot share the gospel. If you have had an encounter with Christ, you should be bold to talk about it to someone. Let them call you names but eternity is what is at stake.

Lord, restore my passion for soul winning. I walked into an office once to make an enquiry but before I asked, I was already preaching the gospel to the one I was meant to see. Afterwards, I then made the enquiry. Soul winning is that essential.

Lord, set my heart aflame for you. Give me compassion for lost souls. Let me never be comfortable to see men slip into the eternal grips of hell. Lord, light up my heart. Let my office become my mission field. Let my compound become my pulpit. Let the World be my parish.

May lost souls encounter me and change directions. Let the signpost of redemption become the banner of my Christian faith. Let my life and mouth declare the good news.

A police officer stopped me once to check my papers. After the pleasantries, I asked if he died today, would he make heaven? Lord, may my mouth not be too big to share this good news.

Let the voice of the gospel be heard at the reception of hotels and on the corridors of power. We will be diligent believers but also dedicated to the course of the Lord. This is the father's business. This is the heartbeat of God.

We cannot say we love our father when we do not take his heartbeat seriously.

Lord, set us aflame. Set the pews in our churches aflame. Let us learn and grow but make us uncomfortable having just holy cliques when there are souls to be won. Break down the gates into our fellowships. Let saved souls find a place to grow.

Let us know that our career is only a platform to fulfill your calling. Let the army of the Lord arise. Let me not be left out. May our sealed mouths not seal the fate of men in eternal flames.

Lord, set teachers ablaze. Let them see the gospel in each field of study. Inspire words that only eternity can erase. Stir examples that lead the next generation to the Father. May our mouths not remain shut.

Lord, make us your Phillip. May we be comfortable to leave mighty moves behind to go after a lone soul as led by the spirit of God. At the end, let us still raise seeds who speak your words with boldness.

Lord, break our holy huddles. And like the Apostles, grant us boldness to preach your word and stretch forth your hand to do mighty signs and wonders. Confirm your words. Do what only you can do. Amen.

You were led to Christ by someone. Who have you led to Christ?

CONFESSION

I declare that I am not ashamed of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. My life and my mouth will preach the gospel.

PRAYER

Lord, set me aflame, ablaze and on fire for the work of the gospel. I receive boldness to share the good news anywhere I go. Amen

SHE SAID "PLANTAIN" (Text: Psalms 103:7)

:"He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel.

It was the close of day. We were on our way home. Right from the back of the car where she sat, Danielle just said "Plantain". We realised that it was right at the spot where we would normally stop to buy plantain. She already knew our routine.

The desire of every child of God must be to know the way of the Lord and not just the acts of the Lord. That was the difference between Moses and the Israelites. Moses knew the ways of the Lord.

It takes walking with God to know the ways of the Lord. The problem most times is that we do not want to take the pain to walk with the Lord to know His will through His word and engage His will in prayer.

A simple example of the consequence of not knowing His way is trying to know His will by seeking men. You will end up taking names to a so-called prophet to know who to marry or what job to take or which contract to go for. It is a fall out of not knowing the way of the Lord.

Christians who do not know the ways of the Lord become a great challenge to any leader. Moses was troubled several times by the children of Israel- they grumble, cry and complain about everything. A lot of people are still like that today.

When you get into tough circumstances and you break down into self pity, grumbling and blame shifting, you simply have not been diligent in knowing the way of the Lord.

Every challenge you face is therefore an opportunity to know God for who He is. Mary and Martha knew Jesus as the healer but the death of Lazarus made them to know Jesus as the resurrection and the life.

Do not run away from challenges. When challenges come, look into the Word to know what God has said about it and what God has done about it. Challenges deepen the conversation and the revelation. That is how to get to know His ways.

When you walk with God, you will take steps that seems stupid to many people. The first time the word "Worship" was used in the Bible was by Abraham. He was in a situation that he could not explain.

How do you tell your servants that you were going to sacrifice (kill) your only son that you waited years to get? Now that tells you that the way of God is this: If you are in any situation that is difficult to explain, simply respond with Worship! That is how we master the ways of the Lord.

We got to know later in the book of Hebrews that Abraham believed that God could raise Isaac back to life. How? Was there anyone who had ever been raised from the dead before then? We have no record of such? Where did Abraham get that reference? He had a walk with God. He knew the ways of the Lord.

Just like my daughter, every child of God must seek to know the ways of the Father. Walk with the Father and know His ways. It makes the Christian walk an amazing one.

CONFESSION

I declare that I take the pain of walking with God to know His ways and master His ways.

PRAYER

Show me your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Amen

LIGHT ON YOUR PATH (Text: Ephesians 3:18)

"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints."

Back in my days in the university, I had spent some time praying in the Sports Complex. Just as I went to my hostel, I had an image flash before me. I saw myself laying my hands on my brother's printing machine in his press in Ibadan.

I was not yet acquainted to the things of the Spirit but I paused on the road and prayed about what I saw. That weekend, I was in Ibadan and I discovered that my brother's printing machine was not working for about three days but on a Thursday evening, the engineer "suddenly" saw what the challenge was. It was that evening. I smiled and I did not say a word about my experience.

One of the things that the Spirit of God supplies us is light in the midst of circumstances that we know existed or we have no idea about. Therefore, we must be committed students of the Word and the Spirit. You must become addicted.

We walk in darkness in the midst of situations because we do not engage light. You can be so lighted up that confusion has no place in your affairs. We can get to the point when we say like Jesus Christ that "I only do what I see my Father do".

Revelation is a fruit of redemption but the greatest challenge with believers is our proclivity to carnality. We tie every decision to our senses rather than our spirit. We make choices based on what we can feel and not on the leading of the Spirit.

It feels strange that God is interested in everything that we do. If your mind can be

lighted by the revelation that hits your spirit, you will live life with such amazing accuracy. You are not a gambler. You are a son. Sons are led by the Spirit of the Lord.

By the Spirit of God, you can know where to invest and what to pull away from. By the Spirit of the Lord, you can walk into prepared places.

Let me show one scripture about the leading of God amazingly in the Old Testament: "...who goes before you looking for the best places to camp, guiding you with a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day" (Deut. 1:33 NLT).

So God is seeking out the best places for me. All I need to do is follow His prompts and I will get there. But the condition is simple, you have an assignment to lighten up your spirit with the Word and Prayer. That is your own part. Most times, light comes but the noise in our lives shuts out the voice of the Lord. God's voice will never compete with the noise in our lives.

May you enjoy divine revelations. May you come into visions. May light flood your path. You will be ushered into destiny. By the mercies of God, no shame, no loss and no regrets. Enjoy accuracy in your dealings. Amen.

CONFESSION

I declare I receive light by the Spirit of God. I am full of light.

PRAYER

I pray the eyes of my understanding is enlightened. Blessed are my eyes for they see the deep things of the spirit. Amen

WHERE IS MY DADDY? (Text: Psalm 42:1)

"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God."

It was one of those trips away from home. My wife told me that while I was away, in the midst of one of the fun of a children's programme and presence of many people at that moment, Danielle ran to her and asked, "Where is my Daddy?"

Friend, your relationship with God must be a front-burner at all time. There must be no time when you get carried away that you do not seek Him.

Nothing or no one can replace God in your life. Whatever you give first place becomes your god. That is the reason why the first commandment to the Israelites was to always place God first and above everything else.

Jesus mentioned that the greatest commandment is to love God with the whole of your being. That is a major priority. We must have the panting of the Psalmist. We must constantly seek the Lord. We must seek him early and consistently.

Friends, daily devotion is essential. You must seek His face in prayers and study of the Word but there must be a time when you shut down everything and everyone else like Jacob and you seek God alone for a whole day or a whole night.

You must stop all you do to seek His face. Jesus spent the entire night in prayer before calling

the apostles to Himself. Do not make hasty decisions. Stop all you do and seek His face. It will help you.

When you cannot see the hand of God in things you do, it is good to pause and seek Him. It could be a little attitude adjustment you need and it could be a downright change of direction.

In the midst of the job deadlines, career goals, business meetings, ministry demands, family responsibilities and all, would you just take a pause and check if God is there on the journey with you?

Do not carry the ark on a cart and assume you are still doing His will. It only takes one stumbling to unveil your whole folly. Stop and seek Him to know how the ark should be carried. The patience of seeking His face outweighs the consequences of impatience.

Like my daughter, would you pause and ask "Where is my Daddy?"

CONFESSION

I declare that my highest pursuit is God and my biggest desire is Him. Nothing else will take His place in my life.

PRAYER

Lord, baptized me with an unending hunger and thirst for you. Amen

SATURDAY ■ NOVEMBER 16, 2019.

IS THAT HURT WORTH IT? (Text: Ephesians 5:26)

"In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry."

That day as I began to pray, I did not think twice about it when I began to pray for those who I felt have hurt me also in the past. I prayed the blessing of God upon their lives. At that point, I knew that it was a long forgotten and won battle of my mind. I cannot edit the history- the role of each one is still very significant.

Ahitophel got fixated on his hurt and offences

against David. He was the grandfather of Bathsheba. He kept looking for means to pay back David in his own coin.

He found company in Absalom when the later rebelled and planned a coup to oust his father out of the throne. Hurting people will always find company in other hurting people. We are wired to connect. Have you ever wondered how robbery gangs are formed? Do they bring

out notices and adverts?

When David heard that Ahitophel had joined company with Absalom, David had to pray to the Lord that "May the counsel of Ahitophel come to nothing". God answered his prayers.

Forgiveness is about your relationship with God and then a restoration of your fellowship with men. God will keep answering the prayers of a son who repents even when you think otherwise. It is not wise holding grudges and hoping something terrible happens to a person the Lord has forgiven.

You may know their past but do you know their present dealings with God? You may know how much they disappointed you but why stay hurt when they have asked you for forgiveness? Even if they did not, forgiveness is a duty of a believer.

If you are still silently wishing that something bad happens to the one who hurt you, you are so close to practicing witchcraft. Love forgives. Do not follow the worldly principle of "When a hen spills my medicine, I will also break her eggs". It is devilish wisdom.

Some will say, "I don't wish him or her evil o" but my question actually is "Do you wish them good also?" The test of forgiveness is not the

neutrality of your position or indifference in a matter rather it is seeking the good of those who hurt you no matter where they are. That is the kingdom standard.

Ahitophel ended up committing suicide. He was stuck in his hurt and offences. David went on to reign again as king and the great-grandchild of Ahitophel ruled after David. What if Ahitophel had forgiven David? He would have lived to see how a terrible error can be turned around by God's mercy. He died in his hurt.

Who has hurt you real bad?

What has injured you deeply?

Have you forgiven?

Why hold on to a man that the Lord has forgiven?

Why should you feel cheated everytime the one that hurt you makes progress? Is it worth it?

CONFESSION

I confess that I do not give in to hurt. I am a child of God. I forgive easily.

PRAYER

Lord, create in me a clean heart. Give me a heart that forgives quickly. I live in peace with all men. Amen

SUNDAY

■ NOVEMBER 17, 2019.

PROOF OF GROWTH - RESPONSE (Text: Gal 2:20 KJV)

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

My wife called out to my daughter, "Moyantoluwa". She kept saying, "I am coming" but she did not leave what she was doing in the living room. Minutes after, she comes strolling in to the room.

Her mum said to her, "Moyantoluwa, when mum calls you, is it good to delay?" (Well! My daughter said 'Yes' and Mum said the answer should be "No" and she said "No") Mum then said to her, "When Mum calls you, you respond immediately". She nodded in agreement.

One of the signs of life is the ability to respond. The dead do not respond. Doctors will always look for signs of improvement in their patients- they check if they are responding to treatment.

Faith is response to God's Word and Instruction. A believer that finds it hard to respond in faith is not growing. If it is hard for you to respond to divine prompts, you debate it till the Holy Spirit keeps quiet, you are not growing.

There are battles you must lose if you will grow. One of such is your struggle with the Word and the Spirit of God. You must lose the battle for you to be willing and like Jesus, you must be able to say, "Not my will but yours be done". Lose in your struggle with God so you can win in life.

I know we have Father Abraham as a huge example of obedience. His response to God was always prompt- even when the request is not palatable.

But I see a man of faith in Brother Timothy. The first major thing that Paul asked Timothy to get done in their father-son relationship was not convenient at all - "Circumcision". He had a power of choice yet he got it done just like Abraham (and Timothy had all the right reasons to say No)- That is a tough decision.

There is nothing else that will test your growth and response like Money. The only thing that Jesus mentioned we will be tempted to serve other than God is Money.

Take a simple test: Can you after your business hit a profit of about 10,000,000 dollars leave it all and follow Jesus? That was what Peter, James and John did.

Can you move beyond being a good church member where you give to support the work to selling all you have, giving it all away and following Jesus (maybe to plant a church a small town)?

That was the challenge of the rich young ruler. Jesus looked at him and loved him but his possession held him greatly that he could not move an inch.

Wait! Can you make a major loss of all your companies in one day and still bow down in worship? Oh really! Job's case was worse than that you know.

Friends, when a patient begins to argue with his doctor, the patient is already "fine". You must be willing to go naked under the knife of divine surgery and let the Word cut off all that will hinder growth.

You must allow the word to see into hidden places and say "Here I am, remove all that needs to be removed. Deal with my attachment to things. The summary of my life must not be about my possession but about becoming who you want me to be"

Are you responding to treatment or are you arguing with the doctor?

CONFESSION

I do not joke with the promptings of the spirit; I act with complete obedience. I am not frivolous; I am not moved by material things. I give my all to God.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, I pray today that you give me the heart following. I surrender to your Lordship. Amen

MONDAY ■ NOVEMBER 18, 2019.

PROOF OF GROWTH 2- MORAL EXCELLENCE (Text: 2 Peter 1:5)

"For this very reason, applying your diligence [to the divine promises, make every effort] in [exercising] your faith to, develop moral excellence, and in moral excellence, knowledge (insight, understanding)."

An "evangelist" was telling me passionately about how his mentor had helped a lot of prostitutes. He claimed his mentor would drive to a red light district to pick up one or two prostitutes. He would "romance" them in the car. Afterwards, he drives them home where his wife is waiting for

them to preach the gospel to them. I was shocked.

One of the signs that you are growing as a believer is the ability to make the right choices as led by the Spirit of God.

God's standard will not be lowered to accommodate our weakness. God made it clear when that we do not have to struggle to find His will- abstain from sexual immorality.

Paul told us that, "Don't allow love to turn into lust, setting off a downhill slide into sexual promiscuity, filthy practices, or bullying greed. Though some tongues just love the taste of gossip, those who follow Jesus have better uses for language than that. Don't talk dirty or silly. That kind of talk doesn't fit our style. Thanksgiving is our dialect." (Ephesians 5:3 - 4MSG)

If you are ever caught in a place and you will have to start explaining why you are there, is it not better not to even start it at all? There are some forms of speaking that must be far from you as you grow. Growth refines our walk and our talk.

One of the reasons why we study the Word of God is to attain maturity and moral excellence. We get trained and we develop skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

How do we handle other people's money? Can you be trusted with what is not yours? Do you borrow and convert to yours without returning? That is what Proverbs call wickedness.

We must not be believers with stickers on our car that speak better than our character. You cannot be speaking in tongues but still fornicating. We must be believers whose lives are free of offences and full of love.

We must be believers whose virtue is patience and would not call "cutting-corners" breakthrough or compromise as testimonies. We must be God's gentle fire- burning in the morning and ablaze at night.

When our character is strong, our influence gets better. We will be the man on our street whose voice cannot be turned down or counsel rejected.

As believers, we are called to Moral Excellence. We cannot drop the ball. God's standard is so high. In court, lustful thought is adultery and anger is murder.

Do not drop the ball.

CONFESSION

I speak the right words; I do the right things. I live a life of excellence. I am led by the spirit of God; I make the right choice.

PRAYER

Father, help me to live a life of excellence. May my life spice others up, let others see Christ through me. Amen

TUESDAY ■ NOVEMBER 19, 2019.

PROOF OF GROWTH 3 – KNOWLEDGE (Text: 1 Pet 2:2)

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"

My younger cousins wanted their mum to give them a new baby. They told their Dad what they wanted. Their Dad told them that he has to feed their Mum with enough "Eba" (that is thick Garri). My cousins began to give their father their "Eba" everytime they eat and beg him to feed their mum well.

Innocence is a quality of babyhood. A baby is innocent. It would be strange to point to a baby and say, "She stole my bread yesterday". Every believer must not lose that innocence. The devil

has no hold on you. Shake off that sense of condemnation.

But ignorance is not innocence. The fact that you are innocent does not excuse you from growing in knowledge. Your innocence can be taken advantage of if there is no effort to grow in knowledge.

You must seek to know God through His Word. Knowledge is a prerequisite for strength and exploits. If you do not know God and His

Words, the devil and circumstances will cheat you in broad daylight.

It takes growth to say, "We know the God we serve is able to save us and He will save us" and with faith say, "Even if he does not save us, we will not compromise".

Whatever you have come to know about God cannot be a tool of intimidation by the devil anymore- If you know God provides, lack cannot harrass you. If you know God heals, sickness cannot have a say. What do you know about God?

You must grow in your knowledge of the ways of God. What is the purpose and plan of God for your life? It takes growing to see pit as process, a sack letter from Potiphar Holdings as a plan of God, a time in prison as the hand of God and a lifting to the palace as the purpose of God.

It takes growth not to seek vengeance. Do you know how strange the words "you meant it for evil but God turned it around for good" sounded to Joseph's brothers?

Growth in God's kingdom is not measured by how long you have been in church. You may be 40 years old in church and remain a "feeding-bottle hustling baby in the crèche" about spiritual matters.

If you leave church because someone offended you, you are a baby! If you still cry and throw tantrums when corrected, you are a baby. If you

run for pleasure but run from prayer, you are a baby.

If you spend hours watching movies but you cannot sit with the word, you are a baby. You wake up to beat traffic so you can make it to work but your Church service days is one for longer hours of sleep, you are a baby.

You cry that no one has visited you but you do not attend small group meetings or visit anyone also, you are a baby! If you know lyrics of songs but can rarely mention a complete verse of the Bible, you have work to do.

If you always want to be on your own and you become quiet on your spouse and friends, you turn moody at work and people walk on egg shells around you, you need to grow up! As a matter of fact, cut off that demonic atmosphere fast. It is not helpful.

Babies are innocent! Knowledge is essential for growth. You cannot be a master except you know the basics. Are you growing?

CONFESSION

I refuse to remain a baby; I refuse to remain ignorant of the word, I give myself to continuous learning so as to grow into God's stature.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I draw essential nutrient from the word of God. I receive the grace to stay consistent in learning. Amen

WEDNESDAY ■ NOVEMBER 20, 2019.

PROOF OF GROWTH 4- SELF CONTROL (Text: Proverbs 16:32 KJV)

"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."

I kept telling Danielle not to scatter the pack. Well! She did a clinical finishing of dismantling both the pack and all the contents also. Just when she was done, I asked her to begin to arrange all that she scattered. She looked at me soberly. She did not know what to do.

Friends, it takes more effort to build than it takes to scatter. You can scatter in 20 minutes what took twenty years to build. Brethren, self-control is a critical part of the growth process.

You must exercise self-control when it comes to your tongue. Your mouth can wreck your

home. Anger can burn down what it took a life time to put together. You keep giving everyone a piece of your mind yet you want to see peace all around. Can you see what your mouth has cost your marriage?

You must exercise self-control when it comes to material things. You can either be enslaved by fear or greed. It is either greed to have more or fear of losing what you already have. Both will keep you from giving which is a kingdom mandate.

If you are a seed of God's kingdom, do not overcompensate yourself by using "were you there when I suffered?" to cover up your crave for material things. Have you ever thought that the extra you have is actually meant to be a blessing to another?

You must exercise self-control when it comes to the opposite sex. Do not dig your own grave by hugging every bosom in view? Can a man or woman scoop fire into his or her bosom and not be burnt? If we can pick on a screen what goes on in your heart, would it be pure?

Exercise self-control by learning to sit with the Word to study and pray daily. Do not be in a hurry to stand up or rush prayers. That is your School of Self-Control. If you can sit to study the Word and pray for one hour, you are

mastering the art of self-control. You are subjecting the flesh to training by the spirit.

Why do you think David said, "Your word have I hidden in my heart that I may not sin against you?" Private devotion increases private consecration and helps to build the much needed self-control. If there is an attack on your personal devotion, you are already losing the battle of self-control.

Do you know that a man that lacks self-control is like a city whose walls are broken down? Anything can access it. Guard your walls. Rebuild the portion that your mouth, materialism and momentary sexual looseness has pulled down. Give the devil no space.

Prevention is better and far cheaper than cure.

CONFESSION

I am not of them that live life anyhow, I am disciplined in all my doing. I do not tamper with sin and its attributes, I live according to God's standard. No more slacking, No more compromise!

PRAYER

I decree and declare, as from today I bring my flesh under the control of spirit in Jesus name. Amen

THURSDAY ■ NOVEMBER 21, 2019.

PROOF OF GROWTH 5- ENDURANCE (Text: 2 Timothy 2:11-13 ESV)

"The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful."

As the doctor treated the bullet wound on my back, he said to me "You will feel a small bite on your back soon. Endure the pain. We will be close to finishing the stitching". I felt the small bite but let out a deep groan. It was painful but I knew it will soon be over.

One of the proofs of growth is endurance. You will have a promise of a seed and you will have to patiently endure even though everything is

telling you to sleep with Hagar and birth an Ishmael.

When a woman takes in, she knows that it is a journey of nine months. She does not pray that God should shorten the time. A baby born in 4 months is an abortion.

No matter what you do, some things must be endured. God makes all things beautiful in its

own time. If it is not beautiful yet, be patient. Keep giving your best. Its time will soon come.

One of the attributes of a wise man is the ability to understand time and master process. If you know the season you are in, it will be easier for you to endure.

A student can endure training and a regimented lifestyle because it is a season of life. He will endure sometimes unfavourable conditions and tough teachers. What season of life are you?

The question that Elisha asked Gehazi is simple but weighty. He asked him, "Is this the time...?" If you can ask yourself constantly whether the time is right about a decision, you will operate better in life.

When we are at the right place at the wrong time, we will see what we are not meant to see and do what we are not meant to do. David and Bathsheba is a great example. Proper placement and right timing is a protection on the journey of life and destiny.

If you do not want to see Ishmael taunting Isaac, then you must endure. The pain of regret is more than the pain of enduring the process. Your inability to endure can leave a

generational scar.

When I stepped into Eruwa, I had a small card on my table where I wrote the words of Jentezen Franklin: "Others have been where you are now and did not quit, why should you?"

Friend, if you cannot fly, run. If running seems hard, walk. If you cannot walk, crawl. If you cannot crawl, ask for help! But never quit.

My pastor taught me that the reason why a lot of people fail is simply because we do not stay long enough on one assignment to see it succeed.

Endure the pain. Endure the process. Master the timing. Take one step at a time. Do not abort process. Be strong. It will turn out well.

CONFESSION

I endure the pain of the process, I do not boycott process, I have staying power. I have the strength to pull through this season of life, I am not a quitter.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I receive staying power. I enjoy supernatural strength. Amen

FRIDAY

■ NOVEMBER 22, 2019.

PROOF OF GROWTH 6- GODLY REPORT (Text: Philippians 4:5 ESV)

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

In 2013, I was in the bus returning from Uyo to Ibadan. A corps member sat by my side. We began to talk. Then she began to talk about an organization called TOUCH. She said glowing things about the person who started it like she was told.

I asked for the name of the person who started. She said "I think it is one Pastor Temi". I was sitting right beside her. She discovered some few hours into the journey that I was the one. We had a good laugh

One of the qualities of a mature person is a godly report- people have great things to say about him or her. Before they chose the seven deacons to serve in the early church, one of the prerequisites was that they must be men of good reputation.

When Paul got to Lystra, he found Timothy and "he was well spoken of the brethren in Lystra and Iconium". As a matter of fact, Paul said that he takes the pain to do what is right in the sight of God and man (2 Cor. 8:21).

Stop using "God sees my heart" to cover up your terrible reputation.

Hear the words of Samuel: "Look at me! Do you have any complaints to bring before God and his anointed? Have I ever stolen so much as an ox or a donkey? Have I ever taken advantage of you or exploited you? Have I ever taken a bribe or played fast and loose with the law? Bring your complaint and I'll make it right."

The people responded "Oh no, "never. You've never done any of that—never abused us, never lined your own pockets."

1 Samuel 12:13-4 MSG

What is your testimony at home? Have I told you a story my Pastor shared of the elder who beats his wife, locked her up at home and was leading "I see the Lord" on the pulpit. The pastor told him, "When you finish seeing the Lord, see me".

SATURDAY ■ NOVEMBER 23, 2019.

PROOF OF GROWTH 7- WALKING IN LOVE (Text: Romans 12:9)

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preferences to one another

When I got her text message recounting some of the moments she had been through in her life's journey, I rolled over from the bed to the floor and burst into tears. Rather than feel disgust, the love in my heart skyrocketed to an amazingly great level.

Love is not pity. Love is proof that you have encountered the resurrection power of God. You have moved from death to life. If you have been touched by God's love, you have a duty to pass it on.

Do you remember the leper that came to Jesus? He asked that if Jesus is willing, he should make him whole. Jesus before healing him touched him. Who touches a leper?

I heard of a couple who decided to live in a lepers colony so they can share the gospel. They said to those who discouraged them, "Are

What is your testimony at work- productive or lazy, approachable or touchy, upright or otherwise? What do your clients and customers have to say about you? What do your neighbours have to say about you? If your pastor visits and introduces himself, would they be shocked that you go to church?

One of the signs that you have grown is simple- people have great things to say about you. What is your testimony? What do people have to say about you? Those things count.

CONFESSION

I have a godly report; I live a righteous life. As from today, the dealings of God in my life will be made manifest for people to see.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, I pray give me the grace to reputable life. Help me to show forth your works in my life. Amen

there no souls behind those walls?"

Do you know those dirty young beggars that grab your hands in some cities, how do you treat them? Are you quick to shove them aside?

I remember driving with a dear one couple of years ago who said derogatory things about a young boy tapping the car and asking for alms. He called the boy a thief. I was unsettled.

Love is also proof that your mind is being renewed by the knowledge of God. Love is the weapon of the believer to win souls. Love is our tool for building unity.

A believer who knows the love of God is not tied to tribal sentiments. He or she does not say, "I cannot marry from that tribe" or "I cannot do business with that tribe". In Christ, there is no Greek or Jew.

A Christian walking in love does not call her leaders unwholesome names. For instance, how do you say "stupid governor" or "mad president" and you don't have a bite in your heart?

This is what Jesus said: 'Don't hit back at all.' If someone strikes you, stand there and take it. If someone drags you into court and sues for the shirt off your back, giftwrap your best coat and make a present of it.

And if someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously.

"You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love

your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst.

If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that.

CONFESSION

I am full of love. I love always

PRAYER

Everywhere, anywhere let my life be an outflow of your love to humanity . Amen

SUNDAY ■ NOVEMBER 24, 2019.

THE PARABLE OF THE FRIDGE AND THE DOOR (Text: Matthew 9:17)

"Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins and both are preserved".

Someone close to our family was building in the community. He is an indigene but not resident in town. He sent some appliances that would be used to furnish the house he was building.

One of it was a giant sized fridge. It was quite huge. We had to keep it with us before taking it to the house. But there was a challenge. The fridge was too big for our entrance. The only way it would come in was to break down some portion of the wall and enlarge the opening. We kept it outside.

There are things you desire but you are not built for them. There are dimensions you want to operate in but your capacity is poor. Most times, the problem is not about the blessing of God, it is about the preparedness of man.

Moses desperately wanted to do all in his capacity to save the Israelites from the oppression of Egypt but God had some other plans first- He needed to teach the man how to lead the people with the heart of a shepherd and not just the sword of a soldier.

Jesus shared the parable about the new wine and the wineskin. If new wine is poured into an old wine skin, we will lose the wine and the wineskin because the skin would burst and the wine would spill. God does not want His blessing to wreck you.

You are really desirous that your brand should grow and you should become influential but God is looking at you and he knows that you cannot handle the fame and wealth that comes with it.

Lot got wealthy following Abraham but the capacity to sustain the wealth was not mastered. Abraham did not joke with his relationship with God. Abraham honoured all men and did not joke with the things of God. Lot lost all, including his family.

Philip on the other hand was called to serve tables but he had the capacity to win cities and raise a strong family. It was just a matter of time; the capacity within Philip found expression.

If you are given what you do not have the

capacity to sustain, it would amount to a waste. If you are given lesser than your capacity can handle, you will soon be propelled to your real capacity.

If you give a man with the capacity of Joseph a Potiphar dimension of assignment, he will handle it like a national assignment because that is the capacity he has.

Build capacity before you seek promotion. Do not cry for the level you cannot handle. It can bring you more losses than profit.

If you are diligent in your business, be patient and be sensitive. Your time to stand before kings is coming and there is nothing no one can do about it.

If you carry the palace on your inside but you are singing and playing the harp in the wilderness, the palace will hear your sound and surely send for you.

Do not reduce your performance to the size of the crowd because you do not know who is sitting in the crowd. The difference between two seasons is not time but actually people. One person can make the difference.

Everyone will throw their rods down and it will all look the same and turn to snakes but it is just a little time, we will soon know the rod that had an encounter with the Lord behind the scene. Build capacity, do not be indifferent. The difference will soon show.

CONFESSION

I declare in the name of Jesus that my capacity is enlarge to accommodate all that God has for me.

PRAYER

Lord, prepare me for what you have prepared for me. Amen

MONDAY ■ NOVEMBER 25, 2019.

THE PARABLE OF THE MAN WHO DROVE ME (Text: Mark 9:35)

"Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "if anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all"

On the third day of my speaking schedule in the church, I chatted with the young man who had been picking me up every day at the hotel. I was deeply grateful for the great art of service. I asked what his job was. He was working closely with a top government official of the State.

Well! I was humble because I admired his heart and his humility. I learnt that you must not treat people dishonourably simply because they have chosen to serve. Those who give their best to the service of God are not necessarily idle hands.

Friends, service is the hallmark of greatness. The greatest amongst us is the one who has chosen to be the servant of all. If you ever get to a point where you think you are bigger than service, you have missed it all together. Your heart cry must be never to be bigger than

the demands of God. This goes to the root of our motive for serving also.

Victory and promotion will always come to reveal what our heart is saying. Saul defeated the Amalekites as instructed by God (even though he left Agag and the finest livestock for himself), but he returned to erect an image in his own honour rather than give God praise.

There is nothing we have that we did not receive. We cannot be bigger than what grace has provided. Once you have a bloated image of yourself, you are setting yourself up for a disaster.

Be careful how you treat others also. The fact that you meet someone in what you think to be a lowly position does not mean that they are small fries.

Those who tell people "Do you know who I am?" are actually not that important. If you were that important, you will have no reason to ask.

We tend to mix up greatness and popularity. We often forget that the scale of God is not same as the scale of men. As a matter of fact, be wary when men praise you. Measure your progress by the standard of the Lord who gave you the task and not by the praises of men.

There will be a lot of voices that seek to get your attention but remember that the counsel of those who have gone ahead of you will save your head even if you are the one on the throne. Rehoboam would wish he had done better. Greatness is service.

Can you hear the voice of God like Samuel about the atrocities of Eli and still return to serve Eli without saying a word? Greatness is service.

Can you have the lives and future of those who

hurt you deeply in your grip without anyone asking you questions yet you choose to serve them and their children with the promotion you earned by grace? Greatness is service.

This is the hard part- we sometimes serve because we know there is a reward like greatness but what if your assignment is simply to faithfully serve those ten people for the rest of your life? Would you still see it as greatness?

Greatness is serving the purpose of God even if it means doing it in a small and unnoticed way. Give your best!

CONFESSION

I confess that I have an humble that serves. I am not proud and I do not view people with contempt.

PRAYER

Lord, give me an humble heart to serve. May I not be bigger than service of you. Amen

TUESDAY

■ NOVEMBER 26, 2019.

THE MESS UNDER THE BED (Text: Psalm 51:7)

"Cleanse with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will whiter than snow".

I was home alone that evening and I decided to do some clean up while I prayed in the spirit. While cleaning, I had to lift the mattress in the room so I could replace the bedspread.

I caught sight of different things that had found their way under the bed. Some of them were actually useful and some were just junks.

Well! I focused on laying the bedspread and was about returning the mattress when I had the prompt of the Holy Spirit saying, "And you will leave it that way right?" I know when God speaks to me. I did the needful.

Friends, there are times the light of the Spirit of God will shine on some mess that you would have covered up if given a chance. The Spirit of God is simply saying, "So you will leave it that way right?"

For instance, when light shines in the direction of a bad attitude, do not adjust the light, adjust your attitude. Go to work and clean the mess.

Interestingly, there are clean beds covering a huge mess. If only we can lift up the beds, we will be shocked what we have covered up. You cannot live a double life. You cannot lead family devotion but your emotions are devoted to another girl at work rather than your wife.

And this is also true- while cleaning up the mess, you will stumble on treasures that you never realised that you even lost. Right behind that act of forgiveness, you may stumble on a new friendship that you would never have thought of before.

I know that others may not see it. I know you have strategically tucked it away where others

may not find it but the radar of God's light can never miss it.

When God shines the light on your shortcomings, be a David and not a Saul. Do not fight for your public reputation at the expense of your private consecration. Do not fight for a preaching slot at the expense of your personal growth. Do not fight for comfortable platforms at the expense of solid foundations. If the platform gives way, it will reveal your mess.

Be a David! Stop everything and go tell God how messed up you are. Show Him that you are broken. Let him fix you right up. If you keep

up the "show", you will lose the credibility to confront Amnon, correct Absalom or lead Joab!

Every time we cover up our mess, things get messier. Admitting that you are weak is a sign of strength. Pretending to be strong is a sign of weakness. Fix the mess!

CONFESSION

I declare I am sanctified by the truth of God's Word for the Word is truth.

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, I open up myself to the light of God's word and every hidden mess is cleared up. Amen

WEDNESDAY ■ NOVEMBER 27, 2019.

BED WETTING TALES (Text: Proverbs 28:13)

"He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy".

I had some very interesting bed wetting tales as a young boy. What shall we say to the dreams that tell me I am already in the restroom or that I had run off the football pitch to a bush so I can now ease myself? I only wake up to realise that the rest room was still my bed. Did it happen to you too?

Well! In order to cover up this heinous crime punishable with public embarrassment, I would quickly change the soaked cloths before morning so that no one would notice that I had messed. There were times I forgot the soaked cloths in hidden spots until the stench gives me away.

From a young age, the tendency of the flesh is to cover up our wrongs and put up an appearance. We change cloths so the signs of our mess will not be on us. We keep it away until the stench breaks out. There is rarely any child that wakes up seeing a wet bed who announces, "Dad or Mum, I am sorry the tap opened by itself again". The nature of man would hide and cover up things.

Adam and Eve messed up and covered up quickly with fig leaves. Even when confronted,

it is easier blaming everything else except the real culprit.

Cain can kill Abel in the field and go on with life as though nothing as happened except that the blood of Abel would simply not keep quiet in ground.

David would rather kill Uriah than admit that a whole king committed adultery with the wife of his subject.

Ananias and Sapphira would defend each other's lies until death do them part.

Cover-up is not cheaper than confession. You only take a loan and incur a debt that you can never pay. And you have been warned that your sin will always find you out.

Pride will always make you do more to cover up the last evil. David committed murder to cover adultery. It takes a lie to cover up another lie.

Wait a minute! You have even been confronted by friends who love you but you have denied it vehemently. You tell yourself that you would

rather die than admit your shortcomings.

Think- What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world by skillfully covering up his sins and then lose his soul to pride?

When you are queried on the path of wrongdoing, it is because mercy is speaking. If you are left to yourself, it could be proof that judgement is about to speak.

May the right people not abandon you to your folly. People now say things like, "Just leave him or her. He does not like the truth". You now have sycophants rather than friends.

You are on the stage of folly dancing to the drum beats of lies and pride. Beware! The price of the dance is too heavy- it is your soul. You are becoming hardened. You are getting comfortable in your mess. It has become a pattern.

How do you break the pattern? Blessed is the man that opens up. Open up! Come out clean. Peace of mind is priceless.

Who do I open up to? Talk to God and to men who can hold you accountable. Open your wound to those who will treat it and not those who will simply talk about it.

Stop covering the stench. Bring out the dirty laundry. Let the launderer's soap clean up the mess. Let the chaff be separated from the wheat. Let the dross fall off the silver.

CONFESSION

In the name of Jesus, I confess my hidden habit to God and my life experiences a significant change.

PRAYER

Lord, I lay down myself to you, clean up my mess. Let your word do a work of purification in my life. Amen

THURSDAY ■ NOVEMBER 28, 2019.

THE SOLDIER ANTS TURNED BACK (Text: 1Samuel 17:36)

"Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God".

I stepped out in the morning and I spotted an army of soldier ants some few meters from the house. I knew this would mean trouble if not properly dealt with. I began to look round for what to use. I remembered I had some used engine oil. I reached for it and I poured it as a line of defence.

Few hours later, I looked at the soldier ants and they had changed pattern. They refused to pass through everywhere that the oil had touched. The house was safe now.

Friends, when Sennacherib as the commander of Assyria sent notice to King Hezekiah that the nation should surrender to him or he would invade and turn them to slaves like they have done in other nations. He even could boast that their God cannot save them.

Hezekiah sought audience with Isaiah and

went to also lay the response of Sennacherib at the temple of the Lord. The response of the Lord is instructive:

"He will not enter this city. He will not fire an arrow here. He will not lay siege on the city. He will return by the way he came".

An angel of the Lord went out in one night and slaughtered 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. Well! The rest is history.

Friends, you must know how to turn the battle over to God. You must know how to engage the Lord of Hosts in your affairs. You cannot just sit down like a lame duck watching time go by and wondering when the situation will turn.

David knew how to switch things. Goliath made them all look small by calling the soldiers "servants of Saul". David came in and called

them "the army of the Lord of Hosts". The battle tempo changed. Goliath was killed and the Philistines fled.

The Kings of Edom, Israel and Judah ran to Elisha in the midst of battle. Elisha requested for a harpist. While the harpist played, the hand of the Lord came upon Elisha and he decreed victory.

How do you turn the enemy on his tail?

First, never let the enemy define who you are. Keep your identity in God before you. Second, seek the face of the Lord in prayers mingled with worship. Activate the prophetic. You are the first prophet of your destiny. Third, speak only the Word of the Lord. Pick your smooth stones and go bring down that giant.

FRIDAY ■ NOVEMBER 29, 2019.

THE ANGRY TEACHER AND THE POWER OF A NAME (Text: Proverbs 18:10) —

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe".

It was right in the middle of a lecture when a colleague stepped out to get a bottle of drink in the faculty canteen. When she stepped back into the class, the lecturer was visibly annoyed.

He paused and asked, "What is your name?" She mentioned her first name but he insisted on knowing her full name. When she mentioned her full name, the lecturer asked, "Are you the daughter of so and so?" She responded in the affirmative and the conversation changed. All we heard next was, "Sit down. Sit down. Ah! That's our father" The class had a moment of silent laughter.

Friends, there is power in the name you have- Jesus! You have a name that is above every other name. A name that every knee, including yours must bow to. The name of Jesus is weighty. It is powerful.

There is power in your origin. When Haman returned home and told his wife Zeresh and their friends about the ordeal between himself and Mordecai, do you know what they said?

At the end, you will have victory without a fight. You will see the enemy turn back in shame knowing that you are a no-go-area.

From this season and the rest of your life, you are protected. No weapon fashioned against you shall prosper. No evil shall come near you. The Sun shall not smite you by day. The moon will not hurt you by night.

Rejoice!

CONFESSION

I declare that I am a victor and not a victim.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I turn the battle over to God. The battle is not mine but God's. Hallelujah. Amen

They told Haman, "Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him- you will surely come to ruin!"

That is a powerful statement. The unfortunate thing is that a lot of believers have no idea of their capacity. We become cowards in the face of threats because we do not know who we are.

Hold on a bit- Pharaoh discovered the true potential of the Israelites in Egypt. He knew they had the potential to defeat Egypt sometimes soon. What did he do? He began an identity war. He wanted them to remember that they were slaves and nothing more. After they left Egypt, it was still so hard for Egypt to leave their mindset.

Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar did not ask for the gold from Jerusalem? Rather he requested for the brightest young men and did something simple- He taught them the Babylonian culture and changed their names. He knew what he was doing. It was an identity

attack.

Daniel had to remind himself that he was from a different culture- he began by rejecting the food.

There are tables you sit at right now and when you see what is on the table (in business deals and other offers), you forget who you are! You sacrifice your identity for the king's portion.

Hear this- If the enemy succeeds in altering your sense of identity, he will surely alter everything else. Your configuration will be lost. You will still go to church but with a mere sense of tradition and not the mindset of the kingdom. You will still say some Christian

words but feast at the wrong table.

If there is anything that you need to fight for, it must be your sense of identity. You are of God. You are His Mordecai. You are His Daniel. You are His Jew. You are His nation. Fly your national flag. Do it with pride. You are an ambassador here on earth and not a citizen!

CONFESSION

I declare I am of God. Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.

PRAYER

In the name Jesus, I do not sacrifice my identity for king's portion. I am rooted in God, nothing can blow me away. Amen

SATURDAY ■ NOVEMBER 30, 2019.

"DO YOU LOVE DADDY?" (Text: Ephesians 4:14)

"Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming".

Danielle began to protest as we left her grandparents house. She wanted to stay back with her grannies. However, we had to head home. On our way home, we stopped to get some fuel.

I turned and asked Danielle, "Do you love Daddy?" Her response was a shrug of the shoulder. I asked again and she shook her head and shrugged again. Her mum said, "Because we did not do what you want so you don't love Daddy again". My response was simple- "That is what makes her a child".

The same is also true of spiritual growth. There are Christians who begin to doubt the love of God because of what they are going through. Your situation is not the proof of whether God loves you or not. Irrespective of your situation, God is love!

Do you know how hard it will be to look at Joseph as a slave in Potiphar's house and conclude that God is with him? Can you ever look at the false accusations levied against him that landed him in prison unjustly and

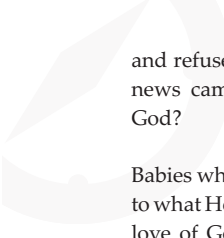
conclude that this is a man God loves? Or can you be on prison evangelism and see Joseph as the favoured of the Lord?

There are some sack letters that are actually God's way of showing you favour. There are delays that are divinely orchestrated. If the cupbearer had remembered Joseph earlier, Joseph would have at best become a servant in his house or an aide to the cupbearer.

If you use your situation to interpret the goodness of God, you will only be acting like a child.

Think of Zechariah and Elizabeth: They were both lovers of God, living virtuously and following the commandments of the Lord fully. But they were childless since Elizabeth was barren, and now they both were quite old. (Luke 1:6-7 TPT)

How do explain that they were God-lovers who live virtuously and full followers of God's commands and yet they were childless? Can you imagine Zechariah got annoyed at God



and refused to serve on the day that the good news came because he doubted the love of God?

Babies who refuse to grow lack the love of God to what He gives but the mature knows that the love of God is tied to who He is. No matter what they go through, the definition of God does not change.

Are you a baby?

Are you attaining maturity?
Are you mature?

CONFESSION

I declare I am growing daily in my walk with God. My love for God is unshaken.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I grow spiritually and in the things of the spirit. I attain maturity. Amen

A stylized, dark gray clock face is visible in the background, partially obscured by the text. The clock has a large, dark, multi-pointed hand pointing towards the bottom right, and several small circular markers along its perimeter.

DECEMBER
2019

I WOULD HAVE KICKED MY PREGNANT WIFE (Text: Psalms 121:3)*"He will not let your foot slip- he who watches over you will not slumber".*

I woke up in the middle of the night with a kick to the burglary proof right beside the bed. It hurts so bad. I was having a dream where I was kicking a dog away.

As I focused on the pain and my wife woke up with consoling words, I realized what God just delivered us from. If I was facing my wife, I would likely have kicked her right in the stomach. It would have been a different story. The pain suddenly faded as I gave God praise with gratitude.

It sounds simple. It is so easy to focus on a personal pain because of things that has happened to you but if you take a closer look, you will have a point of gratitude because if it was left for the devil, things could have been worse. You would have been in pains and yet still be counting your losses.

Friends, the Lord watches over you even in your sleep. He does not slumber or sleep. He is your ever present help in times of trouble. You can hire a night guard for physical sleeps but can you hire one for deadly spiritual attacks that God keeps sparing you from?

Except the Lord watches a city, the watchmen only watch in vain. The Lord said about Jerusalem that I will be a wall of fire around her. God indeed protects. He that dwells in the

secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

If you ever get to see what that three minutes delay delivered you from or the troubles that the unapproved business proposal protected you from, you will be full of greater gratitude.

And peradventure the serpent has bitten you like it did to the Israelites in the wilderness, remember to focus on the cross and not on the hurt.

There is a point of thanksgiving hidden in your pain. There is a gate of praise hidden in the fence of opposition. No matter how big your Goliath is, there is always an unexposed forehead that the stone of a worshipper will never miss.

What will you be grateful for this season?

CONFESSION

I confess that I am protected of the Lord and I have a peace of mind.

PRAYER

I thank you Lord because you watch over me and you will not let my feet slip. For everything, I give you thanks. Amen

CHRONICLES OF SOUL-WINNING (Text: Acts 1:8)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

We had spent days praying for our dear friend. We knew she would be coming to visit us. It would be our perfect opportunity to share the gospel with her.

One of the things that we ended up telling her was this: "The greatest thing we owe you is the

gospel of Christ. We would be terrible friends if we do not share the good news with you".

Well! We shared the gospel. We still do not relent in following her up. We know how important it is to have our family and friends with us in heaven.

Friends, the last words of Jesus must be our first priority. He told us to be witnesses to the ends of the earth. Witnesses are proof producers. We must not just manifest the gifts of the Spirit; we must equally produce the fruits of the spirit. Both are proofs that we have had an encounter with Jesus.

But much more, we must pray that souls come to Jesus Christ through us. We must then be willing to open our mouth to share the gospel.

Soul-winning is a kingdom assignment. It must not be taken casually. Every believer can win souls. If you leave it alone to Pastors, the work will not get done. Unfortunately, some pastors only rely on the pulpit. They do not win souls one on one any longer. We need to repent.

Let your praying in tongues produce a passion to depopulate hell. Pray up but also speak up. Share how Jesus saved you from that addiction. Tell a colleague that admires your relationship with your spouse how your faith in God helps your marriage. Be bold friends.

Jesus was tired when he was heading to Judea. He was resting in the Samaritan town called Sychar when he saw a woman approaching the well. Jesus taught us that a tired body is nothing compared to a dying soul.

And if you are waiting for months of training before you can share the gospel, the Samaritan Woman has a lesson for you- she led her town to Jesus the very hour she encountered Jesus! All she said was, "Come and See a man... Could this be the Christ?"

Who has your sealed lips helped? Has your quietness led a soul to Christ? If you have the cure to cancer and your friend has cancer, would you keep quiet? That silence is wickedness. Speak up!

We are never troubled to speak about sports, fashion and politics but the moment you want to speak about Christ, fear comes in. The devil never wants the gospel shared. The flesh always wants to be comfortable. Friend, break that atmosphere. Speak up!

Remember, the last words of Jesus must be our first priority.

CONFESSION

I declare I am not ashamed of the gospel. My mouth will not be sealed from the preaching the gospel.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I receive boldness to preach the gospel and reach out to the unsaved. Amen

TUESDAY ■ DECEMBER 3, 2019.

CHRONICLES OF SOUL WINNING 2 (Text: Proverb 11:30)

"The fruit of righteousness is a tree of life and he who wins souls is wise."

I spent the early part of the day trusting God to lead me to souls. Typically, I would say to God, "Lord, I am open for business today. Lead me to what you would have me to do". I drove out of the office to seek for souls. I ended up with two young men and it was a joy leading them to Christ.

Friends, we would never win souls if we are not deliberate about it. You need to plan it as part of your day. Soul-winning is a daily affair. That was how the apostles did it. For a start, pick a day in the week and call it your outreach day.

Just like any other spiritual discipline, you must also practice in order to master this sacred duty of a Christian. You will become bolder and more audacious with each attempt.

You can be in a situation where you want to share the gospel but your mouth is tied to the roof of your mouth. Calm down. Ask the Holy Spirit for help.

At times, just when you have concluded to share the gospel, someone comes in as a distraction for the targeted soul. Rebuke the

distraction under your breath or see it as an increase and opportunity to reach two rather one. But at all cost, do not back down.

One young man was telling me how sad he was when he missed an opportunity to be enrolled in a national organisation. I empathized with him and then told him how sad it will be if he does not get to make it to heaven. There is an entry point in every conversation to bring in Christ and eternity.

Sharing the gospel could be as simple as talking about your salvation experience. This is mine:

My name is Temiloluwa Ola. I was born in a Christian home to God-fearing parents who are pastors. But as a teenager, I got lost in the world of sexual lusts- porn and masturbation had a grip on me. I still sang in the choir and lifted hands in praise but there was an emptiness on my inside. I got tired of living a double life. I asked God for help. I surrendered my life to Christ. My life changed. As I grew in the knowledge of Christ, addiction lost its grip

on me. Would you love to meet Jesus also? Would you love to give your life to Christ?

Often times than not, I have met with young people who can relate with my journey and I eventually lead them to Christ. Would you prepare your own story also and get set to share it with someone briefly everyday as you trust the Holy Spirit for help?

This is how Apostle Peter puts it: "Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it."

(1 Peter 3:15 NLT)

Are you ready to win souls?

CONFESSION

I declare and confess that I receive boldness to share the gospel.

PRAYER

Lord, baptize me with a fresh passion for soul winning. Let me be a part of your kingdom. Amen

WEDNESDAY ■ DECEMBER 4, 2019.

GO BACK HOME AND GET DRUNK (Text: Ephesians 5:28)

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead be filled with the Spirit."

Many years ago, my dad worked as a bank teller. At the close of day, he had a huge deficit that he could not trace. Despite all he tried, he could not resolve it.

He went home worried. He had a bottle of alcohol in his fridge. He was just a casual drinker. He would normally take sips. But that day was different. He took more than a sip. He went to the bathroom and slept off there.

I love my Dad. He has taught me a vital spiritual lesson- When it gets tough, a sip is not enough. Get drunk in the Holy Spirit. Pray up your spirit till rest comes in an unusual circumstance.

You will see that principle in scriptures also.

Let us examine some:

When the Philistines heard that David had been made king in Israel. They came to attack the nation. David did not hurry out to fight. He went first into the stronghold. Friend, when it gets tough, get into your stronghold and seek the face of God. Come back with a spiritual strategy and confront the challenge. (2 Sam.5:17-25)

The problem we have most times is our laziness in prayer and our over-reliance on carnal solutions.

Second, when Jesus got to the point where he said he was sorrowful unto death. There was something he did- "he went a little further" and fell to the ground and prayed (Matthew 26:39).

After praying, he returned ready to confront his betrayal, trial and crucifixion.

The problem we have is our incapacity to press in more in the midst of tough times. We cave in to the pressure rather than lean upon His grace. You need more than a sip to face the cross. You get drunk in the Spirit.

Third, when the Apostles were persecuted for preaching the gospel. They threw them in prison and an angel came to open the prison door. He asked them to go the same place and preach the gospel again.

The religious council (same as the one that condemned Jesus most likely) sent for them and concluded that they should be flogged. They left rejoicing. Can you imagine?

But the secret was simple. When the persecution came to a peak and they asked them never to preach in the name of Jesus, they took more than a sip. They returned to their drinking corners with their drinking buddies. They prayed till the place they were was shaking. They left with boldness to do more (Acts 4,5).

When my dad woke up from his drunken stupor, his problem was still there. But those

who get drunk in the Spirit of God return in the power of the Spirit. Mountains melt before them. Challenges bow to them.

When last did you press in more than a sip? You need more than your "plus Jesus" prayers. You need more than a sip. You need more than family devotion. You need more than a sip. Pray in the Spirit on the wheel, in the kitchen. Sleep off and wake up with a fired up spirit.

We are in the season of sons. Let the sons arise. Let the Daniels press in for answers where others dare dread. Return with answers for the kings of this world. Come back with solutions that only the spirit can supply. You are not flesh. You are Spirit. Let the deep call to the deep.

CONFESSION

I declare that I will no longer give in to pressure, I will not look for answers elsewhere. I will seek God daily and I declare I am filled with the spirit of God. I receive grace for prayer.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I Press more in the place of prayer. I am breaking grounds; I am constantly connected to the spirit. Amen

THURSDAY ■ DECEMBER 5, 2019.

THE DEPOT TAUGHT ME A LESSON (Text: Matthew 5:6)

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."

While we prayed around midday in the church office, the Holy Spirit impressed it on my heart to think of the activity of a depot by our side. I observed for some minutes.

The Holy Spirit said, "Do you see cars coming with crates of empty bottles? Do you realise that they leave loaded? Do you know that most of the loaded cars will take them to bars and it is not necessarily for personal use?

Then I picked what the Lord was saying. The Church sometimes is like a depot. When we

gather, we have come for a refill. We have come to renew strength. No one must come to church empty and leave empty. No one must come in depressed, thinking of suicide and leave without a touch of the supernatural.

The Church must be a place where we draw strength and encouragement. It is the place of refilling. It is the place that a troubled Peter can meet a tired John. We exchange our weakness for God's strength.

But when we refill in church, it is not for our private consumption. No tree eats its own

fruits. Mostly, gifts are also for the benefit of all. You are filled so you can get others filled. You were touched so you can touch others. You were saved so others can be saved.

We thank God for the Holy Spirit that overshadowed Mary. However, the proof she was overshadowed was the carrying of a pregnancy and the birthing of Christ for the benefit of all.

The Holy Spirit does not promote selfishness but selflessness. The Works of the Flesh can never be the Fruit of the Spirit.

The problem we have most times is that we carry our Monday to Saturday into Sunday so we come to church tired, weary and without expectation. Well! We can be strengthened. However, we need to carry our Sundays into our Mondays to Saturdays by being true ambassadors.

At work on Monday through Friday, let there be an encouraging word inspired by the Holy Spirit in your mouth for a colleague going

through tough times. Let your hands be ready to touch the sick and pray recovery.

On Saturdays, as you dance at the party, let your mouth be ready to whisper eternal words in the midst of the dance. Be prepared to do it. Do not sit at the saloon for six hours and all you hear is gossip yet you refuse to share the gospel. At the car wash, raise the flag of Christ. After the premiership match, share a drink and the gospel with your shouting partners.

Friends, carry your Sunday into your Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Return for a refill on Sunday! Your pulpit is wherever you find people. Give a touch!

CONFESSION

I declare my strength is daily renewed. I am strengthened by the Spirit in the inner.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I am filled with the Spirit afresh. My tank will not go low. I am refreshed and revived. Amen

FRIDAY

■ DECEMBER 6, 2019.

WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DROP? (Text: Matthew 19:21)

"Jesus answered, if you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

I was stepping out of my office. I was scheduled to be in a small group meeting outside church. Danielle noticed that I was about going out. She wanted to tag along.

From that moment, anything I told her to do, she did it willingly. I told her to wear her sandals properly, she did it fast. I asked her to drop a tiny piece of cloth she had been playing with, she also did.

At that moment, I knew the Lord was speaking to my heart. He said to me, "Son, following me comes with a price. There are things that you must be willing to drop".

When Jesus called the disciples, he said to them "Follow me and I will make you..." Following

ends up in transformation. That is why the religious council could say of Peter and John that "Surely, they must have been with Jesus".

You cannot be fellowshiping with Jesus Christ, the Word of God and remain the same. Things will begin to drop off. Anger and bitterness will melt into God's love. You will lose the capacity to hold grudges.

Someone asked one young lady on the day she got filled with the Holy Ghost a simple question, "When did you become like this?" She could smell transformation.

When you are a follower of Christ, you must bear the fruit of the Spirit. There is a forming of

Christ going on right inside of you- you cannot talk like you use to. You cannot even dress like you use to. You stand in front of the mirror and the Holy Spirit asks, "Is that what you want to wear?" Ah! You drop the worldly look and put on Christ.

When you are in Christ, the Lord teaches you to be humble. People are nailing you to the cross but all you see is the hand and plan of God. Stones are hitting you real hard and you see the heavens open and the glory of the most High God. You simply look mad. You have no room for offence.

We are called to pick up the cross. When you pick up the cross as a disciple, your direction changes. It is an encounter that demands a change of direction. Your legs will simply not dance to certain tunes any longer.

When you follow Christ, what used to be food

becomes poison. You come to an awareness that sin is poison. You are no longer a slave to sin. You have dominion over the works of the flesh. There is an empowerment to live a righteous life.

Discipleship is a call to consecration. There will be things that are not even necessarily sinful that you have to wave goodbye. You simply know that if you keep at them, your growth will be limited.

What are you willing to drop?

CONFESSION

I confess that nothing hinders me from my walk with God.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I throw off everything that hinders and the sin that entangles my walk with God. I lay down all of myself. Amen

SATURDAY

■ DECEMBER 7, 2019.

CHURCH IS NOT HERE (Text: Matthew 16:18)

"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

One of my teachers back in the secondary school saw me as I drove out of a supermarket. He told me that he had sent one of the men in the church office to me. I wondered why. He then told me the reason.

We have a huge banner in front of our church location that says, "Church is not here". He wanted us to remove it. I smiled and explained to him why it was there. He was not the only one who had challenged me.

I asked him some simple question: Sir, do people fornicate in a church building? He said "That would be terrible". Do people fornicate in their homes or rooms? He said, "Yes". I asked again, "Do the same people who would not fornicate in the church building fornicate in their personal spaces?"

Then I threw the challenge- "Why do people

honour a building much more than their body? Is our body not meant to be the temple of God?"

Friends, we need to challenge ourselves to holiness. Church buildings are great. We will build great ones. However, it must not turn us into mere religious folks. God does not dwell in temples built with hands.

It is a shame to see a man who would say to his wife in the church, "I would have beaten you if not that we are in church. If you try this same thing at home". He has forgotten that he is the church.

It is annoying to see instrumentalists, choir members, ushers and deacons who would appear so righteous in the wedding service begin to run after alcohol at the wedding reception. What would we say about the bars

patronised by ordained deacons?

Friends, whatever you cannot do in a church building should not be practised in your private space. In the Garden of Eden, Eden was home for Adam. Eden was office for Adam. Eden was Church for Adam. There was no line.

Your work is worship. Your home is worship. Your academic journey is an act of worship. If you see all you do as an act of worship, it will change a lot of things.

As you drive on the street, it is an act of worship. Never raise your voice in anger while your patience is tested. Your wedding reception is worship. You must remain as sensitive as you were in the prayer meeting. It is not just one day of your life- it is a day of worship.

Worship is not just weekend and midweek service and you don't have a separate mind called "Church Mind". Be conscious of His presence all days of the week. Live as the temple of God.

Prayer is not just limited to Sundays. Your worship is not limited to a day. Our trouble and compromise begins the moment we separate our worship from our living.

Everywhere you go, you need to carry an invisible sticker on your heart saying, "Church is here". When you see the sick, lay hands on them. When you see a brother, break the bread of encouragement. When you see a sinner, share the good news. When you are stuck in traffic, show patience. When you have a conflict with your spouse, settle in love. When you are tempted to take alcohol, remember that you are the church.

Your life is worship- it is not limited to a building.

CONFESSION

I am the Church. I walk with the consciousness of who I am daily. I am an ambassador of the kingdom.

PRAYER

Lord, make me a worthy ambassador of the kingdom. Amen

SUNDAY



DECEMBER 8, 2019.

THE DAY DADDY FAINTED (Text: Romans 5:8)

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

My parents were classmates in the tertiary institution. During examination, my father took ill right in the hall. He had his work tools as a Fine Arts student but in his words, "I just kept looking at the paper before me. I had gone blank. The stress had taken its toll".

He was almost collapsing when some of his colleagues got a hold of him and carried him out for medical attention. But out of his fainting moment came the proof of love. My mum could not compose herself to write her own paper. She had fallen in love. She left school to look for him that day. The rest is history.

I laughed over this story again recently but my spirit knew no rest as I picked the prompt, "Can

the one you claim to love be fainting and you do nothing? Would you just mind your business?"

Friends, there is no hidden love here. Love comes with proofs. Love is demonstrated. God demonstrated his love towards us by paying the ultimate price for our sin.

You cannot love God and hide it. When you are in love, it shows in your walk. When I got my first "Yes" from a chic, my brother knew something was different that day. Love will show on your face. You cannot hide it.

You claim to be in love with God but you mind your business without thinking of His

business- you are not a lover. You claim you love God but you have never spoken about Him to your family and friends- you are not a lover.

Wait a minute- can you imagine being in love with someone who is not proud to show it? You are their hidden lover. That is rubbish! When men are in love, they will drop hints in every discussion (even when it does not apply).

I know you go to church and play an active role but when last did you even win a soul? The best offering you can give to God is a soul. Your highest offering ever is nothing compared to the soul of a man. Souls are priceless. Souls are heaven's delight.

Your money does not wreck havoc in hell like when a soul is won. Soul winning wrecks hell. You must love sinners so passionately that you hate to see them head to hell. Can you imagine you have a friend you see daily and yet your mouth is sealed? You sit with him daily to discuss business but everytime you have a nudge to share the gospel, you wave it aside. Can you have the cure to cancer and keep quiet? No!

MONDAY



DECEMBER 9, 2019.

VISION: YOU ARE A MULTIPLIER (Text: Gen 1:28)

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth

I kept looking into the eyes of my second daughter and I said, "I cannot believe I am a father of two amazing children". It felt like a dream. I started alone. I got married. Now we are becoming larger. Multiplication includes bearing children but it is not limited to that.

Everything that comes into your life has the capacity to reproduce also. Why? Because God said in the beginning "Be fruitful and multiply..." and "the scriptures cannot be broken"

As a man, you are a multiplier. You will multiply whatever catches your heart- evil or good. It means that you need to be careful what

God did not set us up for mere activities. There is no shoe manufacturing company that does not produce shoes- that would be weird. There cannot be an airport without planes landing and taking off- that would be strange! How then can we be a part of the church without souls being saved? We cannot be comfortable with our lights and sounds. We must not entertain people to hell. It would be terrible.

Love will show proof. You cannot hide it. It must show on your face and reflect in your walk but much more, it must come up in your conversations.

Cars, houses and the latest gadgets are good but souls are priceless. My spiritual father said to us, "Only kids are impressed by toys". Go after souls. That is our only task!

CONFESSION

I confess I am a love child of God. Love is my nature.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I grow in love for God. I am committed to His course. Amen

catches your heart (Prov. 4:23). If evil catches your heart, it will reproduce and if good catches your heart, it will also reproduce. Why do you think good and evil spread? It is because man has the capacity to bring forth fruit and multiply. Fruits can be either good or bad.

That's the point- you MUST watch what catches your heart and in turn you guard your life. If it catches your heart, it can catch your life. Remember, this is just a foundation that whether you see it or not, nature abhors vacuum- you are already helping to reproduce something here on earth by action, omission or silence! No one is neutral. You are pushing an

agenda.

The first introduction we have of Saul who became Paul was that those who stoned Stephen laid their cloths at His feet. It did not take a long while for Saul to become a terror to the church. There is no neutral ground. You will either multiply good or evil.

What are you multiplying?

CONFESSION

I declare that out of my heart being filled with the goodness of God always comes good fruit alone. I affirm that I take a stand only to do good. Amen

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I daily guard my heart and fill it with the right things. Amen

TUESDAY ■ DECEMBER 10, 2019.

HOW DOES VISION COME? Part 1 (Text: Isaiah 42:9)

Behold the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them

One of the final statements that sent me to Eruwa with a reassurance of God's call was "Every company build its factory where the raw materials are. Go to where I have sent you". It settled all doubts. I have indeed seen men come in raw and leave in amazing ways.

God is the giver of vision. Vision is always indeed in raw materials. One of such materials is your past. Your past may not be sent but it will be God used. There is no pain you will go through that will ever be wasted. A monument can arise from a desert. Water can flow from rocks.

At times, Vision comes when we make up our minds that a past cycle must be broken. Simple! Someone reading this now got to this point simply because he did not want a replay of his parents' suffering so you became the first graduate in your family. Your pain became a spring board for new heights.

It happened to Abram turned Abraham. The journey to Canaan started with Terah, his father. But the father got mid-way (Haran), settled there and died there. Abraham refused to have mid-way disconnection from destiny.

He kept moving not knowing where but followed every leading of God.

So, if your past and pains attempt to put you in a grave in order to bury you. Let it know it made a mistake- begin to sprout from there.

I preach a lot about purpose, passion for God and purity today because I struggled with masturbation and porn as a teenager. But now, the things I have been through is a vision to ensure others get it right. Someone once said that "The challenges you face in life is an indication of the assignment that God will send you to". Do not waste your pains. It is even a great tool for soul winning. Have you ever shared your salvation testimony with someone before?

CONFESSION

I declare that I will not be buried by my past. I rise up and sprout from there. Through the works of Jesus in me, my past is turned to glory.

PRAYER

Out of my pains, out of my past comes out life from which I will be a blessing to others in the name of Jesus

WEDNESDAY ■ DECEMBER 11, 2019.

HOW DOES VISION COME? Part 2 (Text: Genesis 13:14-15)

And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever.

I would bounce round our living room in an oversized Agbada announcing to anyone who cared to listen that I am a very rich man. There was a seed in me that knew that there is something attractive about being wealthy. I would at times just day dream about greatness. There is something about childhood dreams. One of the ways we connect to vision is through our childhood dreams.

Think about it: Can you remember as a child that you tried wearing your parents shoes even though it was bigger; you struggled to sweep even when your tiny hands could not grab the circumference of the broom. You even struggled with the steering wheel with Dad before you knew what a car does. Did you arrange 3 pieces of stone, cut some sticks, made an imaginary fire place, got some old tin of beverage, cut some weeds as you make an attempt to cook? How about acting Dad and Mum with your toddler friends?

Does that not tell us that as children, we were wired to dream and reach out for or role-play something bigger than us! Why would you then allow adulthood to beat the audacity of faith out of you?

THURSDAY ■ DECEMBER 12, 2019.

HOW DOES VISION COME? Part 3 (Text: Nehemiah 1:4)

And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven

Anytime I get to visit the tertiary institution in our town, my heart is always burdened. I begin to pray the moment I get into the gate. It becomes a heavier burden whenever I get to interact with some of the students. Today, I have it on my weekly schedule to disciple some of the young minds on the campus. I just could not shake it off.

One of the ways that vision comes is through a burden. It is impressed on your heart. It has its feet placed there. You try all you can to shake it off but it keeps resurfacing.

You want to see if you can do something about

Joseph did not. He dreamed as a child that he would be great. He was hated by his brothers and he dreamed again. He was sold, plotted against and imprisoned but he got his dreams. When his brothers bowed before him, look at what the bible said:

"Then Joseph remembered the dreams which he had dreamt (as a child)..."

Can you pause and look at where you are today? You will pick clues of some childhood dreams popping up!

Stretch your faith once again. Do not let adulthood deprive you of those amazing childhood dreams.

CONFESSION

I declare that I am full of faith. I rise up to fulfill my God given dreams

PRAYER

My dreams shall come true. The future I foresaw as a child will become a reality in the name of Jesus. Amen

it. It makes your heart heavy, breaks the heart and causes a bit of "holy anger".

Bill Hybels calls it "Holy Discontent"- Why Must it be this way? Why can't someone do something about it? Moses had it! Nehemiah also did- food lost taste; his face changed address but it is Habakkuk who gave it the words that I love:

"The BURDEN which the prophet Habakkuk SAW"

Really? Can a burden be seen? Yes! Mother Theresa 'saw' the burden daily till she could not stand it. Martin Luther King Jnr 'saw' the

burden so much that he concluded that "I have a dream". Jesus saw the burden that He stepped out of His throne, stripped Himself of honour, and gave up His life for it.

What is it that grieves your heart? What is it that has become a "holy discontent"? What is that picture you cannot get off your mind- lost souls, hungry children, pregnant teenagers, bad governance, broken families, mediocrity, unemployment, tribalism, frustrated parents, clueless undergraduates, abandoned elders etc.

Do you know what you will do? Expose yourself more to that thing that breaks your heart till that moment comes when you cannot

bear not to do anything about it- You just caught a vision and perhaps something to live for or much more something to die for.

What is it that has become a burden? Take it to the Lord. It can become a generational vision for impact.

CONFESSION

I confess that I will not be at ease in the place of vision. May light catch my eyes, may a burden grip my heart.

PRAYER

Put upon O Lord a divine burden, and internal unsettlement for that which you have called me to do. Amen

FRIDAY

■ DECEMBER 13, 2019.

HOW DOES VISION COME? Part 4 (Text: Luke 1:41)

And it came to pass, that, when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost

In the monthly ministers meeting, my Spiritual Father began to emphasize on Soul-Winning. I looked at the person by my side and said to him, "If I have not been reaching out and leading the church to do the same, I would have felt so terrible today". But then I thought about how I got immersed in the desire to reach out for more souls- it was in a meeting with a dear teacher of mine. I knew a burden for soul winning came on me that night.

One of the ways vision comes is by hanging out with someone who is vision-driven. Have you ever been around someone before who is doing some great stuff and you begin to ask yourself what you are doing with your own life?

For example, if you stay around a friend who says 'isn't it?' when he talks, you will discover you end up saying same too. We pick up stuffs by association.

Even God has a way of making you have a taste of what you will do or where you will be permanently- David can have a taste of the Palace, Moses can have a taste of Egypt and Joshua can have a taste of the promised land.

I know a graduate who is today into plumbing and tiling. Why? That was what he used all his spare time as a young boy to do under his father's tutelage. He has taken the trade a notch higher than his dad.

The baby in Elizabeth leaped at the sound of Mary voice. Men in distress, discontented and in debt gathered to "outlawed" David in the Cave of Adullam and ended up as David's mighty men. They caught on to something

If you will birth something great, stay around people who have given birth to great things. If you will live a vision-driven life, do not hang out with those driven by their appetite.

CONFESSION

I declare that I am surrounded by men of vision.

PRAYER

Lord I pray that you bring into vision stirring, vision catching and vision helping relationships. Amen

HOW DOES VISION COME? Part 5 (Text: Isa 28:13)

But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line, here a little, and there a little

Idrove my mum to an evening meeting and while I sat in the car, the Lord began to impress on my heart the things that I am doing fully with my life today. It was a cool April evening. That was the beginning of a journey. There are fathers in the faith who speak about how they received their call ministry through visions and dreams.

Some of us will have spectacular moments but not all of us will have such “out-of-the-world” experiences. We must not trivialize or idolize such moments. You should not wait for thunder and lightning before you realize what God is asking you to do. If David had waited for some supernatural moment, he would not have confronted Goliath.

Men like Saul had supernatural moments. Remember the brother called Saul who later became Paul- his interview and recruitment process into God's Kingdom Assignment was dramatic. He was so connected that he could single-handedly request a law to kill disciples and persecute the church. He drove in a convoy of enforcers of the law. His name meant torment.

On one of his trips, God organized a private interview for him. But God had to knock him

off his horse, turn heaven's search-light on him, got a confessional statement, struck him blind and sent him to training school (Do you really want it that way?)

Do you want to be led by hand like a beggar by those who follow you? Do you want to be in a position where you are not accepted by your constituency and not wanted by the folks you have now accepted their Lord? Do you love a 3 years retreat in Arabia?

Now you can understand Paul's Passion when He told King Agrippa that "And I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision" My honest advice is that you should not wait for the Paul's kind of experience. Follow Each Step of God. Yield to His Prompting. Allow the Spirit of God to guide you.

CONFESSION

I confess that I am of quick hearing. My hears ear, my eyes see and my heart picks divine promptings. The Spirit of god guides me always

PRAYER

From today onward, I enjoy divine leading of the Holy Spirit through any way he choses. Amen

CAN EVERYONE BE NO 1.? (Text: 1 Corinthians 7:20)

Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called

Some few days before she eventually told me a “Yes”, my wife had a unique experience. She woke up from a nap hearing the Lord say to her, “I have called you to help my son in what I have called him to do”. She is passionately doing that till date.

There are people who are called to be Aarons and Hurs who are struggling to be Moses. There are people called to be helpers trying to

be at the forefront. I understand the theories of positioning, structuring etc. I know that there cannot be two captains in a ship but this is it- once you live a life obedient and committed to god's vision for your life, you are god's “first” even if all you do is assist.

Why are you God's first? You are not accountable for another person's office or responsibility. You will be held responsible for

yours! That is why if your role is to "hold the ladder" for another one to climb, hold the ladder well. You are as profitable holding the ladder as the person climbing the ladder. Do not climb the ladder when you are meant to be holding it. You may get to the top of the ladder but you become "less than the first".

Let us stop the "intestine-eating", "rat-race" mentality. Let us get rid of the competition. We are all vital to each other. We should simply draw strength from one another. Moses led the Israelites. YES! But not without the help of Aaron and Hur amongst others. David was a man of exploits. YES! But not without the likes of Barzillai, Hushai and Nathan. You may not even know some of those names.

Do not over-rate yourself. Do not become

unapproachable because you are 1st in the office structure. Do not under-estimate yourself also because you are being obedient assisting. Your dreams will also be fulfilled as you help others realize theirs. Sometimes, your God-given dream will even be to assist. In that role, you are God's first! Play it well.

CONFESSION

I declare that I will not be foolish to compare myself with another. I will not be given to jealousy or envy or strife. I will remain in the position you have placed me.

PRAYER

In Jesus name, I pray that I'm not jealous of another man's position. I stay where the Lord has placed me. Amen.

MONDAY ■ DECEMBER 16, 2019.

— WHAT DO I DO WHEN VISION COMES? Part 1: WRITE IT DOWN (Text: Habakkuk 2:1) —

And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that reads it

Couple of years ago, I was in a conference where I picked a vital lesson. The speaker said to us, "One of the most important law of leadership is 'Write it Down. Write down everything'". It stuck to me subsequently that writing is powerful.

A dear teacher of mine would park while driving to take notes of ideas that are striking him. I remember clearly how I wrote down all the important details of a major conference while I was stuck in traffic. The last thing to do every night is to write down what you intend to do the next day. Why is this important? You cannot sleep with a vision and not wake up with a mission.

God wrote. Jesus wrote and he told John in the book of Revelation to write also. The Apostles wrote. If they did not, we will not have the scriptures and the Holy Bible today. What are you writing that generations behind you will benefit from?

If you will be a person devoted to vision living,

one of your best companions should be a notepad and a pen. Writing makes you trap the thoughts and ideas before it flies out of your head.

Writing the vision gives occasion to reduce your clumsy thoughts into specific terms which results in clarity. For instance, when you want to send an SMS, do you know how you try your best at times to ensure it is just a page? You begin to edit and think of the unnecessary that can be removed. In the same way, writing helps you reduce and eliminate the unnecessary.

When it is written, you have something that can jump-start your memory should you forget.

Writing is what makes the difference between the advancement first world countries have made and where third world nations are. They honour what is written; We flout and dishonour it (if at all it is written).

My advice to you- Write the Vision. Let it be clear. No matter who reads, let them be able to identify what you are up to.

CONFESSION

I make up my mind that from today, I will write

down every idea and inspiration and vision that God brings my way

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I am diligent with note taking. It becomes a habit for me. Amen

TUESDAY

■ DECEMBER 17, 2019.

WHAT DO I DO WHEN VISION COMES? Part 2: THINK (Text: Acts 10:19)

While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee

When I was about wrapping up my national youth service programme, I picked up a journal and wrote down the three things that I would love to do after my service year. I picked each of the items and wrote down the strengths and weaknesses of each decision. One of the things that made me return finally to Eruwa was that moment of reflection. I realized that coming to Eruwa had the greatest benefit of all. What is it? It will be in the will of God for my life. All others looked good but I knew they were not of God.

Friends, the fact that you are a born again child of God is not the same with mental suicide. It was while Joseph was thinking about putting away Mary secretly that he received insight from the Lord concerning the matter at hand.

When vision comes, one of the things you need to do is THINK. A lot of folks are "too spiritual" to think. They are prayer giants but shallow thinkers. If your mind is undeveloped, you will always reduce every inspiration to the size of your mind.

In China they say, "Vision without action is a daydream and Action without Vision is a nightmare". I think quite some folks are victims of the two.

Sowing a seed of great thought in an uncultivated mind is a terrible investment. The weeds in that heart does not give the seed the opportunity to grow.

Is this in scriptures? Why should I be thinking of the vision? What if it is an 'heavenly vision'? Look at this:

"While Peter THOUGHT about THE VISION, THE SPIRIT SAID to him..." (Acts 10:19)

Yes! He was thinking when the Spirit spoke. I believe that one of the reasons while we are losing the ability to hear God in the church is because we are losing the culture of thinking.

When last did you turn an idea in your head till light popped up? When last? Really! When Last? Are you a lazy thinker? Do you give up before revelation catches your heart? Is your mind too full of junk? Why do you think Renewal of the Mind is so important after being saved? (Rom. 12:2).

When you pray, you can also focus your spirit on a situation until light comes. You can focus on a tough situation and toss it around in your mind as you pray in the spirit. Friend, you will return will light. Thinking and prayer are both spiritual investments. When the two are correctly harnessed, you will birth great visions.

CONFESSION

I declare that I am given to creative thinking. My mind is the mind of Christ

PRAYER

I pray that my mind comes alive with creative thoughts. I will not be dull. Amen

— WHAT DO I DO WHEN VISION COMES? Part 3: RUN! BUT NOT STUPIDLY (Text: Luke 14:28)—

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first, and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it?

We sat in front of our tutor and admitted that where we were struggling as a ministry and how it was taking a toll on our family. He did not spare us at all. He opened up the bible and showed us the exact place where the bible called the manner of operation we were running a foolish thing. We stopped running stupidly from that day. Everything changed.

Beloved, it is not wise for a man to run with a vision without arming himself with the necessary resources required to run that vision. There was a man named Asahel in the scriptures who had speed but lacked wisdom.

When the civil war was at its peak in Israel, David's men were dealing Late King Saul's men a terrible blow. Abner was the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of Israel. Joab was David's Chief of Defence Staff. There was a day of fighting at "The Field of Sharp Swords". They both watched young soldiers kill themselves.

Asahel and Abishai were Joab's brothers. They were at the field too. Asahel decided to pursue Abner. He had an unusual strength of running without changing directions. He could speed like a V8 engine. He chased after Abner. Abner saw a warrior closing up on him and his men. He knew it could be Asahel. He issued a warning: "Asahel, do not just come running to me without a weapon, before you get here, take hold of a weapon." (Paraphrased) He warned

him twice but Asahel would not have that nonsense. He kept chasing "weaponlessly"

He kept a focus. The end of the story, Abner struck him dead with the blunt side of a spear. (Cf. 2 Sam. 2:12-32) Are you an Asahel? Do you think of the training required to execute a task? Do you run blindly? Do you think of the human, financial, material and intellectual materials required to execute vision or you think it does not really matter? Do you know the place of the anointing and the place of skill? Have you mastered the art of financial management that will grow that vision? Do you think about the consequences of your action or omission? Do you assume your strength is enough at the detriment of managing your weaknesses?

You are about to wreck yourself. Turn aside now. Retreat. Pick up Wisdom. And begin to run again. You may lose speed but you would have gained life.

CONFESSION

I declare that I am wise and I will devote enough time and resources to master the skills I will need for the fulfillment of my vision

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I receive the wisdom to build wisely. I plan rightly, use resources correctly. Amen

WHAT DO I DO WHEN VISION COMES? Part 4:
DON'T UNDERRATE A FATHER (Text: Galatians 4:19)

My little children, for whom I labour in birth again until Christ is formed in you

For the first three years of ministry, I taught all that was needed was prayer and giftedness. My eyes opened when I began to actively pursue learning with my spiritual

father. We sat at the breakfast table one day and he broke down my struggle of three years in less than thirty minutes. He gave me amazing insight into what we were to do and how we

were to go about it.

There is a link between vision and fathering. Paul said "My little children, for whom I am suffering birth pangs until Christ is completely and permanently formed (molded) within you" (Gal. 4:19 AMP).

Dear friends, the pains of a father will shorten the process of a teachable son. It would be kingdom loss to repeat mistakes that instructions and guidance can spare you from.

I know you have a great vision. Yes! You cannot wait to manifest but do not let your vision make you dishonour a father. The spirit of "I can do it by myself" plagues this generation. It is not a strength. It is a disadvantage. There are many "orphans" on the journey of vision. We insult fathers. We are impatient. We think we have arrived. Come off the high horse.

Joseph had his dreams but it took Jacob's assignment to send him into destiny. David, king-ordained but not enthroned, would not have surfaced on national scene if he was not humble enough to do a simple house chore of delivering food to his brothers. Even Jesus, as He was baptized, had to be confirmed by the father who said "This is MY SON..."

Who can you point to as a father? Can he boldly call you son? Paul taught Timothy. Who is teaching you?

On a lighter note, I met my wife when my father sent me on a preaching assignment he could not attend to himself. Do not joke with fathers.

What makes a Father is the word called "Suffering". They have seen and been through stuffs. Be humble enough. Let them be your bridge to destiny.

May the spirit of "orphan-hood" be broken. May you be set free from flattery. May your heritage not be lost.

CONFESSION

I declare that I will despise the role of a father over me. I confess that I have a teachable spirit and I have faithfully gleaned life lessons with honour from my father.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I will not fail to award due honour, respect, readiness and obedience to my father in the faith. Amen.

FRIDAY

■ DECEMBER 20, 2019.

WHAT DO I DO WHEN VISION COMES? PART 5: PURSUE WITH TENACITY (Text: Habakkuk 2:3)

Behold, the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry

Few years ago, a minister (he is no longer in ministry today) met my brother and asked him, "Is your brother still in that Eruwa?" My brother replied in the affirmative. The man was shocked. He could not believe that we were still pursuing a God-ordained vision in the land. Now, people say things like, "We have to visit that your Eruwa". The story is changing.

Friends, do not receive a vision and sit down with wishes. You must pursue the vision with tenacity. Dedicate your day and time to it. Give

it your full attention. If you do not give it time, it will not last a life-time.

The finest picture of tenacious pursuit I have seen is that of a shepherd who goes after a lion that has eaten up his sheep. All he could rescue from the lion is two legs and a piece of an ear (Amos 3:12). I had to ask myself, "What's Left? Isn't it all gone?" There is no heart left, the eyes and mouth are gone. Out of four legs, you have just two left. Yet that shepherd did not give up.

Can you be that tenacious about vision? If all you have left is a piece of an ear and two legs, get it going! As long as there is a leg to stand on and walk with and an ear to hear the call of vision, then you don't have a reason to give up yet.

God is still in what is left so stop brooding about what you lost! Our challenge is we give up too soon before our breakthrough.

As a pastor, we have had 1 man, 2 or 3 people services before but not again! We kept moving. Let something be stirred in you.

There are four things you should keep doing while pursuing:

1. Keep the right attitude. Celebrate what you have.
2. Resist Temptation. Do not be caught in the

trap of competition.

3. Retain Integrity. Integrity has a strong value. It pays at the long run.

4. Never Stop giving your best even in unjust and humbling situations that looks like setbacks.

May your strength not fail.

CONFESSION

I declare that I am not of the kind that gives up easily on my God given vision. I declare that I am tenacious, strong, focused and determine to see my visions come true.

PRAYER

My strength will not fail, I receive the power needed to bring my vision to fruition in Jesus name. Amen

SATURDAY ■ DECEMBER 21, 2019.

PASTORS ARE HUMAN TOO! (Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:25)

Brethren, pray for us.

I stood up to teach in our midweek service. The first thing I asked the church to do was to go ask someone "How was your day?". Everyone went around asking, shaking and patting one another's back. Some even hugged themselves. I smiled as I saw it all. Guess what, no one came to the pastor to ask that simple question 'How was your day?'. Yet! I was tired and it had been a really hard day.

Often times than not, pastors are trained on how to treat their members and the congregation at last but who trains the congregation on how to treat their pastor. There is such a thing as ministerial ethics but who talks about congregational ethics. The pastor's duty is a 24 hours call. His phone rings at 2am and he has to attend to a needy member. He shares in the good news and at times has the responsibility to break the bad news.

Pastors and Medical doctors may have something in common- people believe they are

fine as long as they breathing!

You are quick to ask your pastor "Are you praying for me?" But have you ever told him "I am praying for you".

You know how to accuse the pastor of not visiting you but have you ever stopped by to check on him and his family?

You tell the pastor that you are going on vacation but have you ever wondered when last he had a break?

Your pastor smiles at you telling you "It is well with you" when at times, it is a prophecy for himself.

A pastor can officiate a wedding just after consoling a bereaved family (Can you imagine that emotional switch- yet he must be stable).

Your pastor is human too! Trust me, there are

Sundays he did not feel like coming to church but he still did! Some of the lovely suit covers the pains.

The year is coming to an end and I have seen pastors quit because of depression (true!). You can put a smile on your pastors face as the year comes to an end!

If indeed the Lord has given you a shepherd after the heart of God, then do not take it for granted.

I have simply told you what your pastor would never say!

CONFESSION

I put to heart from today onward to care genuinely for the interest of my pastor. As he blesses me spiritually and materially, I also bless him materially and spiritually

PRAYER

I pray for my pastor today, _____, I declare that you are strong in the Lord. Your strength will not fail, your oil will not dry off, you will not burn out in Jesus name. Amen.

SUNDAY ■ DECEMBER 22, 2019.

NEVER DRANK BEFORE BUT DRUNK! (Text: Acts 2:15)

For these are not drunk, as you suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day

They dragged out a sack full of empty bottles- all alcohol! One of my folks screamed "Pastor, come and see. Some people can drink o".

I left my own portion of house clearing and went to see what brought forth the exclamation. I was dazed. I picked up an empty bottle of alcohol then it struck me and I said it out loud "Would you guys believe that this is the first time I am touching a bottle of beer?"

All eyes turned at me. I could see those looks. I could sense the shock. "Pastor, you have never drank before", a young lady queried. (Not sure whether it was a statement or a question).

I replied "Yes. I have never drank before" but it struck me later "But I have been drunk severally".

I have been drunk praying in the Holy Ghost when full of joy or full of heart aches. I have been drunk when I had no money in my pocket but I did make daring financial moves. I have been drunk when I was not too sure how much it cost to be a married man but I still got married. I had been drunk when I decided to leave the legal profession to profess the faith of Jesus! I have been drunk when I made a

request that should cost months but I got it in 10 minutes.

Peter told the people "We are drunk actually but not as you suppose" and Paul said "Be ye not drunk with wine but be filled with the Holy Ghost"

A drunk man is aside himself. It is beyond his influence but he cares not! Listen, it is final days of 2019, some things will never happen until you "get drunk in Holy Ghost" by praying in the Spirit. Build up your faith and go for it- Go and ask for that favour again! Take that proposal to where they said "No" earlier! Pick a date for introduction and take 'Step One'! Go knock on the doors of that office and ask to see the boss (Do not wait for an interview). Set yourself up for one!

Miracles are still happening everywhere even now! Go get yours!

CONFESSION

I declare that I carry the fullness of the Spirit. I am full of the Holy Ghost. I rejoice always. I am daring. I am full of faith. I am confident.

PRAYER

Pray in the Holy ghost. Amen.

CONNECT THE VISION TO THE HARVEST 1: THE RICH FOOL (Text: 1 Corinthians 10:24)

Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.

The Lord asked us to give our entire savings as a seed. It was our savings towards our wedding. You may not know the weight of that if I do not tell you that what I was guaranteed of earning just five thousand naira monthly at the time. When I called my wife (as she is now), she made a profound statement that has changed our lives. She said, "If we can give God our lives, why can't he have our money?"

Dear friend, if your resource is not tied to kingdom exploits, you are not living the way God intended you to live. Vision will put food on our table and cloths on our neck but it must primarily be to advance the kingdom of God on earth. If your vision is tied to self-preservation, it is not a vision. At best, it is a survival package.

We are in a world where people love things and use people rather than love people and use things.

Vision is not just about you. We are in a world where folks take picture of self by self. We call it selfies. Are we not meant to be sacrificial believers in the midst of a selfish world?

We must not be like the Rich Old Fool whose farmland had a huge harvest and he was in a "confusion of blessings". All he could think about was himself. Hear him: "What can I do? I don't have a place large enough to store everything. Now I know what I will do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones where I can store all my grain and other goods. Then I will say to myself, 'You have stored up

enough good things to last for years to come. Live it up. Eat! Drink and enjoy yourself"

In that short speech, 'I' and 'my' were repeated 12 times. Guess what God said:

"You Fool. Tonight, you will die. Then who will get what you stored up?" (Cf. Luke 12:16-21)

Really! Are you like that. We are selfish with everything even the gospel. Someone said "No one has the right to hear the gospel twice when someone has not heard it once".

If you are blessed as a business person, have you thought of having missionaries on your pay roll? Do you partner with mission organizations to advance the cause of Christ?

The only way to tame material things is by giving it out! Your treasures must never compete with your commitment to God.

Your vision must be connected to kingdom harvest.

CONFESSION

I confess not to be self-centered. I declare that I live so others can live. I confess to be a sacrificial believer in the midst of a selfish world

PRAYER

I rebuke every nature of selfishness in me. I will not be mindful of myself alone but of others as well in the name of Jesus. Amen

CONNECTING THE VISION TO THE HARVEST: BE A KINGDOM INFLUENCER (Text: Matthew 5:14-16)

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven

When a dear protégé got an appointment temporarily in a school, we kept praying that the Lord will give us avenue to impact the lives of the young ones in that school. God did not just begin to give amazing opportunities; God also gave him a permanent position. Before we knew what was happening, he was called upon to begin to manage some of the fellowship activities.

Friends, your career does not threaten the devil but your calling does. Your calling is superior to your career. You can lose a job but you must never lose your calling. Who prepares a really good meal, serves it in a lovely plate and then comes to you saying, "Oh dear, this is the meal. I have placed the salt just on the edge of the plate. That is the best place to enjoy its taste"? Does it happen that way! No!

Meals are not sweetened by diffusion or osmosis neither is it preserved by same. Salt must be a part of the food. In the same way, you cannot be an influencer sitting on the edge of the fence, doing your own thing.

Jesus called you an influencer: First, you are SALT- highly potent with a capacity to sweeten and preserve our world from decay. Second, you are LIGHT- highly influential with the capacity to bring CLARITY to CONFUSED spots. What are you doing?

Many Christians today now fold their hands and look; some are resigning their jobs under the pressure of corrupt bosses; some quit business; we left politics.

Listen up- everything the church has abandoned has been taken over by the world. Education was advanced by Christianity but our schools are becoming more secular. We abandoned the health sector, now we talk abortion and the likes. Legal matters have fallen into the hands of the world!

But we are not disadvantaged- We have the gospel but we are not spreading it. We won't stop hearing bad news till we passionately share the good news.

And all that we do- business, politics, governance, career and everything else must be to the glory of God.

CONFESSION

I confess that I am committed to expressly, passionately sharing the good news in my circle of influence and in my general environment

PRAYER

Everywhere, anywhere I am, I shine the light of Christ for all to see. Amen

WEDNESDAY ■ DECEMBER 25, 2019.

CONNECTING THE VISION TO THE HARVEST: BUILD THE LOCAL CHURCH (Text: Hebrews10:25)

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

A passionate young man came visiting me. I had noticed that he attended our weekend services once in a while. He knew that he had a strong evangelistic zeal. Then I asked him, "What local church are you a part of?" He mentioned his home church and then added that he loved visiting churches as 'led by the spirit'. I told him that he must be connected strongly to his local church and he has no business running around.

Friend, your gift and calling must help build the local church. You are saved to serve. You are called to liberty but do not use it as an opportunity for the flesh but THROUGH LOVE, SERVE ONE ANOTHER. (Gal. 5:13) The church advances God's kingdom on earth and you should be a part of it by serving in a local church.

Do not be like the wood removed from the fire

place. It will burn a while; glow a bit and afterwards, it turns to ashes. Remain in the fire place. Catch the fire. Aid the burning.

You simply need to BELIEVE, BELONG, BECOME and BE SENT.

There are folks who claim to be evangelists or ministers but have no church base. They lack accountability. They say we belong everywhere. That is terrible.

Acts 13:1-3 makes us understand that to be effective in God's call, you must:

1. BELONG TO A LOCAL CHURCH (In the church at Antioch)
2. BE A PART OF A BELIEVERS COMPANY (there were prophets and teachers)
3. HAVE THE BACKING OF THE HOLY

THURSDAY ■ DECEMBER 26, 2019.

**CONNECT THE VISION TO THE HARVEST:
WHAT IS THE HARVEST?** (Text: Matthew 9:37-38)

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

My spiritual father shared once about how he went to preach in a large church. After the teaching, about 600 souls came to the Lord but there was no rejoicing in the audience. A dear friend insisted that his church should share testimonies of saved souls and the church should rejoice. It sounded absurd earlier but it became a culture after a while.

We must be careful what we call harvest. We will be blessed with material things but that is not the harvest. What is the harvest?

Think about Jesus Christ: It was after some long preaching engagements. He had healed the sick. He had raised the dead. Someone had even drawn virtue out of him and got healed of an issue of blood. He gave sight to the blind. Healed a dumb man. Went through all cities and villages. What an itinerary.

SPIRIT (and the Spirit said...)

Do not go running some solo mission feeling cool with yourself. Be a part of the church. Serve and Build! We must be able to trace your spiritual heritage. You must have a place where you can be held accountable. If you have not joined hands to build a local church, you will destroy the works of others who invite you as minister because you have not learnt. Be faithful in your local assembly.

CONFESSION

I declare that I am a faithful and loyal servant committed to the service of God in my local assembly.

PRAYER

I am rooted in my local church in Jesus name. Amen.

If it was any of us today, He would be our definition of success and fulfilment. But He lifted up his eyes and he saw so much people spread across like sheep without shepherd and He said:

"The HARVEST is plenty..." (Cf Matthew 9:37-38)

Just for the records, until you start seeing PEOPLE and not money, cars awards, houses, promotion etc. as the HARVEST, you have not started yet.

It is time to remind ourselves that people are very important to God. Would you trample on them like they do not exist? How about that family around you that is about breaking apart? How about the boy owing the fees? How about that girl that is looking so lean now? Every problem you see is an avenue for the good news.

Can some men start realizing that they need to be great role models not just to their own family but to the harvest of young boys on the street? Can you link that burden, childhood dream or mistake of the past to the harvest?

You must be a labourer. You must be like Jesus- seeking and saving the lost. You must not just stay in your pleasure boat. You must deploy the life boats. Lives will be lost while we celebrate what is wrong.

What is your definition of the harvest?

CONFESSION

I declare that I am a co-labourer with God, winning souls into the kingdom. I yield my entire resources to save as many as I can. So, help me Lord

PRAYER

Let the passion for souls rise strongly within me in the name of Jesus. Amen

FRIDAY

■ DECEMBER 27, 2019.

CONNECT THE VISION TO THE HARVEST- WHAT IS THE HARVEST? Part 2 (Text: John 9:25b)

One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

I was born into a god-fearing home- both parents were believers. Family devotion was not an option- it was compulsory. We memorise bible verses and recite at night before sleeping. It is a disciplined family. But being born into a God-fearing home does not make you god-fearing. Before long, I was getting sunk in pornography and masturbation. I am sure that if not for grace, I could have been drawn into homosexuality. Life was a mess at that point.

As much as I tried, it kept getting worse. I could not save myself. I knew something was missing. I was unfulfilled. One night, I screamed to God that I needed help. He answered by letting me know "He did not just die for my sins but also for the consequences of my sins- the guilt, shame and condemnation I felt". I was empowered by GRACE to leave the past where it was- the past. I embraced God's love.

My life never remained the same again. It is now thirteen years that I turned my story into a sword as I share the gospel in various places and different manners. Many teenagers and youths have been saved.

Why my story? The first thing you must learn to do with the harvest is SOUL WINNING. Many people don't know how to share the gospel. It is simple- Use the Story of what Christ has done in your life. It is a powerful weapon. Do not waste it.

Ask the Lord to lead you to a soul. Take a moment and share about who you used to be before you met Christ. Go on speak about how you met Christ. Share about what has changed since you met Christ. Extend an invitation to the person to accept Christ also.

Take the challenge. Reach out to someone today.

CONFESSION

I declare that I am not hindered from sharing the gospel. Through this grace of Jesus, my past has become an evasive force in preaching to good news to other.

PRAYER

I am sold out to the gospel in Jesus name. Amen.

SATURDAY

■ DECEMBER 28, 2019.

THERE IS NO COMFORTABLE TIME (Text: 2 Timothy 4:2)

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

When we got into the city to commence ministry, I had to keep an appointment. We needed a property to use. As I sat on the chair in that office, I knew I had to share the good news. I did after a struggle.

As a matter of fact, I shared the gospel before I mentioned my request about the property. It was not comfortable but the gospel must be shared. Why? Souls are priceless.

When Saul came against the early church with intense persecution, they made his work tougher. They were scattered but not defeated. They all carried the seed of the gospel. Everywhere they found themselves, they spread the seed.

Scattering must never reduce the church or the power of the gospel. The gospel is a seed. When you scatter it, it sprouts. When you unsettle it, it thrives. If you are unsettled and you do not respond with the gospel, you are wasting a seed moment.

What did Paul tell Timothy? He said to his faithful son, "Preach the Word in season and out of season". Paul saw how the disciples took the gospel everywhere. When he became saved, he followed their template. He came out straight from prison and led the prison warden and his entire family to Christ. He had no time to nurse his wounds.

The gospel is the power of God and it is the potency of the church. Without the gospel, Christianity is impotent. We will be fruitless and weak. Share the gospel with audacity. Be bold. If we keep our mouths shut, the world would be satisfied.

Have you realised that most folks have no challenge with nudity adverts? Even if they do, they will say nothing. But the moment the name of Jesus is mentioned, trouble starts. The gospel is the power of the church.

Friend, you must constantly carry the seed of the gospel. Peter said to us that we must be prepared to share the gospel with anyone at

anytime (1 Pet. 3:15). He said we should do it with meekness and fear. Irrespective of how we feel, the gospel must be shared. Sow the seed of the Word.

Do you remember the parable of the sower?

The sower is meant to be a master in sowing seeds. Why then did the sower just sow seeds anywhere without checking the soil first? Why waste the seed instead of just waiting to get to the good land?

It is simple. The seed is the gospel and it must be preached everywhere. Some will reject it. Some will forget it. Some will not be able to stand. Some will definitely sprout and produce much more. But this gospel must be preached.

At the end, let it be that the gospel was preached but rejected. Let it not be that it was kept while we waited for a good time. Many good people will be in hell because someone who had the good news was waiting for a good time. There will never be a comfortable time to share the good news.

We may be sensitive with telling someone the bad news; But when the news is good, it is spontaneous. It is written all over you. You cannot even hide it. You spill it out. Good news is powerful.

The early church did not just have a time in the week for evangelism. It was simply a life mandate. They shared the gospel everywhere. Friend, snatch someone from hell right away. Knock the devil where it hurts the most.

Are you waiting for a comfortable time? There is nothing like that!

CONFESSION

I declare that I am committed to preaching the gospel both in convenient and inconvenient times. The gospel is my life

PRAYER

From today onward, I share the good news only, in Jesus name. Amen.

"WHEN SUBMISSION IS TESTED..." (Text: Romans 13:1 NIV)

"Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established."

About four years ago, I was attending the ministers seminar of my spiritual father's annual convention. The morning sessions were just amazing. As we stepped out of the auditorium one of the mornings, Bishop spotted me and said, "Son, wait to see me".

I went ahead to the waiting hall of the Ministry's Secretariat and I waited. I waited for about two hours and a little more. While I waited, I got a small gift to say "Thank You" for His love and the gift of access. His secretary came in after a while and asked, "Are you Pastor Temi?". I replied in the affirmative. She said to me, "Bishop said you can leave. He will see you later".

That was tough but did I get annoyed? Not a bit! I brought out the gift and sent it to him with kind words that I know it is a hectic season and the Lord remains his strength. I was grateful that he could place such a demand on me in the midst of a tight schedule. I am not half as busy as he is!

Friends, submission is not tested until you have a reason to disagree. Honour is not just mouth professed, it is heart expressed. Honour flows from the heart.

Men who are willing to sit hours with a movie or football match will complain if they have to wait for an hour to see a teacher. If you value pleasure more than instructions, you will have nothing of value to bless your generation with or pass on to the next generation.

Submission is about our attitude. There is a difference between obedience and submission. You can obey and yet you are not submissive. Do you remember how you obey your parents under pressure while your heart is saying something else?

A lot of people act out obedience but they are

actually not submissive. They will sing in the choir but the bad attitude is louder than the music itself. They come to prayer meeting because they do not want pastor to talk. You can be saying "Yes" to your boss at work yet calling him names in your mind.

Submission does not come cheap. It comes rooted in an understanding that God wants us to honour authority.

A dear father called for one of his men (a wealthy man) some years ago. He told him, "Let us see by 5 on Sunday". When he got to church by few minutes to 6am, he met this man waiting for him.

He was shocked and said, "Sir, what are you doing here sir? Is all well?" The man replied that, "You did not mention whether it was 5am or 5pm sir. I know you are always in church on Sundays around 5am also. I would rather come for 5am and discover that it is 5pm than come for 5pm and discover that it is 5am?" He provoked the blessing of a prophet. What a heart!

Attitude is from the heart. God looks at the heart. If you are serving whether in your office, home or church with the wrong attitude, it is better you repent.

Submission loves correction. Submission is teachable. Submission says, "It is not my will but your will be done" both to the Lord and to those God has placed with godly authority over us.

You can disagree with a heart that is submissive. Submission is not servitude. It is simply about your attitude even when you do not agree. It is a heart matter.

If you keep saying yes with the wrong attitude,

one day you will be pushed to the proverbial wall and you will spill out everything that is hidden. You will say things like, "Are you paying me?" Or "Do I look like a small boy to you?" Or "It is my life. Let me live it" or "I also have things to attend to".

Submission is not tested until there is a reason to disagree. Submission is about your heart. Obedience is about action. You may obey yet

with the wrong heart! Watch your heart.

CONFESSION

I declare in name of Jesus I am not rebellious, I give honor to whom honor is due. I am submissive and I follow the example of Christ.

PRAYER

Father, give me the grace to submit to my leaders. Give me a teachable heart. Amen.

MONDAY ■ DECEMBER 30, 2019.

SITTING WITH THE AUTHOR (Text: Ephesians 1:18a TPT)

"I pray that the light of God will illuminate the eyes of your imagination, flooding you with light"

We were visiting with my spiritual father. At the family devotion in the morning, we use the devotional written by him. At that moment, I realised that there was a huge difference reading what he wrote and sitting with the author himself as he shared and blessed us.

Friends, you can read the Bible without knowing the author of the Bible but you can never come into an understanding and light of what is written without a relationship with the author.

The Word of God is spirit. We cannot read it with a carnal mindset. The things of God will be foolishness to the carnal man. The carnal man cannot understand spiritual things.

How do you explain to man blind from birth that the orange is green? He does not know green. He cannot understand green. It is in the same vein that a man who is not spiritual will find it hard to understand the Word of the Lord—they are spirit.

The Ethiopian Eunuch was returning from church and he was reading the scriptures. Phillip approached his chariot and asked if he understands what he is reading. He told Phillip that he does not understand. Phillip stepped in to explain the Word to him. Reading the Word is different from understanding the Word.

You must approach the Word with reverence. Every time you open the Bible, you are fellowshiping with the Father. You must tell every channel of your spirit to open up. You need to let your soul know that it is now in fellowship with the Father. Mundane things must go away. It is a spirit to spirit connection. The deep needs to hear from the deep.

Pray in the Spirit and ask the Holy Spirit for help and light as you look into the Word. The word will come alive.

Your study life will never be the same again once you understand that you are sitting with the author. You will hear his voice and pick his heartbeat and your life will never be the same again. Your heart will catch flames. You will rejoice at the Word as you find treasures that can be compared to none.

Read the Word of God with the following:

1. A Great Appetite: You should salivate for the Word of God. Desire it. Do you still feel hungry when you have not studied the Word of God or it has become the norm for you?
2. The Right Attitude: Have the attitude of a child (a new born baby). You must long for the word with the heart that is simple and willing to learn.
3. The Right Aim: When you study the Word of

God the Aim must be for growth. You are not looking for points to use for a teaching or argument. You are simply after growth. Do not look for what is not missing. Let the word cut through the carnality hidden in your soul and stir you to deeper consecration.

That was what the Apostle Peter was saying when he said, "Like new born babes (attitude), desire the sincere milk of the word (appetite) that you may grow thereby (aim)"

Hope you get it?

CONFESSION

I declare the light of God is shining upon me and is causing me to come to revelation of God's word. I no longer read the scriptures with carnal mindset, My deep is calling unto the depth of God's word.

PRAYER

Lord help me to approach your word with the right attitude and the right heart.

TUESDAY

■ DECEMBER 31, 2019.

IF I WERE YOU, I WONT JOKE WITH THESE THINGS IN 2020

(Text: Galatians 6:7)

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Whatever you desire to see in December, start sowing it in January! I have learnt not to joke with certain things from experience:

1. TONGUES: As you cross into the new year, make up your mind to pray in tongues more than you have ever done. Make a decision to be a prayerful person. Get into the word and pray out in tongues. There will be things in September that prayer would have settled from February. Praying in the Spirit gives you future advantage. Build up yourself so you do not make carnal decisions.

2. TRAINING: Invest in training. Train yourself unto godliness. Train yourself to be a better father, mother, husband, wife and in all areas of expression. Train your heart to be strong in the midst of storms. Train your mind to discern and recognize opportunities. Train your mind not to run from challenges. Train yourself till you see challenges as food for champions. Train yourself to love the Word.

3. TEACHERS: Teachers are key in life's journey. This coming year, honour the teachers that the Lord has blessed you with. Do not take mentoring processes for granted. Accept the pastor of your local church as a God-sent teacher. Do not joke with godly instruction and instructors. Kindly note their days of

celebration and make it a priority. Remember your parents as your first teachers in life also and make sure you honour them.

4. TRUST: Trust is priceless. You must ensure that you do not break trust. A lot of people will be under pressure to compromise godly standards but it will be an opportunity for the righteous to shine. Be exceptional in your trade and business. Value character over reputation. Value trust over ego. Your integrity will travel ahead of you to open doors for you.

5. TIME: Time is life in small doses. You must not be a time waster. Plan your time. Do not waste time. The input you put into time determine your output in your life. Time flies but you are the pilot. Set priorities. Be productive. No wastages.

6. TREASURES: Treasures are powerful. Your heart will be where your treasures are. What you do with your treasures shows the placement of your heart. The placement of your heart shows your worship. Let your treasures be rooted in God. Value God! Cherish Him!

CONFESSION

As I press into the year, I engage in the right things, I invest in the right things, I give myself

to the leading of the Spirit and I am prosperous

guarded and I do the right things only. Amen.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I declare that my heart is



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