

- OCTOBER 2023 -

COMPASS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



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SALE!**

Temiloluwa Ola

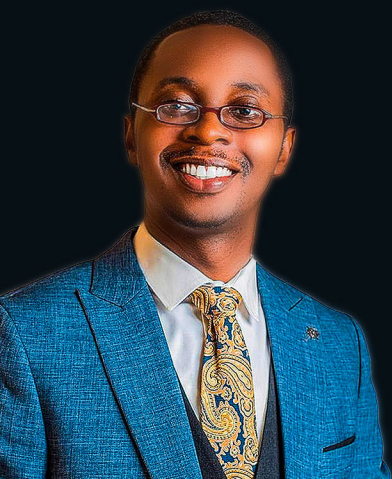
Practical thoughts for a productive day

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Temiloluwa Ola

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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Introduction

Every day has a lesson hidden in it. We can only draw it out if we are patient enough to look closely! Our pains can become a point of thanksgiving. Our smiles can become another's push for another mile.

What do you gain reading this devotional? There should at least be a practical thought that can make your day productive.

The story should lift your spirit. The letters should come to life. You can spot where you are in the middle of a simple story. But more, you can spot who you will be at the end of a thought.

I simply want to be a part of your story-
See you smile when you would normally frown;
See you grow instead of standing on a spot;

See you choose what is right without a fear of what might go wrong;
See you pursue life with a cause just like Christ who died on the Cross;

See you read up God's love letter to you as you beam with smiles each day;
See you love your dear ones and dare your limitations and obstacles;

See you run this race to end while taking each day with grace;
See you when time ceases to count and give you a high five that we finished the race with Joy!

I write because I love God and I love you.

Do not forget! The Compass Devotional is not a substitute to your Bible Study. It is only a complement of it.

The Lord bless you and multiply you all around.

Feedback

God bless the day(March 10th 2023) I stumbled on your tweet on - "THOSE YOU DROP THE STANDARD FOR". Thank You Sir for giving out value for FREE. I was so blessed that I quickly followed, screenshotted the tweets and clicked the link to join the WhatsApp group.

When I noticed you drop the daily devotional, I was so happy that I began sharing on my status, and to my siblings group.

People would read and enter my DM, thanking me for posting, sharing lessons gleaned and how blessed they are.

Even my class representative, when I was in school, had to add me to his group and asked that I share the daily devotional with them. God is using you Sir to bless lives. Keep up the good work.

How you begin each devotional with captivating stories with spiritual instructions, especially the ones about you and your Beloved "Irewamiri" - I love Godly marriages and homes. God Bless you, Sir. When I saw the link to download COMPASS, my joy knew no bounds. Every morning, I look forward to what God has to say to me through you. Keeps me wondering how Lawyers become great Ministers of God. Thank you for answering and honouring the CALL OF GOD on your life.

More Grace, fresh anointing and fresh fire upon you Sir! God bless you for me.

- CHISOMAGA, ABUJA

I look forward to the devotional every morning because each message has been refreshing and instructive. The first time I shared it on my WhatsApp status, someone pleaded that I keep sharing it. Just last week, someone else chatted me up and told me the devotional I share has been a great blessing to her. Well done, sir. The Lord bless you and the ministry. His grace abounds towards you. You will not run dry. I pray Kingdom financiers (including me) arise to support this.

- JUSTINA OYEDEJI, ILE-IFE, OSUN STATE

To the glory of God, the devotional is relatable and very practical. It has really kept me in check. Especially the one entitled " Why do you have to check it? It's a blessing.

TGod bless you, Pastor.

- MICHAEL, GHANA

Thank you so much sir for what God has blessed us with through you. It has been an amazing journey. I started reading from someone's status, got your link, and started posting on my status as well for others to see I posted late one day and someone noticed.

It's been a good journey for me, with so much wisdom and depth. God bless you, sir! They come with relatable stories and lessons from each day. I can't get enough of them. God bless and increase you, sir!

- TOLULOPE, IBADAN

I usually read the devotional on my friend's WhatsApp status, and then as I was reading one day, I saw a link to join the WhatsApp group on the flier. I have been so blessed by the devotional and nuggets too. One of your posts came timely last week, I was in a very bad place and didn't know what to do, your write-up was the answer I needed. Thank you Pastor for writing these devotionals in a way that I could relate with. Thanks for the graphic titles and stories too. God bless and strengthen you sir. Thank you for yielding to God sir.

- ESTHER AMOS, ENUGU

I got to know you from Twitter just a few months ago. The devotionals on marriage have made me get a different perspective on marriage and my roles therein. Not yet married, but believing to be soon, and I'm going to be the best wife to my husband.

- DESIRE, UGANDA

I've been following you for a while now and your content captivated me. My walk with God improved when I started reading them. I always look forward to reading them as it has become part of my bible study. God has really really helped me and I'm blessed. A close friend of mine also testify to knowing you from his days in Eruwa(poly) and he testified that you are a child of God and he also loves your content. I have been posting since day one and my contacts have been greatly blessed. God bless you, sir. More grace and unction to function in Jesus' mighty name. May you continue to be on fire for the Lord. May your marriage continue to be sweeter and sweeter in Jesus' name

- INIOLUWA, OGBOMOSHO, OYO STATE

Feedback

After my morning prayers, this devotional is my next activity and I always share the image version of it on my WhatsApp status and it has been blessing lives.

One of the days, I just felt like not sharing it, after some hours that morning, some persons on my contact list messaged me asking for the devotional of the day. In their words, it has been blessing them too. I felt so fulfilled that day and I also shared the group link to some of them.

Most times the devotional speaks directly to what I am going through personally and as a family with my wife. Sometimes I and my wife always end up our morning conversations with the message of the day from ATOM devotional.

May God continue to bless and enrich you and your wife and also grant you all your heart desires for the family and your ministry in Jesus' Name, Amen.

- JEREMIAH UGWULEBO, PORTHARCOURT

Your messages have blessed me in no small way sir, I'm someone that has battled with unforgiveness/anger for a long time, although the Holy Spirit to a good extent, has curbed me and cut out the excesses over time. I read a particular devotional where you addressed unforgiveness, saying the devil always come around those who have his package. I made a resolution from that instant, and it has become my favorite daily quote - (offences will always come, but I choose not to be offended, I don't keep the package of the devil). Since then, I let go of hurt easily.

Not just the forgiveness aspect, I have gotten encouragement countless times from the devotional, that sometimes I just keep scrolling through to re-read them. I also post on my WhatsApp status some times, and I get amazing replies from my viewers.

Thank you so much sir. You're a blessing!

- REBECCA OSEYI, EDO STATE

I am Marie Laurel from cameroon. I love and appreciate the way God used you to speak especially to me everyday. It has been doing much good to me at all times and making my crooked really straight. More grace to you sir.

- MARIE LAUREL, CAMEROON

This devotional has really been a blessing. After my quiet time, the next thing I check out for on my phone, is the devotional. I have also been sharing and my sisters and a lot of my contact list are part of the devotional community.

Every devotional always comes with power and as though they are written to address every season in my walk with the Lord.

Thank you Pastor and Mummy for this impact. The Lord keep you and may His anointing over your life keep increasing. Amen!

- NANCY GABRIEL, NASARAWA

The content from the devotional goes beyond here, I share and post on my status as a way of spreading the gospel. I enjoy the relatable stories and it is very relevant to present days as well as historical and biblical, honestly holistic.

Thank you so much Sir

- OPE POPOOLA, UNITED KINGDOM

Thank you for the wonderful devotionals that you do send to us every morning. Sincerely speaking, each devotional relates to my life in one way, and I am happy because I get answers from the devotionals and also directions. I thank God for bringing you my way. And I pray that God will continue to anoint you and your oil shall never run dry. God bless you and the ministry tremendously, sir. Thank you very much.

- OLUWABUSOLAMI, LAGOS

Pastor Temiloluwa and everyone working with you, thank you for your consistency in delivering the word through this devotional. I came across your tweets and everytime I read, I would be encouraged. I am encouraged to also start sharing the image version of the devotionals with my contacts.

- DUDLEY CHIDZIVA, ZIMBABWE

This devotional has been a great blessing to me and those around me. It is like my daily manna. Thank you for yielding to God, thank you, sir; for sharing your life experiences and how you react to them by the help of the holy Spirit to instruct us. More of God's insight and grace.

- PATRICIA, ABUJA

DAY 01

PATTERNS CAN PROTECT YOU

Text: Proverbs 24:21 NLT

"My child, fear the LORD and the king. Don't associate with rebels"

While working at night, I walked into the girls' room and did not find Danielle on the bed. I was not bothered because I knew she would sometimes leave her room to come to ours. We have had to address that a couple of times.

I was going to our room with the passionate corrective heart of a father. I stepped into the room, and there was no Danielle to be found beside Irewamiri. My heart skipped a bit. Immediately, I returned to their room for another check. I noticed she changed beds. She was sleeping on another bed. I took a sigh of relief and returned to our room.

It was easy to raise a reason for concern because we knew and understood that she had a pattern.

Sometimes, we know something is wrong with a church member because of the pattern they have created. Without a word, we know that something is wrong. Help locates such people faster. It is also easy to know when a person with a pattern struggles with their faith walk. If people get used to your inconsistencies, it is easier for the enemy to keep you as prey!

For instance, if you are not consistent in church, it will not be a bother when you are not around. Why? You have communicated unseriousness by your pattern. No one will be bothered when you are not seen. You show up when you want.

A family man had been rescued by his wife from armed robbers because he had a style of communication they tried to mimic, but she could sense something was not adding up.

A worker who would always greet the security man on her way out was rescued from death because the security noticed she had not passed that evening. There are predictable patterns you should have. Daniel was a man of patterns.

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room,

with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. Daniel 6:10 NKJV

Jesus was a man of patterns, also:

Church Commitment: So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. Luke 4:16 NKJV

Retreating with Disciples: And Judas, who was betraying Him and delivering Him up, also knew the place, because Jesus had often retired there with His disciples. John 18:2 AMPC

He had a place he prayed. The disciples knew the likely places to find him:

The next morning, Jesus got up long before daylight, left the house while it was dark, and made his way to a secluded place to give himself to prayer. Later, Simon and his friends searched for him, and when they finally tracked him down, they told him, "Everyone is looking for you—they want you!" Mark 1:35-37 TPT

Do you make promises and break them? Do you have a pattern of keeping promises, or are people getting used to your lying? Your lies have become your identity. Kindly work on it.

What patterns have you built? Are they constructive or destructive? Are they value-adding or otherwise?

CONFESSION

I am committed to building values. I do not suffer from character swings. I have strength of character. I live out my kingdom identity.

DAY 02

SEND PRAYERS AHEAD

Text: Ephesians 6:18 NKJV

"praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints"

I struggled a bit with the prompt that Irewamiri was the woman to marry. By pastoral privilege, she had told me she did not love the "work of ministry" in the strict sense of it. I also learned that she was not yet filled with the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues. I mean, she did not feel like "pastoral or ministry material."

But the Lord taught me a simple lesson. I picked a prompt to wake up at night and intercede for an hour about her. My heart cry was simple, "Lord, shape her into whom you desire her to be."

Amazingly, three days later, she told me she had been having an unusual experience. She would feel a tap on her feet as she slept. The one for the previous night was even more profound for her. After the tap, she heard a voice say, "Jeremiah 18:1-6."

Guess what was there: The story of the Potter shaping clay!

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands, so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. (Jeremiah 18:1-6 NIV)

Do you remember my prayer point? Lord, shape her into who you want her to be. Days after, she also got baptized in the Holy Ghost in a midweek service.

I know that we are in days of intellectual

awareness, but any intellectual growth that makes you as a believer overlook or undermine the power of prayer is cancerous growth. It will eat you up. You must wake up again to the power of prayer.

If we labour well in the place of prayer, we will not struggle with convincing men. Why? If Cornelius had to walk up to Peter himself, that connection would never have worked. Peter would resist because of cultural differences, but the prayers and giving of Cornelius activated a sequence of events that made that connection happen by the Spirit.

I told a dear one who is a businessman that, "You must pray as much as a Pastor and even more." Life is deeply spiritual.

For the singles, when the Lord shows you the man or woman, position yourself by prayers first, not just by giving the green light. Let the green light come from the spirit. A dear sister met her husband the second time after a while when his car broke down right in front of a restaurant where she was having lunch in Lagos!

For the married, do you know that praying for your spouse triggers a new flow of passion in your union? Try it!

I await your testimonies. Take prayers seriously.

CONFESSION

I do not undermine the power of prayer. I am relentless in seeking the face of God. I do not take prayer as my last resort. I discern God's will in my endeavours in life.



THERE IS MORE YOU CAN BE IF YOU GROW

Text: 2 Peter 3:18 NIV

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."

I took a walk to the generator house in the church as I prayed in gratitude under my breath. I told God how grateful we were for all He had done for us in His favour.

Then like a burst of light, I remembered that we had gadgets that we could not use because of the weight of power required. Now that we had a better generator, the devices would be put to use.

At that moment, the Lord said, "There are deposits and resources in your life already that will not be fully expressed until you grow in capacity."

If you have a "Mansion-sized" assignment, your preparation and capacity cannot be "boys-quarter sized." You cannot use a tiny generator to power the mansion. It cannot. It will always be overwhelmed.

Simply put: Growth attracts and reveals grace! Think about our Lord Jesus: And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. Luke 2:40 NKJV

It begins with growth. Some things will only find expression when you grow. Everything a baby needs as an adult is already there from birth, albeit in small proportions, but growth reveals them.

Growth is a prerequisite for strength. You need to grow to get stronger. If growth is

stunted, strength is limited.

The height of it is that; grace only finds expression in an environment of growth. When you see people doing mighty things, acknowledge the grace of God but also check their growth pattern and investment.

You have the capacity for more. The only challenge is your refusal to meet the demands of growth. If you grow, you will surprise yourself. Grow!

CONFESSIO N

I grow in grace and all virtues. I do not suffer from stunted growth. My capacity is enlarged.



HANDLING STONES IN THE MEAL

Text: Romans 6:14 NKJV

"For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace"

We were enjoying a great meal of rice, beans, plantain, and chicken. While savouring the sumptuous meal, my teeth had an unwelcoming crunch on a stone. I could not swallow the meal nor continue to munch on it. I stopped and walked from the meal to the nearest bin to spill the whole meal in my mouth. But I still returned to the meal to finish it all. The fact that there was a tiny stone in a spoon does not mean it is a meal full of stones.

One of the finest things about relating with people is that disagreements can be like your teeth meeting a piece of pebble. It should not be the end of the relationship. Deal with the pebbles and move on with the great meal. The only time it becomes a major issue is when it becomes a pebble in every spoonful of meals. You know that is a pattern.

This is also one of the amazing things about our Christian faith. A Christian may not be perfect, but he also does not take pride in shortcomings and sin. He deals with it decisively.

What are the chances that you will knock your feet against a stone on a short walk? Maybe a little chance. But if you return to tell us that you knocked your feet against the stone ten times on a short walk, we would conclude that you were practicing football (or soccer).

Beloved, do not make a pattern of sinning and justify it. That is no longer you falling into temptation; you are already swimming in it. A driver who keeps using the car to hit every obstacle cannot claim to be making a mistake. There is something more that is not right. Do not make a pattern of sinning and say it is a mistake.

John the Beloved told us:

Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is. But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God. 1 John 3:6, 8-9 NLT

And for the married ones, there may be pebbles that show up once in a while. Do not throw away your home. Address the issue and return to enjoying your marriage. Do not keep the pebble in your mouth. Do not store the issue in your heart. If you keep the pebble in your mouth, you cannot take another spoonful of the meal. If you keep offences in your heart, you will not be open to receiving your spouse's love. Throw out the pebble. Throw out the offence. Focus on the sweet meal

CONFESSION

I do not boast of my imperfections. I do not languish in mistakes. I receive grace to overcome at all times. I am not hindered by offence

DAY 05

“GRANDPA’S WALL CLOCK”

Text: Genesis 3:6 NIV

“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.”

We love our holidays at Akure. It was one of the high points of the year for us. The ambience of Vining College has not faded a bit. There was, however, a mystery about Grandpa’s wall clock that we needed to solve.

Grandpa’s wall clock with its giant pendulum will open up every hour, and a bird will come out announcing the time. We kept looking at the wall clock and wondered where the bird comes out from. I do not have to tell you how the story ended.

Friends, there are times we destroy what we love basically because of what we want.

Adam and Eve loved the Garden of Eden definitely. They loved the fellowship with God. Well! They ended up destroying what they loved because of what they wanted.

How about Amnon and Tamar? Amnon started out loving Tamar, but he ended up destroying the woman he loved because of what he wanted.

Judas (with a benefit of doubt) must have loved Jesus. He, however, wanted more money. He needed to secure his future materially. He ended up destroying what he loved because of what he wanted.

Some marriages have been sacrificed on the altar of what the parties wanted. They wanted more money and began to lose what they love.

Some pastors have lost their kids because of “ministry”. They love the invitations and the fulfilment that comes from having a heavy itinerary but did not just realise that their little boy had already lost touch with his fatherly roles and presence.

I stumbled on a frightening statistic that about 50 percent of Pastor’s wives are battling depression. It is a case of losing what you love because of what you want. Many Pastor’s wives see people look at their husbands as super-human while they see their man sit in the evening looking into space, worn out and tired. They rarely even have whom to confide in.

Friends, our nation needs a value re-orientation. We are losing a good name because of silver and gold. We hail anything with the semblance of wealth without asking questions about the process.

The songs of a generation tell the spirit that prevails in that generation. Our fathers sang songs that tell values. Our songs are coloured with vices. It is a shame hearing what a generation now dances to.

We are destroying what we love because of what we want.

Some things we destroy can be rebuilt, at least while we live. But there are things we love (a glorious eternity) that can be destroyed if we do not choose to live for Christ now.

What (Who) do you love?

What do you want?

Is your want destroying what you love?

CONFESSION

I will not be an undoing to myself. My want will not destroy my heritage. I do not lose touch with essence. I will not lose touch with God.

DAY 06

THE CHAIR DOES NOT MAKE A PASTOR; THE TITLE DOES NOT MAKE A LEADER!

Text: Titus 2:7 NLT

"And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching."

My daughters were with me in the office after one of our services. At a point, I stood up from my seat to wash my hands at the restroom. In the twinkling of an eye, Olive was on my chair. She looked at her sister and said, "I am now a Pastor." I looked at her and had a good smiling moment. That was when it occurred that it takes more than a seat to make a leader, a calling or a priest.

On the wedding day, they will call him bridegroom or husband, but it takes more than an elaborate party to be a husband indeed. It is actually responsibility.

Jesus made a simple statement about the teachers of the law and the Pharisees that is quite instructive.

"The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. Matthew 23:2-3 NIV

Leadership by Position- 'They sit in Moses' seat.' There is a level of honour that we must give to men because of their position. You must honour offices. It is important. Honour the office of your leaders. Honour the office of your Pastor. Jesus tells us to. When you know you honour the office, the age will not matter or the gender. Honour your husband for the sake of his office in your life and home. This is basic.

Leadership by Preaching- "But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach." Some move beyond the position to preaching. They know the rules. They speak the rules. They teach what has to be done. It sounds like parents who want to raise brilliant children by lying about their own

school grades. There are pastors who have the pulpit but not the hearts of those they lead. The people know they are hypocrites. There are husbands or fathers by title, but their seeds and spouses know the truth about who they are. They are impostors!

Leadership by Practice- "But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach." What brings great honour to a man is leadership by practice. Thank God for the seat. Thank God for the pulpit, but is your life a testimony of the seat you have been given and the lessons you share? That is how to be honourable in your dealings.

Dr. Luke had this to say after a keen look at the ministry of Jesus:

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Acts 1:1 NKJV

Jesus had a position, he preached, and he practiced what he preached. That's the pattern.

Dear man/husband/father, dear leader or boss, could it be that the reason why you are not truly respected like you really desire and maybe deserve is that you have only a position and you only preach without a lifestyle that can be an example of what you preach? Remember, the chair does not make a pastor!

CONFESSION

I am committed to making an impact. I am not deceived by position. I live an exemplary lifestyle.

DAY 07

THE QUESTION I DID NOT ANSWER

Text: Philippians 1:20 NLT.

"For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die."

He looked at me that night after we exchanged pleasantries and said, "What do you do?"

"I, pastor, sir," I responded.

The next question was, "What is the church's name?" I replied to him.

"Did you start the church?" He queried. "Yes, I did", I responded.

The following statement was not one I was prepared for. He said, "So you are one of those who said God called them, right?"

I smiled. That question went unanswered, but I was not sad a bit!

Friend, there is no shame in serving the Lord. There is no shame in responding to His call.

People who respond to God's call to ministry and service are not necessarily lazy.

I know of some who would have been wealthy from chasing their dreams but voluntarily chose to give their all.

And there is still full-time ministry- those who give their all to the call.

God calls us to sacrifice. Full-time Ministry is not for the lazy. It is not for those who look for jobs and think ministry is the way out.

Human-led organizations recruit the best of hands. God also calls the best of us into His work- smart men and women.

He trains us till our weakness becomes a strength in ministry. Our shortcomings become an opportunity for Him to shine His light.

His light shines through our brokenness. We

are His vessels- Sold out and committed to Him.

We learn to live in joy. We operate with wisdom. We run in faith and with wisdom. We rejoice in little. We are humble in abundance.

A generation heard the gospel of sacrifice and dying to self; they left juicy jobs to seek souls and grow lives. They shock us even today.

What is this generation hearing that will make them take the same bold steps? Who will live for God and not just mammon?

Who will leave a job because God called? Who will sow themselves as seeds so generations can eat the fruits?

Where are the men who can despise the wealth of Egypt and choose an infamous path with God? Where are the men who will leave behind a boat full of harvest and bow to the Lord? Where are they?

Where are the foot soldiers of God who see their offices as a mission field? Where are the kingdom light bearers in the marketplace?

Lord, where are the Daniels who can speak to kings without bowing to idols? There is a deposit of heaven in you. Would it just be buried in files or interned in board rooms?

Break out this light! Break this Alabaster box. There is a scent that must fill the room.

CONFESSION

I give myself to kingdom work. I am not slothful in my service to God. God's investment on my life will not be a waste.

DAY 08

LORD, GIVE ME A HEART LIKE THIS...!

Text: Psalm 51:10 NKJV

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me."

My daughter walked out to meet me. I was still concerned that she did not have her slippers on and told her not to step on the ground. The next thing I heard was, "Daddy, I am sorry. I did not intend to break it. I did not know it was there when I stepped on it."

She held on to the broken Bluetooth speaker, and I looked at my daughter and loved her heart. It reminded me of my childhood days when I had to lie to cover up wrong because I was afraid of punishment. She touched a spot in me. The sincerity made me smile. I was not angry a bit. I loved the speaker. But I could not deny her sincerity.

David committed adultery by sleeping with Bathsheba, and he then killed Uriah. He covered his tracks and still carried on with life like nothing happened. But guilt and condemnation that flow from pretence will eat you up.

Before I confessed my sins, I kept it all inside; my dishonesty devastated my inner life, causing my life to be filled with frustration, irrepressible anguish, and misery. Psalms 32:3 TPT

After David had spent quite some years trying to bribe God with sacrifices and burnt offerings, he realised something significant:

For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are

a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise. Psalms 51:16 – 17 NKJV

A sincere heart is beautiful. A broken spirit can never be despised. Brokenness makes you attractive to God. Do not keep pushing in pride. Go to the Lord. Confess to the Lord. Do not speak in tongues to cover up the unaddressed issues of your heart.

Admit your fault. Do not try to minister by force. Purity is what makes you useful. Until the vessel is purged, it cannot be fit for the master's use.

"...be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord" Isaiah 52:11 KJV

Are you a pure vessel?
Are you a broken vessel?

Are you disguising like nothing is wrong? God cannot be mocked! You cannot deceive yourself. Get it settled, fast!

C O N F E S S I O N

I live a spirit-controlled life. I submit to God in brokenness. My life is a sacrifice with sweet-smelling savour.

DAY 09

DO NOT KEEP QUIET WHEN THE DEVIL AND CIRCUMSTANCES ARE MANIPULATING YOUR MIND

Text: James 4:7 KJV

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

I got a piece of information that was about turning the day upside down. As I ruminated on that information, different thoughts began to go through my mind. I was trying my best to be strong, but it was getting more challenging by the minute.

I opened my mouth and began to speak out these words: Devil, I rebuke you. You have no place in this affair. Your siege on my mind is broken now. I am giving glory to the Lord because I know it all works together for my good. I give you no space at all.

I opened my mouth and gave thanks. Suddenly, joy began to fill my heart until there was an overflow. I began to rejoice. It was joy unexplainable. I knew it was warfare, and I must win in the realm of words.

Words are so powerful. Jesus, the Word of God, had to speak to defeat the devil. Even the Word of God win by speaking words:

And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. (Revelation 19:13, 15 KJV)

When the Word is spoken, the Sword of the Spirit is activated. Never keep quiet when the devil is trying to toil with your mind.

The devil sows seeds of thoughts, and at times he uses words. You will get into troubled waters if you allow him to have the final say.

In the Garden of Eden, where the first man fell to the serpent, the last words before Eve took action were spoken by the serpent. They allowed the serpent to have the final say (Gen. 3:1-6).

In the Temptation of Jesus, the devil showed up to tempt Jesus with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life and in the Garden of Gethsemane, he showed up to suggest to Jesus that he could refrain from doing the will of the Father because it was a painful process. In both instances, Jesus spoke last.

Taking the devil's thoughts and turning them over in your heart will overturn things in your life by sowing his seeds. Once the devil succeeds in sowing his seeds, he will return to pick his harvest.

Why do you have to speak? The devil is not all-knowing- he cannot read your mind. If you are still countering his suggestions with thoughts, the suggestions will persist, but the moment you speak, it loses its grip on you.

You walk in godliness and defeat lust by speaking. It trains you to "say":

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age. (Titus 2:11 – 12 NIV)

So when you are alone, and the devil begins to say, "You can masturbate, enjoy yourself. No one will know." Do not keep quiet; scream, "NO. I rebuke you now in Jesus' name." Walkout on the devil!

When he tells you, "Can you see that no one loves you? You are not special." Talk back and tell him, "I am accepted in Christ, and God and man favour me."

Speaking neutralises the enemy. Speak! Do not stop talking. The battle of the spirit is a battle of words. Do not let the enemy have the final say! That is how you win!

CONFESSION

*I overcome situations by the word of God.
I give the devil no space for manipulation.
I am victorious.*

DAY 10

DISAGREEMENTS DO NOT HAVE TO BE THAT HARD

Text: Ephesians 5:21 KJV

"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

It was a beautiful morning, but the atmosphere at home was not that beautiful. An issue was taking some emotional toll on both of us. What had not happened in years happened- our voices were getting louder as we tried to communicate our feelings. We were both hurt.

I got ready earlier and decided to leave the car for Irewamiri so she could catch up later. As I walked some metres from the house, the Holy Spirit said, "Go back and hug her. Tell her you love her."

My steps were heavy, but my love for God and Irewamiri was heavier. I retraced my steps and did as the Lord instructed. It was tough, but it was a must. Matters are never resolved in the same atmosphere that created them. It takes warmth to melt away the icy state created by disagreements.

There is an adage that "Even if we disagree, it is not as bad as killing one another." The truth is, that is what some people do when they disagree with one another in marriage. Every disagreement is warfare.

Disagreements in marriage can almost be like a civil war; words are spoken that inflict hurt. Hurting words tearing through the soul of the marriage. They are tools that the devil brings back in quiet moments. Thoughts like, "Kola said I am a stupid woman. And I will show him how stupid I can be", or "Bola called me a failure and irresponsible man. She will see what irresponsibility looks like." At this stage, the devil and his agents are in active construction on the project site of your mind.

But that is not how the Spirit of the Lord and a man (or a woman) who is yielded to the Spirit of God operate. A man (or a woman) who is

yielded to God submits their emotions to the leadership of the Word of the Lord and the Spirit of the Lord.

You must know that what you are solving is an issue. You need grace and growth to focus on the issue while maintaining the warmth in your marriage. For instance, when the issue seems to be degenerating into a voice contest or hurting words are about to come out, you should say to your spouse, "Darling (or whatever endearment you use), I think we are getting tensed. Can we talk about this matter some other time while we enjoy the love we both share for now?" Be sincere about this. You can hug your partner. Do not use this as an escape strategy. Raise the issue when the warmth is restored. You will resolve the matter faster.

These are the words of King Solomon:

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverbs 15:1 NIV

When you disagree with your spouse, fight for warmth and not to win. You can win an argument but lose your spouse with words that were never intended to hurt them. Be watchful!

Your home is blessed, and may you be blessed with wisdom. Amen!

CONFESS I O N

Disagreements will not ruin my marriage. We overcome obstacles by the wisdom of God. My words do not pull down my marriage. My words build my marriage.



DEFLATE THE PRESSURE BEFORE IT BUILDS

Text: Psalm 121:3 NKJV

"He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber."

When a young pastor who lives by faith and a young lady who just finished serving the nation decides to get married, they must understand certain things. The first thing Irewamiri and I told ourselves was that we would save aggressively as we looked toward marriage.

The second was a simple principle: Whenever we are out of money, we would not be worried until the next supplies come to meet the needs on the ground. No matter the cost, once we had no money on the ground for it, we would also not be worried about it. Both principles helped greatly.

Beloved, if you allow pressure to take over the steering wheel of any situation in your life, it will most likely end up a disaster. You must learn to deflate pressure.

Once David was made king, the Philistines began to press in to attack David. David did not rush out amid the pressure to attend to them. No! He rather went to seek the face of God about what to do.

Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. So David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?" And the Lord said to David, "Go up, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand." II Samuel 5:17, 19 NKJV

Two things help a man in the middle of the pressures of life.

The Spiritual. This involves seeking the face of the Lord for guidance and supernatural

intervention. A lot of believers are always waiting for a miracle. There is no problem with waiting for a miracle. We serve a miracle-working God. He surely will always show up. But you must never neglect this second thing: The Systematic. Build systems and honour systems that will save you from being pressured. Why must it take a miracle to pay your rent every year? What happened to setting something aside for twelve months? You had nine months notice for the birth of the baby and you are still unprepared. That is not proper.

When you have done well with the systematic, even the spiritual will look more colourful. Jesus deployed both to feed the 5000. Before they distributed the five loaves and two fishes, he asked them to sit down in groups of fifty each. Why? The disorder will always eat up abundance. Some will be satisfied while others would get nothing.

Be faithful in the systematic. Do not ignore the supernatural. That is the twin way to deflate pressure.

Kill the pressure. Do not let the pressure kill you.

CONFESS I O N

Pressure will not wear out my marriage. I build structures against unnecessary pressure. My God shows up for us in times of need.



DAY 12

HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT SAVES YOU FROM STRESS

Text: Hebrews 12:25 NLT

"Be careful that you do not refuse to listen to the One who is speaking"

Earlier in the day as I walked from the living room into the bedroom, I noticed a small eraser on the floor. I had a prompt in my spirit to pick it up and keep it. I told myself "I will pick it up later." I never did.

Later in the evening, Danielle made a mistake in her homework and we needed an eraser. We began to look for it and we could not find it. We looked for others and found none. I realised that the Holy Spirit's instruction earlier in the day was to save me from stress later in the day. Eventually, Irewamiri found the eraser somewhere else and gave it to us.

Every instruction from the Holy Spirit is to save you time and energy. It will surely save you from stress. The Holy Spirit is our guide and teacher. You will surely land in trouble when you try to do things your way.

If you are a Child of God, you must know that you are not ordained to direct your steps. You must ensure that you do not take the prompts of the Holy Spirit for granted.

When you begin to allow your flesh to govern your life, you will see corruption and limitations showing up. The Holy Spirit will surely save you from troubles.

You must keep the communion of the Holy Spirit a constant feature of your life. Talk with him all day. Engage the Spirit of the Lord. Ask questions and you will get answers.

There are times I am looking for something and after searching for a while, I remember that I should have asked the Holy Spirit. The very moment I say, "Holy Spirit, I need your help", there is a light that comes to my heart as to where it can be found. It has happened several times. Now, I would rather ask the Holy Spirit for help first.

Likewise, you can ask the Holy Spirit for strength to pray. He helps us in the place of prayer. You will discover that you have strength. You are not dozing as you pray. You can ask Him for help in the study of the Word of God. He is the Author. The scriptures will come alive. You can ask him for help with your marriage, parenting, ministry or business.

Let me close with the prayer of Paul: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen. (2 Corinthians 13:14 KJV)

CONFESSION

I yield my heart to the instructions of the spirit. My heart is inclined to the moves and directions of the Holy Ghost. I will not miss vital things that pertain to destiny through insensitivity.



STOP DISRUPTING DIVINE PROCESS WITH HUMAN IMPATIENCE

Text: Psalm 125:1 KJV

"They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever."

When my second daughter was a little younger, she would at times wake up at night and request to take a meal or just water. Oftentimes than not, she would retire into our bed. If you ask her to go to their room, she would disagree. What we get to do most time is to carry her right after she has slept off. Once she is asleep, we know there will be no resistance. We pick her up and drop her in her bedroom.

One of the things that you must learn as a believer is the art of trusting God totally. If you are still in the season of struggling and arguing with God because you think you are smarter, it is because your flesh is still awake. When the flesh is put to sleep and your spirit is alert to God, obedience is never a struggle.

When Abraham was still vibrant and had all it took to impregnate a woman, he saw the option of sleeping with Hagar as one that made sense. After a while, he even began to negotiate with God that Ishmael should carry the blessing that was meant for the seed the Lord has promised.

Do you know when the miracle took place? When both Sarah and Abraham had gotten to the point of deadness and they could not argue again:

And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

Romans 4:19 KJV

The beginning of the divine is always at the

end of the human. Sometimes, God wants you to come to the end of yourself so He can step in but it is always better if you begin to trust Him early enough.

When did the miracle of Abraham and Sarah happen? When they had gotten tired of trying:

So she laughed silently to herself and said, "How could a worn-out woman like me enjoy such pleasure, especially when my master—my husband—is also so old?"

Genesis 18:12 NLT

How did God bring the woman out of man? After he had been put to deep sleep.

The reason why the miracle you desire so desperately is being delayed may be because you keep interrupting divine processes with human impatience. You are trying all you can to make it work by yourself. Be at peace. Tell your soul to rest in the promises of God. Stop being agitated. If the Lord has promised, the Lord will do it.

Stop struggling to make it happen. Your miracle is here! Is it clear?

CONFESS I O N

I will not disrupt divine miracles with impatience. My faith in the Lord is strengthened. My miracle will arrive safely.

THE “JOSEPHS” WILL COME

Text: Genesis 49:25 NLT

“May the God of your father help you; may the Almighty bless you with the blessings of the heavens above, and blessings of the watery depths below, and blessings of the breasts and womb”

I started writing devotionals accidentally. I began by sharing a little lesson with some of my friends daily. After a while, a friend suggested that I create a broadcast list instead of sending it one after the other. I did.

About three years after, a young man sent me an image rendition of the devotional. I loved it. My brother recommended what to do to make it better. Today, it has become a major part of our ministry assignment with staff employed and structured for greater impact.

First, a vision can start accidentally but it will not grow accidentally. It grows when attention is given to it. Things can begin when you were not paying attention. You must however pay attention to meet its growing demands.

Second, every vision needs Joseph-like men. What are the attributes of Joseph-like men?

1. Like Joseph in Egypt, you need interpreters. Men who will come into your space to give a structural boost to what already exists. They are selfless.

2. Like Joseph, the husband of Mary who birthed Christ, you need the support of “preservers”. They will not tamper with the vision you carry. Their ears, eyes, and minds are open to insights that will ensure no external attack destroys the vision.

3. Like Joseph of Arimathea, you need connectors. Men who have the means to talk to those you need for prophecies to be fulfilled. Men who will let go of what they are building for themselves so vision can speak. A dear son deleted his own social media pages as instructed by the Lord to manage all my own pages. That’s a Joseph.

4. Like Joseph, surnamed Barnabas, you need “encouragers”. They sell what they have to make sure the vision speaks. They are selfless givers. They also pull you from Tarsus where you are hiding to Antioch where you go global. It almost looks like they are sent to make you great and the vision great.

In the name of Jesus, your Josephs will come. They will bring value to you. But do you know you are meant to be someone’s Joseph also?

CONFESS I O N

My God-given vision will not die. I locate by divine wisdom the Josephs of my destiny.

DAY 15

DO NOT HELP THE BURGLAR

Text: Psalm 1:1 NIV

"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers."

As I stood in front of our house some time ago, I noticed that there was an old cutlass close by. It was a very strong one. I told the person with me that "Kindly keep the cutlass away from the entrance". He wanted some explanation and I said to him, "It would be inappropriate to supply a burglar with the resources that he could use in burgling." He got the message I was trying to pass across.

Some people want peace but they allow trouble to hang around. Some people want love but allow offences to hang around. Some people desire a life of purity but allow lewdness to hang around.

It is possible to supply the devil with the tools he needs to make you fall into sin. For instance, you want to obey God's instruction of abstaining from sexual immorality but whenever you travel, you sleep in the same room with your fiancée or fiancé. You have supplied the devil with the tools he needs to break down your house.

You cannot be cohabiting and then give the excuse of 'we are trying to save money' without focusing on saving your soul. Your soul is way more priceless.

Keep a safe distance from "your" temptations. Deliverance can set you free but discipline will keep you free.

Discipline your thoughts. Do not allow your mind to wander. Mind your mind. Guard your mind. Lead it to the obedience of Christ.

Discipline your tongue. Life and death are in the power of the tongue. Any man who can bridle his tongue will live as a man without guile.

Discipline your taste. What are your cravings? Every man is enticed when he is drawn by what he craves. It cannot tempt you if you do not have a craving for it.

Discipline your tendencies. You know yourself. You know the areas that can lead you to stumble. Let me remind you that; it takes being close to a pit to fall into it.

Discipline yourself not to jump on trends. Trends can be tempting. Do not join every new thing in the name of a challenge. Do not dance to all songs because you want to belong. How about skits and movies with suggestive content? Child of God, guard your heart!

The devil wants to burgle your heart. Make sure you do not supply him with the tools he needs.

CONFESSIO

I do not give the devil a helping hand in my life. I live a life of discipline. My heart is kept against the devil's manipulation.

DAY 16

PEOPLE YOU MUST NEVER TAKE FOR GRANTED

Text: 2 Samuel 21:17 NIV

"But Abishai son of Zeruiah came to David's rescue; he struck the Philistine down and killed him."

Some days after arrival in the orientation camp for my National Youth Service, I was walking back to the hostel after the fellowship when I spotted a young man. I sensed the Lord was asking me to give him the money I had on me. I did not hesitate.

Some weeks later was when I got to know that he lost all the money he brought to camp and he was stranded. What I gave him sustained him till we got our first allowance.

He became such a great part of my journey years later. He would be willing to drive me around to meetings and ministrations. He would use his resources to take care of some of my needs without me asking. He became a brother and burden bearer. He has relieved me of quite some work load in the years past. God blessed me with a burden bearer.

Beloved, there is a category of people called burden bearers. They are willing to carry life's demands for your sake without asking. They are not around you because of anything you can offer. No! They are there because they are led. They are with you like angels because they are sent. They minister to your needs and relieve you of burdens.

There are some who carry small things that can be a distraction while they allow you to focus on big things. They are there to help you take care of your kids. They are there to help you run basic errands. Please, do not take them for granted.

Some are major weight lifters. They are always there to bear burdens with you no matter how heavy it is. They are like Rebecca, the mother of Jacob. Jacob in fear asked her, "What if Daddy discovers that I am not Esau? What if he places a curse on me instead of the blessing?" Do you know the response of this biological burden bearer?

But his mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me."

Genesis 27:13 NKJV

She was willing to bear even his curse. Do you know it was not long afterwards that Rebecca faded from

the scene? We heard nothing about her again after Jacob had to leave home to avoid being killed by Esau.

What sort of burden bearer is that? She was willing to bear even the curse so the son can carry the blessing.

First, you have such a burden bearer in Christ. He took on the curse on the cross so that you who believe in him carry the blessing for life. Never take your greatest burden bearer for granted.

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:13-14 NKJV

Second, please look around you. Who are those who kill the small fires for you so you can focus on bigger things? Some have spouses who resigned to build the home. Never abuse them because you have risen in your career. It will be hitting below the belt. Never cheat on them. Do not do it.

There are be a junior colleague who handles things that can distract you. When you have your big wins, share the loot of war with them. Honour their sacrifices. A true burden bearer will never ask. But it is honourable and wise to be a blessing.

What about your pastors? They are the first you call us for counsel. They are at times the first responders in some crises. They have stayed on their knees for you. They have instructed and taught you the word of God. A sincere pastor does not feel entitled but what have you done to relieve him of the demands around him also? Be wise.

Burden bearers make sure that we do not get exposed in our vulnerable places. No matter what you do, never take burden bearers for granted.

CONFESSION

I discern my burden bearers in destiny by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. I have not forsaken my Christ, who bore my burdens. I receive grace to bear the burden of others.



YOU CAN DO GREAT THINGS WITH WHAT YOU HAVE

Text: Philippians 14:9 NKJV

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Last year December (2022), I was at a conference out of town when the Lord gave me instruction to go and raise strong, stable, and stretching disciples. I knew instantly what the Lord was saying (Revelation from God is always a complete communication of His will. When He showed Moses the branch of the tree at the bitter stream, Moses knew what to do with it).

I knew the Lord was asking me to begin a work that converts the numbers to disciples. We already had all sorts of questions about life, the Christian journey, and all from different persons.

We did not have all the gadgets necessary to do it at the level we desired. We shot with a phone and gave our all. I told the team we would give our best with the little we have. Yes, that was what we did. After three weeks of intense writing during the day and shooting all night, I cried like a baby.

For some weeks now, we have had people in class from all over Nigeria and other countries in Africa including Kenya, Ghana, Namibia, Egypt, South Africa, and quite some others. We have Lebanon, Qatar, Portugal, the U.K., and U.S.A., Canada, and others. What about the testimonies we have seen in training? My God! They are mind-blowing.

Listen! The world is moving while you are waiting for the perfect condition. What can you do excellently with the resources you have now? You will be surprised that you do not need the Armor of Saul to bring down Goliath. There is a sling, a stone, a shepherd's pouch, and a heart to do it all for God.

Excellence is not perfection. It is the desire to keep giving your best with what you have

at the moment. Stop giving excuses. I know those who have not started because they are waiting for the ideal condition.

There is always an entry point into that huge vision that God gave you. It could even be as simple as serving someone who is already running with a similar vision. It could be as simple as enrolling in a course that will sharpen you. But folding your hands while you wait for the perfect condition is not faith, it is called the "labour of fools"

The labor of fools wearies them, For they do not even know how to go to the city!
Ecclesiastes 10:15 NKJV

Instead of complaining that you do not know what to do, go and serve someone who is already doing it. That is the cure to labouring foolishly.

Did you notice the irony of foolishness? There is still some form of labour but it is called wearying labour. There is always an entry point into what the Lord has shown you. Find it. Plug in. Stop giving excuses. Break the box today.

CONFESSION

I will not be obsolete in God's divine agenda for my life. I am full of strength by the spirit of the Lord. I do exploits!

DAY 18

UNDERSTANDING MUST PRECEDE FAVOUR

Text: Genesis 18:5 NKJV

"And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant." They said, "Do as you have said."

The first time I connected with my spiritual father was in 2007. I had invited him to a meeting as a guest minister and he was gracious enough to oblige. I left the relationship like that for almost thirteen years. Sometimes, I would call him just to check up on him. There were times I would just say hello. I never knew that there was more to our relationship.

When I woke up to the revelation of that relationship, it was already thirteen years. After I understood and aligned properly, we began to see a significant shift in our marriage and ministry. It was obvious that we got something right.

One prayer that you must pray is that the Lord bless you with the grace to discern the blessing of men, the blessing on me, the blessing in me and the blessing through men. Whenever discernment is lacking, perception is poor. Wherever perception is poor, grace cannot flow properly.

It was the Lord that appeared to Abraham but when Abraham looked, it was three men that he saw. His discernment was sharp. He used hospitality to draw them into his tent. He used service to hold them for a while. He used honour to provoke an answer for what he had waited for. The challenge of many years was solved by one divine utterance. What if Abraham did not discern those men?

When the people who grew up with Jesus perceived him as their brother and not as their Lord and Messiah, they literally tied the flow of grace. He could do nothing in their midst.

The Shunamite woman told her husband that she sensed that the man that was constantly passing them by was a man of God. Once

they discerned him rightly, an understanding was supplied and their approach changed. That was the adjustment that produced their answers and the long-awaited miracle also.

If the Lord wants to bless a man, He blesses him with understanding before favour comes. If favour comes before understanding, such a man would squander the favour. He would deal with it without understanding. Esau did not know the favour that followed his birthright. He had sold it for a plate of food before he understood it. He sought it with tears but it was too late.

It takes understanding to attract, sustain and preserve favour and all it brings into our lives. Good understanding gains favor, But the way of the unfaithful is hard.

Proverbs 13:15 NKJV

When things are very difficult and life is hard, you may need to find out where understanding is failing.

What relationships have you wasted and squandered because you did not know or you did not discern it accurately? What opportunities is the Spirit of the Lord bringing to your heart right now? Now that you know, what will you do about it?

CONFESS I O N

I receive grace to discern God's blessing in human form. I have the right perception, and grace flows in my life.

DAY 19

MISTAKES THE YOUNG MAKE

Text: John 6:27 NLT

"But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you"

It was a high-brow hotel on the Island somewhere in Lagos State. I had stopped over to say hello to a dear mentor who was in town.

After our discussion, I dipped my hands into my pocket and slipped a cash gift into his hands- it was my way of saying thank you.

He does not need my money. He is wealthy already. He looked at me and said, "Temi, you are just different".

At another time, I make it a point of duty to write a cheque to support another of my teachers. I see people bombarding him with requests and needs.

He looked at me one day and prayed out his heart.

Friends, your mentor is not your sponsor. They will give if they want to but you must not be after their money.

When you have a chance to be around a teacher or anyone who has gone ahead of you, pick their brain and not their pocket.

Those with a beggarly mindset always get beggarly things. Even though I give to my mentors, anytime they give to me, I get to shiver!

Do not go to them with that entitlement mindset. Know your primary reason and stick to it.

If he or she forgets your birthday, do not

get annoyed. You are not with him because of birthday shoutouts. You are there for something more.

If they place a bag of money before you and ask you to take as much as you want, that is your test. Kindly tell them to tell you how to get to the point where they are.

It is a prodigal mind that puts "give me" before "make me". Be smart. If all you got is money, you are the poorest of all beings. Do not just admire their suit, tie and cars. Do not focus on their wardrobe alone- your dressing should change but the change that lasts is first internal.

My pastor says to us, "You cannot make progress internally and remain stagnant externally".

Go deep friends! Go deep!!!

God bless you!

CONFESSION

I do not seek after what perishes. I am not narrow-minded and easily offended. I enjoy the blessings of a mentor.

DAY 20

BEDWETTING TALES

Text: Proverbs 28:13 NIV

"Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who 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 restroom was still my bed. Did it happen to you too?

Well, to cover up this heinous crime punishable by public embarrassment, I would quickly change the soaked clothes before morning so that no one would notice that I had messed up. There were times I forgot the soaked clothes in hidden spots until the stench gives me away.

From a young age, the flesh tends to cover up our wrongs and put up an appearance. We change clothes 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 to blame everything else except the real culprit.

Cain can kill Abel in the field and go on with life as though nothing has happened except that the blood of Abel would simply not keep quiet in the 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 lie 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 skilfully covering up his sins and then losing 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

I open up about my struggles to God. I enjoy the help of men. I obtain mercy from God. I live in righteousness.

DAY 21

"I JUST WANT THESE EXAMS TO BE OVER"

Text: James 1:12 KJV

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

It was 6.30 am. I walked into the girls' room to wake them up for the day. After about three attempts of calling Danielle, I said to her, "Hey, Girl. It is time to get up. You don't want to be late for school". Her response was a perfect way to start the day, she turned around and with a sleepy voice said, "I just want these exams to be over".

I thought about what would make my beloved five-year-old desire that examination is over. I responded by speaking out, "You still have loads of examinations ahead. Welcome to the world of examinations".

Settle this early – Tests are inevitable. You cannot say there should be no test. It is not even in your power or your control. A student that prays that the examination should not hold is wasting his time. Examinations will always hold. Tests are a part of life's journey. God will test you. Abraham did not just become the father of faith or the friend of God. Abraham had to pass his test. The examiner was God Himself.

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Genesis 22:1 NKJV

What is within your control? Your preparation for the tests of life. The question is not about if tests will come. No! It is about when tests will come. It will surely come.

One person who has earned the badge to speak about the test of God is Job! The test of Job was intense. Hear what Job said: That You should visit him every morning, And test him every moment? Job 7:18 NKJV

The visitation of God is the test of God. You are tested daily. It is a continuous assessment. Are you passing or are you failing?

The day you would know you are failing would be the day heaven's spotlight comes on for a choice. Eliab looked perfect for kingship and Prophet Samuel rated him as a "Surely, the Lord's anointed..."

But have you considered the response of God?

So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him!" But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

1 Samuel 16:6-7 NKJV

"Because I have refused him"- When was Eliab presented to God. Elias did not know he failed a test. Where did Eliab fail?

Eliab had great packaging. His credentials were humbling. He had the stats but God checked his heart and saw that he had failed the prerequisite courses that would qualify him for kingship.

Let me ask you: Are you passing your tests?

CONFESSION

*I receive grace not to fail in the test of life.
I receive divine wisdom in the days of my temptation. I am helped from above. I am not stranded.*

DAY 22

IF YOUR TEACHER CALLS YOU “FRIEND”

Text: 2 Kings 2:12 NIV

“Elisha saw this and cried out, ‘My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!’ And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.”

Danielle walked into my office and met me having a conversation with a dear protégé. She came in excitedly and my protégé gave her the “High Five” hand gesture. Daniele went on her knees and greeted him without giving him a “High Five” in return.

She then came to hug me and then I said, “Give me a High Five”. She did just that. But I learnt a major lesson:

If a father treats you as a friend or a trainer treats you as a friend, be wise enough to treat him as a father or a trainer. Do not take the gesture for granted. Be wise enough to draw the lines.

Jesus for instance told the disciples that “I will call you friends from now”.

“You are My friends... I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you”. John 15:14 – 15 NKJV

What did the disciples call Jesus? He could have easily been called “My friend” too but even though he extended the gracious hand of friendship, they still learnt to draw the line.

Therefore, that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it) and plunged into the sea. John 21:7 NKJV

They called Him Lord!

That perception affected their disposition.

It impacted their response.

There are times my Dad would introduce me on outings as his friend. I would have a good smile but I know that he is my Father. Do not be confused! Do not misinterpret roles. Do not take gracious disposition for granted. Be careful that your perception does not become a hindrance when you are meant to walk in honour.

If you see your trainer as a friend, you can begin to take instructions as suggestions. That will surely affect your progress. The weight you attach to anything coming from them will also be affected.

The fact that a teacher calls you my friend does not change the fact that he is your teacher. Do not take access and privilege for granted.

CONFESSION

I do not abuse access. I do not misinterpret relationships. I deal with my mentors and helpers with wisdom.

DAY 23

YOUR WAITING SEASON CAN BE YOUR LAUNCHING SEASON

Text: Isaiah 40:31 NKJV

"But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

It was September 2009. Universities were on strike that year and my mobilization to Nigerian Law School had not yet materialized. But I committed the time to reading and studying in the middle of the night. I wanted to invest my time in personal development.

I was reading "Principles and Benefits of Change" written by Dr. Myles Munroe at about 3 am that morning at the dining table in my parents' home. The word of the Lord came to me, "Son, there is a repositioning coming to the land of Eruwa and I want you to be there to reap the harvest". That was the second time in 17 months when the Lord would speak to me about my future.

Friend, do not waste your waiting season. Your Waiting season is a shaping season. God uses the season to make you before presenting you. It is not just about Joseph having a prison break, it is about Joseph being in shape to champion the divine course of preserving a lineage that is key to the divine agenda. Offence must die. Hurt must be dealt with. Love must reign.

An unshaped but enthusiastic person can become a borrowed vessel for a devilish and demonic agenda. If Joseph was still hurt and offended after getting into a position of power, he would have allowed hunger to kill his brothers.

If you will maximize waiting, you must be sensitive to the information that heaven will bring to you. On a casual day, great things can begin to happen. Abraham was sitting at the entrance of his tent when God visited.

Create an environment where the communion of the Holy Spirit can take place with your prepared heart. Set aside time to fast and pray.

Grow mentally. Cultivate the mindset needed at the level where God is taking you.

Grow spiritually. Life is spiritual. Build spiritual capacity in both the gifts of the Spirit and in the fruit of the Spirit. Charisma without character will result in a huge crash.

Grow relationally. Relate properly with those the Lord will bring your way in your waiting season. They may have weighty roles to play in your new season.

Grow in Grace. Grace manifests when you grow. Jesus grew and the grace of God was upon Him. Growth gives grace better tools to work with and a better "you" to partner with.

Do not waste your waiting season.

CONFESS I O N

I invest heavily and profitably in my waiting season. I am intentional about all-round growth. I do not squander the resources available to shape me in my waiting season. I stay focused in my God-given vision.

DAY 24

BEFORE THINGS BECOME OVERWHELMING

Text: Ecclesiastes 11:4 AMP

"He who watches the wind [waiting for all conditions to be perfect] will not sow [seed], and he who looks at the clouds will not reap [a harvest]."

I did not love a particular house chore while growing up, and it was worse on a Sunday afternoon. As a Pastor's child, you would have people follow you home. So, it made me hate that house chore more- Washing Dishes!

You would help in the kitchen to get the meals ready, and when everyone settles down to one game or the other or finds that refreshing Sunday afternoon nap, you would hear something like "Temi, go and wash the plates".

The first time I get called, I have a stereotyped response- "I will wash it when everyone is done". But when everyone is done, and I see the hill of dishes with different leftovers poorly arranged, my heart sinks within me. I keep sneaking from it, wishing someone else will do it.

How did I defeat that overwhelming fear? I take it on immediately without waiting for others to finish. At times, I get to eat after I am done with all the dishes.

Beloved, matters that are not addressed as a molehill can eventually become intimidating mountains that you keep avoiding. Take on things when they are small.

Do you know the wisdom Solomon expressed? He said we should deal with the "little" foxes that destroy the vine.

Take us the foxes, The little foxes, That spoil the vines: For our vines have tender grapes. Song of Solomon 2:15 KJV

When little things are ignored, they can evolve to become intimidating and overwhelming force that is harder to deal with.

Ignored simple warnings can become major disasters. Even the serpent that was not dealt with in the Garden of Eden (in Genesis) became a dragon at the end of the day (in Revelation).

See! Exceptional people have only learned the art of not ignoring the important simple tasks of life. They focus on it, and it impacts greater things.

One way the devil will cheat you in destiny is if you keep saying "I will do it later". Men who became fainting Christians began with "I will pray later". Men who fell off church attendance and stopped giving their spiritual growth attention began with "I will go next week". For the devil, postponing it is enough seed for abandoning it. It becomes harder to turn back as the days go by.

What simple signs are you ignoring? Take on things when they are small. You would save yourself a lot of stress in the future.

CONFESS I O N

I am not consumed with procrastination. I am proactive and prompt to life's tasks and divine prompts. I work with the mind of diligence and excellence.

DAY 25

I CANNOT FIND “RAINBOW”

Text: Psalm 46:1 NLT

“God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble”

Just after midnight, I was just settling down to spend some time in prayers and study the Word when I heard the shuffling of tiny feet and an attempt to open a door. I stood up and approached the door to the girls' room.

As I opened the door, I saw Danielle half-awake right behind it. I asked, “Baby, is all well? Why are you awake?” She said to me, “I cannot find ‘rainbow’”. I was in awe. I simply said, “Go back to sleep”.

Who is rainbow? “Rainbow” is the most senior of all the teddy bears at home. I had a good smile.

It dawned on me that this is why a believer needs not to live in worry- a five-year-old wakes up to check on a teddy bear but our God does not slumber or sleep.

Was this the secret of David that gave him so much rest in crisis? David went through tough times. He had moments when even trusted people tried to kill him but he survived it all.

I lift my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you— the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and

going both now and forevermore. Psalms 121:1-8 NIV

You are not on your own. There is nothing happening around you that can swallow you. Hear this- Do not allow the devil to keep you in that dark corner of sorrow or discouragement. Push him off. The hand of God is stretched towards you. Tap into grace. Leave the ring and let the Lord take it over.

A mother may forget her suckling child but God will never abandon you. You are the helped of the Lord. God has healed that person who has been struggling with lack of sleep (Insomnia). Sleep like a baby from now. Glory to God.

Rejoice. Rest, and again I say Rejoice!

CONFESSION

I am wearied by worries and anxiety. Fear has not enthroned my life. I am helped from above. I enjoy the blessings and supplies of Abba Father.

DAY 26

PLACES YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO STAY – “NEAR SODOM”

Text: Proverbs 25:28 NKJV

“Whoever has no rule over his own spirit Is like a city broken down, without walls.”

At a point, I realised that when you watch a video on social media, there would then be a series of videos that will show next or will be suggested. Sometimes, after watching a live prayer session, the next suggestions were quite suggestive and unedifying. It was so tempting to stay on skits. There are places you must never be. Some things that will attract you will lead you to places that will reduce you and if care is not taken, can destroy you.

When Lot chose as regards the lovely land he saw (as he was about to separate from Abram), the scriptures made us know that he settled near Sodom.

So Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot moved his tents to a place near Sodom and settled among the cities of the plain.
Genesis 13:12 NLT

He was not in Sodom. He was living near Sodom. However, by the time, God would make a move to judge Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot was already living in Sodom.

That evening the two angels came to the entrance of the city of Sodom. Lot was sitting there, and when he saw them, he stood up to meet them. Then he welcomed them and bowed with his face to the ground.
Genesis 19:1 NLT

He was not just living in Sodom, his daughters had prospective husbands from the land. He was so mixed with Sodom that he was going to miss Sodom. He even chose to settle in a town closer to Sodom when God rescued him from there.

There are choices you can make that can look like “Near Sodom”. To fall into a pit you

must be close to the pit.

If you love to counsel the opposite sex alone in questionable places and at questionable times, remember that to fall into a pit, you must be close to the pit.

If you love receiving gifts from all and sundry under the guise of “I did not ask for it”, remember that to fall into a pit, you must be close to it.

If you love endearments and the emotional adrenaline that comes from the attention you get from the opposite sex, remember that to fall into a pit, you must be close to it.

If you see no need to set boundaries with spiritual daughters or sons as the case may be; you go out alone with them on ministrations. They now can hug daddy with such ease. Remember that to fall into a pit, you must be close to it.

You have no business being near Sodom. Deal with it now before it wrecks your reputation and worse still tarnishes the image of the kingdom of God.

CONFESS I O N

I will not be overtaken by the enticements in Sodom. I will not be wrongly placed. I am not a loose cannon. I set boundaries, and I am disciplined.

DAY 27

YOUR MISTAKE IS NOT THE END

Text: Luke 15:18 NLT

"I will go home to my father and say, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you.'"

Danielle woke up in the middle of the night while I worked. After a while, she mentioned that she was hungry. There was a cup of beverage that Olive only took a sip out of some hours earlier. I offered that to her. As she drank, she wanted to move her leg and it all poured away. It pained me as she quietly narrated what happened. I saw the look in her eyes.

I had to go prepare another cup of beverage for her. When I offered it to her, I said to her, "This is warmer and you will like it". The initial one was already cold. At that very moment, I had a little "proud dad" moment. I was not happy the beverage poured. I told her to be careful next time but I was more than happy to see my daughter satisfied also.

God is not excited when we make mistakes but God's love for you is more than the mistakes you have made. If you will be open to showing him where things went wrong, He is more than willing to get things better.

For instance, the prodigal son came back home after a wasteful spree and some hard lessons from a pig's sty, yet the Father had great robes at home for a lost son.

But the father said to his servants, bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

Luke 15:22 KJV

God never runs out of supplies. We only keep running out of His presence. The

devil delights in using schemes to keep people away from fellowship with the Lord. Do not be attracted to what looks like a beautiful alternative. Do not eat a fruit while you lose a garden. It is a device.

No matter how messed up you are, the arm of the father is always open. His outstretched arm is wide enough to heal and to provide.

When a man walks out of your life, be rest assured in God that a better man will walk into your life.

You are not hopeless. You are not helpless. There is a host of love and grace in the father's presence. Do not stay far from His presence

CONFESSION

I am not helpless and hopeless. I am not absconder from God's presence. I enjoy the love of my Father.

DAY 28

COUNSEL TO SOMEONE WHO JUST FINISHED “SERVICE YEAR”

Text: Psalms 143:10 NkJV

“Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.”

Just after his service year, he walked up to me and told me about his plans. He gave his life to Christ just as service year was starting. He had his fair share of temptations that he got delivered. It was certain that the hand of God was upon his life and God brought him to Eruwa for a purpose.

When I saw that he was not yet sure of what he wanted to do. I gave him pastoral counsel: “Stay in Eruwa for the next three months. Do not be in a hurry to go home. If a place has fed you spiritually and stabilised your faith, do not be in a hurry to move from there”.

The three months became six months and eventually, he got a clear picture of what he should do with his life. His parents said to him once, “Whatever they did to you in Eruwa has brought an amazing version out of you. Do not take Eruwa for granted”.

I know this is not a popular opinion but it is godly counsel. To decide where you settle, prioritize your spiritual health and growth. It is better to earn lesser where your spiritual growth is assured than you earn much where you will spiritually decline.

A dear protege had an opportunity in millions. A few weeks into the new job, he called and said, “I feel spiritually choked. I simply work all day. I do not have time for my soul and spiritual growth. I cannot continue here”. He resigned. His former place wanted him back desperately. They even gave him a higher package upon his return. But it afforded him the place of growth and building a solid walk with God and service to and through his local assembly. He had time to also mentor younger ones.

I know we are in days when people want to

“blow” rather than grow. But do not become driven by your needs. Be led by the need to groom and nurture divine seeds that have been placed within you.

You can say to me that “Pastor, at least we must survive”. Truth is your challenge is not survival, your challenge is contentment. What do you need to survive? But even then, God has called us not to “survival” but significance. Do not be quick to think the significance is simply about money. If that is your thought, you have chosen Mammon.

Jesus kept telling us that “Do not worry” in the sermon on the Mount. Why? He knows that is the string that pulls our soul from focusing on our God-walk!

God blesses. God multiplies. God increases. He does it when we respond to a faith walk with Him. Take consolation from Abraham: look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many. Isaiah 51:2 NIV

Do not forget: Prioritize your Spirit. Stay where you will grow and not just where you will “blow”.

CONFESSION

I am led by the spirit of God and not by circumstances. I have clarity in the things of life. I increase on every side.

Blow- It is a popular word used by Nigerian Youths to express a person who has come to affluence or influence.

DAY 29

"CAN YOU DO THE SAME FOR YOUR SPOUSE?"

Text: Matthew 6:15 NKJV

"But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

A dear teacher and mother in the faith shared the story of how the Spirit of the Lord taught her to be tenderhearted towards her husband. It became a huge lesson for me. Here is her story:

She just finished cleaning up the living room one day. She had a toddler already. She stepped out of the living room to do other things. Before she returned, her toddler had messed up the entire place that she had just taken care of.

She got angry. But before she knew it, her toddler came towards her smiling and wanting to hug mummy. She smiled and carried her son. At that moment, the Holy Spirit asked her: "Would you do the same if it was your husband that offended you?"

That set the tone for her relationship with her spouse from that day.

Beloved, how quick are you to forgive a wrong? Since your spouse has been asking for forgiveness, what has been your response?

Do you find it comfortable to hold a grudge for a day or weeks or even months?

The proof of the tenderness of your heart is how quick you are to forgive a wrong. The longer you get to argue with the prompt to forgive, the harder the ground of your heart becomes.

You can choose the level of tenderness: Some forgive even before they are

offended. They have made up their minds that nothing would ever make them get or stay offended. It does not matter if the offender asks for forgiveness or not. They take it as a command of the Lord. That is the divine level.

Some forgive only after the offender has asked for forgiveness and after the hurt has gone. They want to be begged and placated until they feel fine. For them, it is about their feelings. A lot of marriages are on this level. That is the carnal level.

Some will not forgive at all. They always keep referring to the weight of the hurt. They are seeking means of vengeance also. The rule is "I have to pay you back in your coin". They are not satisfied until they see the other party also in pain or hurt. That is devilish level.

Forgiveness is a command. Healing is a process. When you forgive, healing is easier. How do you treat a wound that you have closed up? Open it up! Let the Lord touch that wound in your heart. He will heal you.

But how quickly do you forgive your spouse?

CONFESS I O N

I do not hold on to grudges and offences. I am not vengeful. I have a heart that forgives.

DAY 30

HE TOOK HER SPIT

Text: 1Corinthians 13:7 NLT

"Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance."

My sister and friend was heavily pregnant. They had gotten into the car about to drive out when she felt like expunging some phlegm.

In her state, she felt too tired to stand. She could not get back into the house. The husband made the most interesting move ever- he asked the wife to spit into his mouth.

The wife thought it was a joke. He brought an open mouth, she spat into it. While he stepped out of the car and returned inside to throw out her spit on her behalf!

(Now some folks are getting irritated! The slimy effect of the story is causing some "Oh my God" moment).

But it forced me to think: "Can I do this for my wife?"

First, the husband took the spit of the woman he vowed to love. But is that not really easier than having people you do not know spit all over you? They spat on Jesus yet Jesus took it all in because of you. You cannot stand it but He stood it to save your soul. You need to be grateful for salvation. My friend took the spit from his wife, can you imagine random strangers spitting on Jesus?

Second, if you are going to enjoy marriage, you may not literally take some spit in your mouth but you must understand that love bears all things. You bear the weaknesses of your partner. Her spit becomes yours. You find a way of working it out together.

Finally, the spit ended with the husband. Your spouse's weakness must never be a central theme at the "boys or girls time out". Lovers sit to talk. Lovers work it out. Lovers take spit without announcing it.

Do not underrate what Jesus did; Love your spouse. Take some spit!

CONFESSIO N

I am a sacrificial spouse. I give my all to my spouse. I give my all to Jesus. I am not ashamed of the life of Christ.

WHY GOD KEPT ME FROM ASKING HER OUT EARLIER!

Text: 1Corinthians 13:7 NLT

"...Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.."

I rewamiri said that two days before I asked her out, the Holy Spirit prompted her to write a summary of her service year journey. When she finished writing, she noticed that the difference in her service year began when she became a member of the church and met me also.

I love the Holy Spirit. He kept me from asking her out until He had prepared her heart for what was coming. I was eager to ask her out, but when she told me that story later on in courtship, I was glad that I trusted God and obeyed His prompt.

First, settle it that God has your best interest at heart. The devil and your flesh always want you to feel like God is denying you some great pleasure. It is an old trick. Be patient. God is working it out for you. Is it not insightful that the first documented words of the devil in the scriptures were, "Did God really say...?"

Second, settle it that when you do not understand God, you will still trust him. There will be a lot of time in our Christian walk that we will not understand God. You must however ensure that you keep trusting Him.

How do you explain building an ark when it had never rained? That takes trust.

How do you explain laying the son you waited years for on the altar as a sacrifice? It cannot be explained. It takes some deep trust to do that. How do you explain facing a country of trained warriors with worship and not warships? That takes trust.

How do you explain saying "No" to military gear and running towards a trained soldier with stones, sling and staff? That takes trust.

When you do not understand what God is doing, please, do not fail to trust Him, His dealings with you, and His instructions to you.

I know that is all you have, but God has placed a demand on it- please trust Him. You obey in tears at times while you keep saying "God, only you can make this demand of me."

I know He has asked you to stay in the land when all that makes sense is to leave the country. You cannot explain it. But you have a prophetic template in Isaac. Trust God when you do not understand.

I know you are worried about the bills, if you decide to follow God's will of going all the way to serve Him in ministry- trust Him! Follow instructions. Get trained. Learn. Grow. He does not owe.

The Psalmist said to us, "God orders the steps of the righteous and He is interested in every detail of their lives". My patriarch in the faith will also add "God orders the steps and the stops of the righteous." Move when He tells you to. Stop when He tells you to.

Settle this early.

Say with me: "God has my best interest at heart. I will trust Him even when I do not understand." Trusting God when you do not understand Him shuts the devil out of your life. It keeps you from doubt and discouragement. Shout it: "God knows what He is doing, and I trust Him."

Take a deep breath. Move on with strength. He has never failed before. You are not an experiment!

CONFESSION

I do not misinterpret my season. I trust God for a breakthrough. God orders my steps and decisions. God has my best interest at heart.



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