

- DECEMBER 2023 -

COMPASS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



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FOR
SALE!**

Temiloluwa Ola

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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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

IT IS STILL POSSIBLE

Text: Job 14:7 NKJV

*"For there is hope for a tree, If it is cut down, that it will sprout again,
And that its tender shoots will not cease..."*

Just as we were wrapping up the communion service, I sensed a prompt in my heart that it was still possible to use our new facility for the 10th anniversary and convention of the Church. I said to the church, "Do we believe it is possible?" The answer was not too strong and I understood.

But that evening, I requested that we dance before the Lord as we trust him for what He could do. We danced and gave him all the praise.

The highlight of the journey was that at a point when it looked like it was not going to happen, God stepped in. In seventeen days, the roofing sheets were installed, plastering was done, plumbing was settled, electrical installations were fixed and tiling of the auditorium was finished. We knew it was all a miracle. We danced. We shouted. We gave him praise.

Beloved, let faith be stirred in your heart and let it find expression in your mouth and back it up with thanksgiving and dance with your feet. Settle it that God does the impossible. It is His speciality.

And he said the things which are impossible with men are possible with God.
Luke 18:27 KJV

And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men, it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.
Mark 10:27 KJV

Settle it that nations are compelled to favour you. Settle it in your heart that your case is different. Be soaked in the Word of God and not just get lost in the news feed of social media. One lifts your spirit, the other feeds it with junk that bloats your soul. It will seem that you are getting bigger but the discomfort you feel is only sensed by you.

Be honest with yourself.

A bloated soul needs to be detoxified. This is the time to take a retreat and de-program yourself so that the Word and the spirit can re-program you for alignment with kingdom-focused words and actions.

Be honest with yourself.

When you are loaded with God's Word, you will see God's possibilities. You will not join naysayers. You would know that great things can still happen in 2022. Stop pushing the possibilities to another year. God can still do it now. He only needs your cooperation. Take your eyes off the storm, and focus on God and His Word. You will come walking on the same issue that is trying to bury others.

There is no shame in Zion. You will not be put to shame. Do you know mercy is on your side? Do you know that favour is working for your good? Do you know His presence is with you? Why is your head down? Refuse to give up. The next 90 days will bring a truckload of testimonies. What junk do you have to deal with?

Will you live like you are on retreat?

Will you feed strong on the revelation of His Word and deal with that "soul-bloat"? You cannot feel full yet you are so empty. Deal with it.

CONFESSION

Faith is stirred in my heart. I speak the words of faith. Mercy shows up for me. I will not be put to shame.



OF AWO BOYS AND AMPHITHEATRE SHOWS

Text: Psalm 107:15-16 NKJV

"Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD...For He has broken the gates of bronze, And cut the bars of iron in two"

The university I attended was quite a groovy one. There were constant events taking place in our Amphitheatre. Both A' list and upcoming artistes frequent the school. Most times the events are paid for.

There are also the notorious boys of Awo Hall. They were popular for their "creative energy and throwing of verbal jabs". We call it "Aro" (an exciting display of short-term madness).

Every time there is an exciting event and all those who have paid and gotten tickets have settled in, these boys will come singing songs and walk confidently towards the gate. Often times than not, the gates have to open and they access events for free.

Beloved, that is how powerful praises are in spiritual warfare also. Gates open to men who have songs of praise in their mouths. What others got by struggling can come to you by praising.

Praising breaks the toughest chains. At midnight in prison, Paul and Silas sang hymns to the Lord and the prison doors opened by themselves.

The Psalmist made us know that there are songs of deliverance. Surely there are gates that must be lifted up but they will open to a man who knows how to praise. We enter gates with thanksgiving in our mouths. If you can sing, you can

win.

In the genealogy of Jesus that we do not love reading in Matthew 1, there is a simple and profound line, "Judah begat Perez". Judah is "praise". Perez is "breakthrough". What does that give you? Praise gives birth to breakthrough. This season, do it with an attitude. Gates will open. Doors will open. Cities will be taken. Jehoshaphat taught us that praise is a weapon of war. Praise changes the tone of the battle.

What gates are before you?
Where are the closed doors?
Where are the songs of deliverance?
You will return with a testimony!
Praise ye the Lord!

CONFESSION

*My mouth is filled with praises to the Lord.
I weaponize praises for my deliverance.
Doors are open to me. Gates are broken
down before me.*



EVERYTHING FROM THE PALM TREE

Text: Job 23:10 KJV

"But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

A dear father in the faith and his beloved wife shared a touching experience with us as an intending couple some years back.

They got married while the man was a priest in a small village. The wife was already a graduate. Their source of livelihood and income was everything that a palm tree could supply- they made oil, brooms, sponges, soap and all from the palm tree. They were made for home use and sold also to make some income.

The truth is; if you look at them or sit around them today, you will have no idea that they had such amazing experiences in the past- they do not look like what they have been through.

Beloved, in the days when men desire to appear like they have arrived, you must learn to listen to the story of men who genuinely paid the price for where they are today.

There are parents keeping their children away from the process under the guise of "I do not want them to go through the things I went through". They have forgotten that they are a product of the process. Their wards cannot withstand pressure. They break at the slightest sign of a storm. They are buried by the same storms that their parents rode with strides.

If you will handle great things for the Lord, be willing to pay a great price also. It was said about John the Baptist that he was in the wilderness until the day of His showing forth.

There will be that season where you must learn attentively the teachings of sacrifice and contentment. You are not crushed by abundance neither are you intimidated by

little. You know how to abase and abound.

Why on earth would you stay at home because you had no offering to give when there was a generation who trekked miles to get to church and still got in early?

There is process. Let no one put you under pressure to impress and do not put any pressure on yourself. Be the best you can in the season that you are in.

Be wise also. Use all that the Lord has blessed you with to be a blessing to others and to keep your life and marriage going. Look around you and get results. Do not give excuses.

When you are in front of the Red Sea, there will always be a rod in your hands. Do not lean on the rod while you complain. Raise it in faith because that is all you have and see the waters part way.

When you are in process, be responsible!

CONFESSION

I give myself to the law of process. I give attention to learning and training. I receive grace to stay focused in my season of tests.

DAY 04

SHE CRIED BY THE ROADSIDE

Text: 1 Corinthians 16:15 NIV

"You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the Lord's people"

Because of what they had experienced in other mission postings, they gave away all they had before they moved to the new place where they were now in charge because of the divine promotion they received.

At their new base, it was not as expected. They had to start from scratch. They were the ones even taking care of things through their funds.

One day, she stood by the side of the road hoping to catch a ride out of town and tears began to run down her cheeks. It was a tough season. She could never have imagined she would have to go through that again.

God used their prayer partners to bring a word to her that season saying, "Have I ever abandoned you?" Today, they have gifts of brand new cars and they are doing well in all regards to the glory of God.

Comfort is not the first word in the diary of men who know that there is a process in and with God- Conviction and Obedience are words they give greater regard.

If comfort was the first word in the diary of some of the fathers in the faith, they would never have left high-paying jobs and fully equipped houses to look for cities whose foundation is God. They would not have dwelt in tents while they trusted God to build temples.

If comfort was the first word in the vocabulary of Jesus, He would rather stay on the throne than die for man. If Jesus did not use a magic wand, rest assured that you cannot be anything outside of process.

What will you say of Paul? Is it the chains or the whips? Is it the stones or the storms? Is it the slander or the betrayal? Yet Paul kept churning out letters that still impact us to date.

For a couple, one of the major blessings to a

man that is called is a woman that is broken. She will go all the way to ensure that the man walks in his consecration. She will deny herself necessities for the sake of obedience to God's will.

There are men today who are stuck on a path of comfort because the woman is not willing to pay the price. They pay the bills but they know they are not doing his will. They are like Moses and Zipporah arguing on the way to Egypt.

Beloved, what will you tell the Lord that you endured for him? When men talk about things they gave up for the sake of the gospel, what will you mention that you did?

When the Lord rewards men who paid the price for His call and walked in obedience when it is tough, may we be qualified by grace to stand beside them!

Lord, I do not just want a normal life! I want a call to higher things.

Do you know some men will take on the assignments that others abandoned and add them to theirs? Will another take your place? Or will you run this race even when it means discomfort?

CONFESSION

The kingdom work prospers in my hands. I do not sacrifice service for comfort. I seek the kingdom of God and its righteousness.

DAY 05

HIS WEALTH DID NOT CHANGE HER MIND

Text: Proverbs 3:5 NLT

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding."

She had fallen in love with her classmate in the tertiary institution and her parents would have none of it. Her parents were elites and they keep asking, "Who do you say his parents are?". The poor boy was the son of a farmer in a small village.

Her parents had an alternative for her in a young lawyer. She refused. His wealth did not change her mind. They fought back also. She did not get total support for the wedding but she married her choice. A few years after, a lot happened that made both parties give thanks that she made up her mind.

Beloved, there is a God that knows the end from the beginning and it would be mere foolishness to think that we are smarter than Him.

"I know, God, that mere mortals can't run their own lives, That men and women don't have what it takes to take charge of life. So correct us, God, as you see best".
Jeremiah 10:23 – 23 MSG

Don't play God in your life or the life of others. Do not ever write off who God has not written off. Do not think an end came to Joseph because he was sold as a slave. You may have to open your mouth wide a few years down the line when you are bowing down to someone you do not even recognise- he does not look like what you wanted him to look like.

The advantage you have as a believer is the ability to seek the will of God before making choices. You can carnally choose

what you think is emerging and great when God knows that it is actually declining and expiring.

You can look at Ruth and call her a liability when you have not sought the face of God. Do not write off anyone because of their circumstance when you have not picked them by destiny or the prophetic.

Even physically, do you know that there are colleagues we thought would be at the cutting edge and some we never gave a chance? But the fact that you were the best in class does not mean you will be the best in life. People you are ahead of today may be ahead of you tomorrow. Do not write anyone off.

One thing you need on life's journey is contentment- appreciate God for where you are and love people through the viewpoint of God's love for them while you believe and work hard to get better and pray the same for them.

In process, do not look down on yourself also. Do not give up hope. You will end up not looking like what you have been through- there is no smell of smoke on you even though you went through the fire. There is no scratch on you even though you shared a night with lions in their den.

CONFESSION

I do not make carnal choices. I seek the face of God in all things. I do not write myself off. I stay in my place in destiny.

DAY 06

IN THE MIDDLE OF LABOUR (1)

Text: Proverbs 13:20 NKJV

"He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed."

When we landed at the hospital, the nurse on duty ushered us into the labour room to check the progress of labour. We had been confessing throughout the pregnancy that she dilates fast, fully and delivers with ease.

When the nurse checked and mentioned that she was 8cm gone, we simply began to rejoice. Hope was lifted. We looked at each other and we began to rejoice. We just knew that this was already settled. We played music and kept dancing in the labour room.

In the midst of your labour, there must be people you are vulnerable with. They are midwives. They are willing to help and encourage you to the end of the journey. They are committed both to you and the vision you are about to birth.

I remember in the midst of my several labour pains in Eruwa, my spiritual father served as a midwife many times to give me the word of hope that brings mental reset.

I remember the day he said, "Son, with due respect to you, you are too loaded to be in Eruwa just for Eruwa. Eruwa is the base but you have a calling to the world". That moment inspired hope that I was doing something great.

Midwives are walking with you through your labour. They know where you have been and they know where you are headed. They know that the midpoint of every journey is the toughest- that is why they are midwives.

A lot will start with you and will not end with you. A lot will be there at the end who will not be there at the start but never joke with people who stay through the journey with

you. Midwives are rare. When you have one in your life, do not joke with them.

It was not everyone that witnessed David's first anointing that wanted him to be king. It was not everyone who saw his potential that wanted him to be great. But there are men like Samuel who spot you even when you are not there, wait on you when you are not a star, mentor you because they know what you are called to be and stay through with you till you are who God wants you to be.

A lot of people are in labour without the guidance of midwives. They have the "I can do it by myself" attitude. Some have lost both the vision and the desire to even start again- they had no midwife.

Some have had terrible experiences of opening up to the wrong person and they are hurt and closed up. They met manipulative and exploiting midwives. Some were abused emotionally and in many other forms. Some have wounds inflicted by words and actions from people they trusted. Yet, help is still needed. You still cannot birth it by yourself. You need help.

I pray for you today- may you locate your midwives in destiny. Your vision will not be aborted. Your steps are ordered into the right relationships. You are blessed with pastors after the heart of God. You are blessed with friends who love you through all seasons. May Grace keep you strong. Amen.

CONFESSION

I am not a lone ranger in Destiny. I enjoy the blessings of divine helpers and mentors. I will birth great things to my world.



IN THE MIDDLE OF LABOUR (2) – “MUMMY! DANCE”

Text: Jeremiah 31:13 KJV

“Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.”

After about 4 hours of being awake, I kept on encouraging Irewamiri as she went through the intermittent pains of labour. I would hold her as the pains heightened. She told me what she wanted me to do to help her through.

But then Danielle woke up and noticed something unusual was happening. As we strolled into the compound around 5 am, Danielle started singing and asked her mum to start dancing. In the pain, we all began to dance. The pains came but we danced and laughed.

Friends, during your labour, God will place the answers you need in the most unlikely places. The cure to Naaman’s leprosy was in the mouth of his maid. The answer to Saul’s missing donkeys was in the mouth of his servant. If you do not honour people and you get used to looking down on others, you will be stranded in life.

One of the secrets that helped my wife through labour came through the mouth of our two-year-old daughter, “Mummy, dance!” And she began to supply the songs also.

You must know how to sing and dance your way through your labour pains. If you allow the labour to dictate the pace of your spirit and you do not superimpose your spirit on the pains of labour, things will seem slow and unbearable.

Even Herod and Herodias who are not believers showed us how powerful dance is- it costs half the kingdom and actually the head of a national prophet. Milcah despised a dancing David and she was the only recorded woman who died barren in the Word of God.

Check out how the Psalmist put it:

What pleasure fills those who live every day in your temple, enjoying you as they worship in your presence! How enriched are they who find their strength in the Lord; within their hearts are the highways of holiness!

Even when their paths wind through the dark valley of tears, they dig deep to find a pleasant pool where others find only pain. He gives to them a brook of blessing filled from the rain of an outpouring. They grow stronger and stronger with every step forward, and the God of all gods will appear before them in Zion. Psalms 84:4-7 TPT

Dancing and thanksgiving will make you turn unpleasant circumstances and your most painful moments into a pool of testimonies. You can get to a tight corner in a business proposal or academic research but with Thanksgiving, you can open a well of inspiration for yourself.

When the devil sees you dancing in the midst of pain, he knows that you understand how the Kingdom works and you are not his regular ignorant prey.

Change the game, friend. It is labour but it is your opportunity to dance. The labour is not a sign that things will die, it is proof that a breakthrough is close. Why won’t you dance?

CONFESSION

I will dance in the midst of labour. My victory arrives as I praise the Lord with my dance. I rejoice always.



OF “GOD SEES MY HEART” AND GODLY STANDARDS

Text: Ephesians 4:27 ESV

“...and give no opportunity to the devil”

A while back, one of the Christian organizations I relate with paid us a courtesy visit at the office. In the middle of our conversation, I realised that one of the female executives had no issue with having her male fiancé spend the night in her room.

I had to take some time to teach and guide them by the Word of the Lord so that they could understand the weight of living a life of righteousness not just before God but also before men.

Statements such as “God sees my heart” have been used as a cover for questionable acts.

Beloved, Paul’s writing to the Ephesians made it clear that no hint of sexual immorality must be found in our midst as believers. What does that mean? You cannot be spending the night with the opposite sex and then keep saying, “Nothing happened. Let them think whatever they want. My conscience is clear”.

Tell your conscience to please shut up. Your conscience is not the standard, the Word of God is.

Paul writing to the Corinthians said “We take the pain to do what is right not just in the sight of God but also in the sight of men” (2 Cor. 8:21 NIV)

Dear believer, there is an onus on your

life to be the light and the salt of the world. Your actions must not contribute to the advancement of strange and ungodly philosophies.

Let no sinner look at your life and find justification for their sin and ungodly conduct. Let the ungodly look at your actions, weigh them and have their hearts pricked unto righteousness.

If you are accused of being a believer, would there be enough evidence to prove it?

CONFESSION

I am not reckless with my commitment to purity. God’s word is my standard. I give the devil no opportunity.

I WANTED TO PICK HER HEARTBEAT

Text: James 4:8 NKJV

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...”

It was our first few weeks into marriage. I cannot particularly remember what led to the misunderstanding (Not sure if there was any in the first place). All I remember was my lovely wife went into the guest room and locked the door from behind- she did not want me close at all.

Having no other choice, I picked up a duvet and laid it at the closed door. I laid there. A while later, when she opened the door and met me there, she was shocked. She asked, “What are you doing there?”.

I said to her, “No matter what, I want to stay close enough to pick your heartbeat”. It melted her heart. We spoke. We resolved.

Intimacy is tested when feelings have expired. Feelings are not and will never be the true test of intimacy. The things you do and the way you respond when you do not feel like is a great test of intimacy.

There will be days you would not feel like praying or studying the Word or walking in love but you know that these are commitments that are beyond feelings.

Paul told us that we will certainly face these moments. He said to us: “For what our human nature wants is opposed to what the Spirit wants, and what the Spirit wants is opposed to what our human nature wants. These two are enemies, and this means that you cannot do what

you want to do.”

Galatians 5:17 GNT

The things you do when your flesh wants to take the lead is your test of growth in the things of the Spirit. If you follow the Spirit, you walk into a new season in maturity but if you follow the flesh, you have enrolled in the class of carnality.

When carnality is your teacher, you will fail exams set by the Spirit. But when the Spirit of the Lord is your trainer, you show carnality that you learn from, listen to and follow the best! Carnality loses its grip on you.

Intimacy with God is not grown by feelings; it is cultivated by following the Spirit of God.

May this season bring you into deeper intimacy with God!

Amen.

CONFESSIO N

I am committed to my relationship with God. I do not trade away my intimacy with God. I am helped by the Spirit of God.

DAY 10

DO NOT LET THE MESS STOP YOU

Text: Proverbs 24:16 NIV

"for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes"

Some years ago, It was my cousin's wedding. I was driving down from Iseyin to Ibadan on that cool Saturday in October. I had an associate in ministry with me. Just a few kilometres from the wedding venue, I was pressed. I wanted to do the minor.

I found a convenient spot in a bushy area. I parked the vehicle and proceeded to ease myself. As I did the minor, I sensed I wanted to fart. I was in a free area so why not give some great liberating sound?

I released the gas but alas, something uninvited followed the fart. I felt some dropping. Ah! What just happened? I was momentarily confused and concerned. I noticed the stain was not on my cloth but I still felt slightly messy.

I pulled myself together. I sat carefully in the car. Luckily, the heat generated between the seat and my cloth brought some quick drying. I proceeded to the wedding with class. I could not afford to miss the jollof rice and all. We had a great feast. The mess did not stop me from attending the feast.

Beloved, you are on a journey in life and destiny and there will be days and times when you will mess up big time. You will make unintended errors. There will be times when things will not add up. There will be moments when your calculation will be toppled by "life happens". You will need to ask yourself, "Will I sit with my mess or will I move on with life?"

You will have to make decisions like the four lepers did:

Now there were four men with leprosy sitting at the entrance of the city gates. "Why should we sit here waiting to die?" they asked each other. 2 Kings 7:3 NLT

Do not go around looking like your mess. It was momentary. Do not turn it into a monument. If some people should open their mouths to tell you what they have been through, you will be shocked. People do not look like the storms

they've encountered. Stop sitting with your mess.

If you sit long enough with crumbs like Poor Lazarus did, you will soon attract dogs. Dogs eat crumbs that fall from the table. If you eat what they eat and sit where they sit, you will soon be competing in the mess with them.

Shake yourself. Wake up from the pity dream. Purpose is calling you. Stop brooding over those who disappointed you. Stop brooding over the proposals that failed. Stop brooding over the losses. Sorrow shuts you down. You lose creativity. Inspiration stops flowing. Capacity drops.

And this is the greatest joy- I made it to the wedding feast. In our Christian walk also, there will be days when you mess up, do not let sin topple you. Do not let self hinder you. There is the wedding feast of the Lamb of God. You need to make it there.

You will meet the great company of witnesses there. They had their own share of falling but they did not sit in their mess:

Father Abraham had his Hagar moment but he returned to the Lord to birth an Isaac. He had an address called "Abraham's Bosom".

David had the Bathsheba Gate. He repented. His walk was restored. We now have "the sure mercies of David", "the Key of David", and even Jesus came as "the Son of David".

What mess are you sitting with? Where have you fallen? What has become a stumbling block? Acknowledge that you messed up but do not sit there. Stand up. Ask for a Clean up by the Word and the Spirit. We have a destiny to fulfil. We have the Supper of the Lamb to attend. I will be there. Will you be too?

CONFESSION

I do not languish in self-pity. I am not held down by stumbling blocks. I am helped by the Spirit of God.

DAY 11

THE DAY I LIED TO DADDY

Text: 1 John 1:9 NIV

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

While I was still living with my parents, I was heading to the office in the morning but could not find the car key. I searched for it everywhere to no avail. I had a prompt to check the car itself. I found it locked inside the car.

I remembered that Dad had a spare key. I went to ask for it. He scolded me a bit and reminded me not to be careless. I apologised.

Some days later, I began to look for the car key again. Dad was aware but I did not bother him. When I discovered that I locked the key in the car, I was embarrassed. But I knew where the spare key was. I helped myself and returned the spare key.

But the catch was the next morning when Dad asked me, "Temi, where did you find your key yesterday". I was afraid of being scolded and corrected so I "rationalized": "Dad, it was just lying somewhere". Dad nodded and went out.

But as I got to work that morning, the Holy Spirit convicted me about the lie. I lost my peace. I sent Dad a message that I was sorry for lying. I confessed that I locked up the key. My peace was restored.

First, remember to always call a sin what it is- Sin! It is rationalizing that makes you ask questions like, "Is pre-marital sex a sin". There is nothing like pre-marital sex or extra-marital affair in the Word of the Lord. It is fornication and adultery. If you will be free from sin, do not call it a sweet name. Call it sin. Do not rationalize.

Second, do not let the devil help you find a good reason to cover a bad deed. King Saul was instructed to kill all the animals of the Amalekites. He kept the fat rams and the good-looking ones aside. When he was confronted by the Prophet Samuel, he had a

"good reason" for disobedience. He said they wanted to sacrifice to the Lord. The prophet Samuel had a "king-sized correction" also: But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the Lord: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams. 1 Samuel 15:22 NLT

A good offering cannot cover up for disobedience. Do not let the devil put it in your heart that you can bribe God with sacrifices while you walk in disobedience. It will not work. There is such a thing called repentance:

Admit that you are wrong.

Repent of the Wrong. Do not use tongues to cover it. Say it in words.

You will see how the joy is restored to your heart.

Do not stay so long rationalizing sin that it now feels normal to you. There is a way you live a lie so much that the lie no longer feels like a lie. Do not kill your conscience.

Hear King David:

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

Psalms 51:12, 16-17 NLT

Do not pretend and package before the only one who knows you! Repent and get your joy back.

CONFESSION

I am not diplomatic with sin. I am restored to the presence of God. I stay and walk in obedience.

DAY 12

YOU ARE NOT IMMUNE TO TEMPTATION

Text: James 1:14 NIV

"but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed."

Some years ago, it was a season when I needed money. I left home to visit an uncle of mine who came into town. While with him, he stepped out for a bit. There was a huge sum of money on his bed.

Do you know that strange thoughts began to come to me, "Why don't you take a little out of the money? Your uncle will never know. At least, you have a lot of needs". I was shocked that the devil could give such suggestions to me. I rebuked that strange thought but I learned some lessons:

First, no one is immune to temptation. No matter how mature you are in the faith, the devil would still tempt you. If Jesus was tempted, you will be tempted. Never live under the assumption that "It can never happen to me". If you do, you will likely return saying, "I don't even know how I fell".

Second, you must understand that your needs and desires are what the enemy will use to tempt you. The devil did not suggest that Jesus should turn stones into bread until he was sure that Jesus was hungry and desired bread. For forty days and forty nights, he fasted and became very hungry. During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

Matthew 4:2-3 NLT

Third, Your desires are powerful. It can take you to the top and it can take you to ground zero. You must tame your desire.

Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

James 1:14-15 NLT

with the opportunity to steal, cut corners and manipulate for money. Be careful when you need money. Even if you are a pastor, you can begin to preach for money. You will start weighing invitations financially before accepting them. Be careful.

If you desire emotional warmth and you have sexual needs, be careful. You can begin to call every sister or brother sweet names because you desire attention. You can begin to scheme to receive hugs. You will start justifying nonsense. Be careful. The devil will plant needy males or females around you. What started as friendship can end up as "friends with benefit". Warn yourself.

Finally, be sincere with yourself:

- Tell yourself that you are not immune to temptation.
- Be a student of the Word. The Word is your antidote to strange thoughts. Jesus replied the devil with "It is written" and "It is written again". Know the Word.
- Stay in a circle that holds you accountable. Run from those who flatter you. Do you have anyone you can confess to when you are getting tempted? Or you must keep pretending?
- Stay hungry for divine things. Be hungry for the Word. Be hungry for fellowship with God. Use your desire for kingdom advancement. Leave no space for the devil.

May you finish well.

CONFESSION

I will not feed my lusts. I create a network system against temptation. I keep my hunger for divine things alive.

If you desire wealth, you will be surrounded

DAY 13

WHO CHALLENGES YOU ABOUT SEX?

Text: 1 Corinthians 16:8 NLT

“Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body”

Our very first visit as an intending couple to my Spiritual Parents was a tough time. The first question that my fiancée (as she then was) was asked made us heave a sigh of relief.

The question was simple but profound, “Has he slept with you?” She responded in the negative. And the next thing was “Tell us now so we can know what to do”.

Paul gave the church profound instructions when it comes to our sexual purity. Paul was not one to hide away from issues that bothered on sex.

Paul said to us “It is God’s will that you keep away from sexual sin as a mark of your devotion to him” (1 Thessalonians 4:3 GW)

Paul also said, “Don’t allow love to turn into lust, setting off a downhill slide into sexual promiscuity...” (Ephesians 5:3 MSG)
What is my point? You must have people in your life who are willing to ‘shake the table’. They must be able to ask you tough questions that will unsettle you. We know you have the Holy Spirit but you also need the Holy Brethren who will ask questions that keep you sane.

Sexual immorality is on the rise and it leaves no one out - preachers, businessmen, sound brothers and sisters. Even the best of men is still a man at his best.

Sexual sin will creep in mostly when you are in the wrong place at the wrong time. In courtship, sacrifice privacy for purity. Leave “behind closed doors” discussions into a “walk in the field” moment. Talk where people can see you. It is not old school. It is a kingdom sense.

Sexual sin will persist when you have no one who can question your decisions. Think about David- would he have asked to bring Bathsheba

if someone he was accountable to was around at that moment? The more anointed you are, the more accountable you must be!

I sense there are people reading this now who are on the edge of a cliff but are blinded by sexual pleasures. You are already protecting your reputation at the expense of your character and consecration.

You keep praying and asking for grace to stop but the next moment you are back in the same mess. You need to stop and turn around. You are on a downward slope. You may lose the trust of some men but you would have gained restoration and a new beginning with God.

Friends, you are not married until you are married. Stop sliding down the slope of sexual immorality. Sex is God’s gift to be unwrapped in marriage and not courtship.

If you are married, do not be ignorant of the devices of the devil. It is the day you have issues with your spouse that you will get attention from that colleague. They will appear finer than ever. Do not be overconfident.

The standard of God is that you present your entire body as a living sacrifice. If you are the sacrifice, you will need people around you who will use the “sword of God’s Word” to cut you into size.

Do you have such people in your life?

CONFESSION

I am committed to a life of purity. I flee from sexual perversions and immorality.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR JOURNEY LONGER

Text: Psalm 32:8 NKJV

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye."

I was in my uncle's house doing some work. I needed something from the church office. I called the office assistant to bring it to me. I gave him another instruction, "Please do not take the first turning to the left that we would normally take. Take the second turning to the left".

It took him a while before he showed up. When he eventually arrived, I asked him why he came late. "Did you take the first turning?". His silence betrayed him. I asked why. He said, "Because that is where we had always passed through to this place". I shook my head and said to him, "But I got here before you. I had seen that the road was bad and not passable. That is why I told you to pass another route".

He passed the first turning. He encountered challenges. He had to turn back after wasting time. He eventually aligned with the direction I gave.

Beloved, you can never be smarter than God. God knows the way you should take and He has gone ahead of you to make the best choices for you and all you need to do is to trust Him.

"But even after all he did, you refused to trust the Lord your God, who goes before you looking for the best places to camp, guiding you with a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day." Deuteronomy 1:32 – 33 NLT

I know the pressure to marry is getting intense but you need to understand that no matter what, you must not abandon the instructions of God while you rely on your common sense. Your journey will be longer and the path will be rougher.

Listen, you can either learn by instruction, frustration or worse still destruction. If you listen and heed the counsel of God in His Word and by the Holy Spirit through an inner witness or qualified people, you would be aligning by instruction.

However, if you decide to navigate the path by

yourself without recourse to the Spirit and the Word, then you would have enrolled in the school where frustration teaches and if brakes are not applied and a U-turn made, destruction can take over from frustration.

This is why as a believer you must know that you do not follow the trend but you stay on the track that has been built by the Spirit and the Word.

If your track in the Spirit and by the Word has not been laid to lead you to Canada or the United Kingdom, you will get there and begin to use your head and common sense or worse still schemes so you can survive.

What happens when we resort to head knowledge and experience rather than following the instructions of the Spirit?

First, you will begin to compromise. If you compromise for it, you are on the wrong path. Second, you will place survival above obedience. Self-interest will take over your soul.

Third, you can trigger an opening for the devil to begin to harass and torment you. The safest place is in God's will.

Fourth, you can begin to build habits and patterns that will manifest later in life. Abraham took Hagar from Egypt. She was a ticking time bomb.

Finally, you will lose your peace until you return to the place of the altar for repentance, fellowship and fresh direction. Your wealth would not make sense to you. Why? Nothing can take the place of the Spirit of the Lord. Be wise.

CONFESSION

I am not led by head knowledge. I am led by the spirit of God.

DAY 15

TEARS CAN LEAD TO MORE TEARS

Text: II Corinthians 2:11 NKJV

"lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices"

I was still a single Pastor. I was visiting one of my friends in the neighbourhood. It was easier to connect with other young graduates. That evening, her fiancé called. The conversation got heated a bit. I guess he was questioning her about where she was, who was with her and the character of the person. We just met some weeks earlier.

She got overwhelmed but tried answering as calmly as she could. She was asking me questions earlier about what she referred to as "overbearing" behaviour. The moment she dropped the call, she burst into tears and said, "Pastor, it is because you are here. I would have slammed this phone on the wall". She began to cry profusely.

By instinct, the first thing I wanted to do was stand up and walk to her side. Probably, put a hand on her shoulder and give her a side hug as I consoled her. But then, the Spirit of the Lord said to me, "Sit down where you are". I was torn between two decisions. I sat down. I stretched my hands and consoled her from a distance.

Truth is, some men have gotten into trouble trying to console the opposite sex. Consolation time became temptation time. Before they knew what happened, "one thing has led to another".

Tears have a strong magnetic pull on men. Make sure you are cautious even while trying to console the opposite sex. There is still fire in your bones. Do it with wisdom. My pastor says that if a woman begins to cry while he is counselling her, he would

excuse her for a while. Tears are powerful. Your instinct would be to draw near while the devil plans to draw blood.

Paul warned us that we should not be ignorant of the devices of the devil. He can use good intentions to destroy great men. Even if your intention is pure, you do not absolutely know the seed the enemy is trying to plant.

lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.
II Corinthians 2:11 NKJV

What should you do?

First, build principles before you get into a situation. Without principles, you will likely follow your instinct. You can get into trouble that way.

Second, follow the instructions of the Holy Spirit. He will guide you into all truth.

Third, do not rationalize when you realize you are already getting trapped. Run. Run. Run.

May the Lord preserve you.
May you finish well.

CONFESSION

I do not lose my guard. I enjoy the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I will finish well.

DAY 16

QUESTIONS THAT BRING LAUGHTER

Text: Job 5:22

"You will laugh at destruction and famine; wild animals will not terrify you!"

We were travelling through the city of Abeokuta. I had a dear mentor of mine with me and he reminded me of one of the memories I cannot forget about the city:

I was an active participant in a quiz programme that aired every Sunday on the State Broadcasting Network. I made it to the final of the quiz competition about three times. Something interesting happened at one of the finals.

In the fourth round of questions, the question I picked was: "Who is the Vice Chancellor of the University of Agriculture Abeokuta?" I paused in shock. I smiled and grinned widely. I took a deep breath and I answered with confidence. Why? I came from the Vice Chancellor's official lodge to the programme. He was my granduncle.

When I returned home, everyone said they laughed when they asked me the question but that they thought my answer would be "Daddy". We laughed again.

This season, questions and concerns that your adversaries and situation think would be hard will become a walkover for you. This season, you will have the answers before the questions come.

Favour means "All things work together for your good". Hear me, if it was meant to unsettle you, it will work for your good.

If it was meant to be a grave point, may it become a springboard. What was meant for a loss will turn around for profit in Jesus' name!

Situations will ask you questions. Circumstances will talk back at you. Do not shake. Remember the gates questioned the King of Glory:

Open up, ancient gates! Open up, ancient doors, and let the King of glory enter. Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty; the Lord, invincible in battle. Open up, ancient gates! Open up, ancient doors, and let the King of glory enter. Who is the King of glory? The Lord of Heaven's Armies— he is the King of glory. Psalms 24:7 – 10 NLT

May your answers be ready before the gates question you. Amen.

CONFESSION

I will laugh at unpleasant situations in my life. I enjoyed favour and God's intervention. I speak to circumstances and they obey.

DAY 17

“IKU PO MI NU” (Death Vomited Me)

Text: 2 Corinthians 10:4 NLT

“We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments”

As we drove home, I asked Irewamiri, “Did you pick the lesson as he shared the testimony?” She said, “Yes I did”. There is a lesson I kept sharing for a while, “You do not fight thoughts with thoughts. You cancel and erase thoughts with words”.

Someone dear to me was stuck in traffic and thoughts came to him, “What if you have an accident like you did last year”. He instantly responded in those few seconds, “Death has vomited me”. He had been praying all the way!

Like a dream, a truck lost control and ran into his vehicle. The car was badly damaged. Despite the intensity of the crash, his kids sleeping at the back did not even wake up from sleep. They all came out alive and untouched.

Beloved, do not take thoughts from the devil. When thoughts drop, your words are the gatekeepers. With your words, you can open the door to strange thoughts or shut them out.

Spiritual warfare is exactly what it is—Spiritual. Words are the weapons we fight with. Keep your mouth shut until you find your weapons. Do not joke with your Words for the rest of your life. Arm yourself with scriptures all around. Kick out depressing thoughts.

You tear down imaginations and strange thoughts with the Sword of the Spirit. You are insulated from the fiery darts of the enemy by the shield of Faith. Never allow

thoughts to take root in your heart if you do not want them to manifest in your life.

A senior friend mentioned that; when he was struggling with masturbation and other lustful thoughts, he would shout “No!” every time the thought comes (whether in public or private). If anyone asked him why he shouted, he will say I am settling a personal matter. He stood on the word of God that says “Grace teaches us to SAY no”. Beloved, he got his victory.

If you keep shut, you will carry what is not yours. Remember, you battle thoughts with words and not thoughts.

You must learn to place a hand on yourself and declare that “My spirit will never be forcefully ejected from my body. I will live long and remain strong”.

In this season, do not joke with your words at all. Remember you open and close doors with words. Never convert any careless thoughts into careless words. Eliminate strange thoughts by speaking the right words.

There are no jokes in the realm of the spirit. Spirits do not know jokes. They know words. Are you speaking the right words?

CONFESSION

I speak against depressing thoughts. I tear down strange imaginations by the word of faith. I will live to fulfil my destiny.

DAY 18

DO NOT BE WEAKENED

Text: Ephesians 3:6 NKJV

“that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man”

I got some really bad news after we had spent quite some money on a process for the ministry. That afternoon, I took a break from work and drove home. I remember how tears were dropping from my eyes at a point. I stayed in the kitchen with Irewamiri as we discussed. She noticed my tears and said, “Darling, God brought it this far, He will surely do it”. It took some months but it eventually got done.

The devil aims to weaken you- He will use anything at all to do it. He knows that a weak believer will make bad choices. Once you are weak, your decisions are impacted.

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! Isaiah 14:12 NKJV

The secret of Samson came out after he had been burdened with the nagging words of Delilah. The devil weakened him before taking him. A weakened adversary is easy to defeat.

And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death, that he told her all his heart, and said to her, “No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.” Judges 16:16 – 17 NKJV

- Weakness will make you say what you are not meant to say: When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the Lords of the Philistines, saying, “Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart.” So the Lords of the Philistines came up to her

and brought the money in their hand. Judges 16:18 NKJV

- Weakness will make you stay where you are not meant to stay: Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. Judges 16:19 NKJV

- Weakness will bring people into your space who will take advantage of you: Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Judges 16:19a NKJV

- Weakness will make you lose valuable things: “...and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him”. Judges 16:19 NKJV

- Weakness makes you lose discernment. Once discernment is lost, the devil’s agenda of destruction has a smooth ride: And she said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” So he awoke from his sleep, and said, “I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!” But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him. Judges 16:20 NKJV

Guard your strength. It is priceless!

CONFESSION

I am full of strength. I am full of power. I do not entertain weakness. The joy of the holy Ghost is my strength.

DAY 19

THE MOST ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT FOR A GREAT MARRIAGE

Text: Ephesians 5:21 NIV

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ"

As we drove away from the place of the interview, I told Irewamiri that the singular most essential ingredient for a great marriage is training.

Once the Lord revealed to me that Irewamiri was the woman to marry, I knew I had to seek the counsel of my Spiritual Father. I sought an appointment with him. When I eventually saw him, he gave me a life-saving counsel that positioned me to make great decisions about marriage.

If you are a child of God, do not live your life without submission to godly authority. It is God's divine agenda to set you in a family.

God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity, But the rebellious dwell in a dry land. Psalms 68:6 NKJV

The blessing of a family comes with godly counsel when it is needed. When you are under authority, it helps to shape your life responsibly. It takes an accountable man also to be responsible.

Marriage is not a secret cult. Proposals and courtship should not look like cult meetings. You should carry your pastor along. Anyone who wants to hide that he or she is relating with you has a secret agenda.

The problem of Samson started when he started hiding things from those who could hold him accountable. He killed a lion and took honey out of it but kept it a secret.

Rebellion never ends well. The Psalmist said that the rebellious will dwell in a dry land. Some people discountenanced this counsel before marriage and are now running to pastors after marriage.

When you are well-trained, you become prepared for what is coming.

Many people marry because they are in love, but they end up managing crisis because they are not trained.

It is a burden that we study in school for years to become a doctor, we keep studying to remain a good doctor; we spend money to become lawyers, and we invest in knowledge to remain sharp and on point, but unfortunately, we think marriage can be governed by the magic of love alone.

You did not become a doctor simply because you

love medicine. You submitted to training also.

To become a great doctor, you work with seniors in the profession- you understudy them. But we think we are independent once we get married- we go on without mentors and teachers.

Friends, there have been times in our marital journey when the counsel of a mentor has saved us from crisis. It was a father and teacher who told me, "No matter the conflict, keep the emotional warmth of your home."

So we were disagreeing that day, but I kept saying to my wife all through that, "I love you." I kept hugging her even when she was cold. My lighted coal eventually lighted hers.

Marriage is not a child's play. Mentors train us about sex, finance, communication, conflict management, etc.

Even if you are a pastor, you need a pastor and a trainer!

The disciples were obeying the instructions of Jesus, but they did not leave Jesus behind.

On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.

Mark 4:35 – 36 NKJV

When the storm hit on the trip, they had Jesus with them to calm the storm.

And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat so that it was already filling. Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

Mark 4:37 , 39 NKJV

If your marriage is attempting to break into pieces, kindly check what and who you carried along in the beginning.

May your home be blessed.

CONFESSION

I am blessed with mentors. My marriage is blessed. I do not joke with training. I am helped by the Lord in my marital journey.

DAY 20

DO NOT COVER UP WHAT CAN DESTROY YOUR MARRIAGE

Text: Mark 10:9 NKJV

"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder"

There was a Sunday afternoon when issues just began to brew. Irewamiri and I did not seem to find our sync and rhythm. She even strolled from the house for some hours. We would normally resolve all matters, no matter what, before going to bed. That night, I pranked her, but it solved the matter. I told her that our trainer and spiritual mum would call her in the morning. It worked. We resolved, but I told her it was a prank.

A dear brother said he was having some issues with his wife. As it got a bit tougher, he spotted his wife dialing the number of their spiritual parents. Before the line rang at all, all matters were resolved. He simply told her, "Babe, it is not that serious that you have to call them."

If you have someone (maybe a pastor or trainer) who can hold you accountable, make sure you do not get angry when your misdemeanour is reported to the person. Some folks turn the heat on their spouse when they are reported for misbehaving. You are slipping into lust. Someone is pulling you away from sudden death. You are still getting angry. The demons on your case must be having a huge party. Wake up!

It is dishonourable to say to your spouse, "I know you want to talk to our pastor about it, and I don't care." It is simply a lack of regard. It is pride. Pride wrecks lives.

Let your spouse call you names, but if there is any issue that can wreck your family, please scream out. Your spouse's personal decision can wreck your home.

If he or she is stealing from work and you see him or her spending above what they earn, and they are also elusive with necessary explanations, do not keep quiet. An "Achan" disaster may be loading. It ate up that entire family.

If your spouse suddenly has sudden "miracles," please confirm if they are indeed miracles or they are "Gehazi Leprosy" loading. Do not keep

quiet.

Do not keep quiet. Help comes when you ask for it. There is a time to cover the multitude of wrongs, but there is a time to expose a can of worms. You cannot sleep with a poisonous snake in your bedroom. Once it is a snake, you rarely wait to confirm if it is a friendly one. You do not keep quiet. You speak out to handle that creepy thing. Same here- do not keep quiet. Is he or she financially reckless? Beware!

Does he or she have a concubine? No matter the manipulation. Do not keep quiet. One son of a concubine killed sixty-nine sons of Gideon born through his wives. Only one escaped.

Is he or she covering an evil? Do not keep quiet. It may be the beginning of the flow of blood in your home. Amnon may be prepping up to rape Tamar. Do not keep quiet.

As a pastor, I have seen a situation that does not need to get messy become a cancer because a spouse was intimidated into silence. Refuse it. Scream! It will save your life. Do it for generations yet unborn.

Hear this: And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

Ephesians 5:11-12 NKJV

Expose evil!

Don't condone darkness!

CONFESSION

I live with a sense of accountability. I do not cover up what can destroy my marriage. I enjoy my marriage with the wisdom of God.

DAY 21

DO NOT MARRY “A BABY”

Text: Hebrews 5:14 NKJV

“But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil”

Some months ago, I remembered an action of mine that I thought was proof of great spirituality back then in the university, and I was surprised at how ‘simple’ (in the proverbs dimension) I was.

For a while as an undergraduate, I was not rooted in any local assembly on campus. I was getting blessed reading spiritual books. I was already getting introduced to Hagin books, and they were a huge blessing. I was already making amazing friends, also.

I remember days I would be on my way to the regular assembly that I attended, but I would suddenly sense a prompt to go elsewhere. Like that, I would go from fellowship to fellowship. I thought I was really deep. I did not know I was really simple (I got rooted in my third year). I even used to “educate” those who took fellowship too seriously.

Please, do not marry a baby. A baby finds it hard to make a destiny choice promptly and accurately. A baby is immature. That immaturity is cloaked in instability that can be disguised as spirituality. A baby will hide under the cloak of spirituality to cover instability, laziness and inability to carry on conversations.

Even if he has the title of an “Apostle,” but he claims that the wind blows him from place to place, and he goes to a church as led by the spirit of the Lord, he is a baby. He is immature!

A man who cannot decide on which church to settle in for the most part of his adult life cannot be trusted to make a decision to settle with you for life. They are the type who will tell you that “God told them to divorce you” or, at the extreme, “An angel told them to get another wife”.

The instability plaguing some homes today showed up in small doses before they ever started courtship, but they thought it would change with time. Now, the man can not sit down

in any local assembly. His rhema is deeper than that of any pastor. The voice of ‘the spirit’ tells him not to go to church but to take time out for six months. He will go when next he is led. The home is depreciating despite his ‘spirituality.’ He uses “God said” as a tool for intimidation, manipulation and control. That is the work of the flesh called witchcraft.

Look closely, he may end up jumping from job to job. He will hide it under “God said” or “I have prayed about it.” He will not be able to tie down a job. Once he is tired of working in a place, the “Spirit” always leads him to convenient options. If he is into business, he cannot stay long enough on a path to see it produce results. He will always try new grounds. He has multiple business cards but no amazing track record. There is more miss than hit in life. Be careful.

If he is a righteous man, let him show it by being planted in the house of the Lord. Have you seen the wind carrying a planted tree and planting it somewhere every Sunday? If you want to see the fruit of the spirit till old age, check whether he is planted well in his youthful days now.

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the Lord Shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing, Psalms 92:12-14 NKJV

Do not let anyone use spirituality to hoodwink you. If he is indeed spiritual, we will see stability and growth. Do not marry a baby!

CONFESS I O N

I seek God’s face in my choice of marital partner. Spiritual performances without fruits do not sway me. The wisdom of the Holy Spirit leads me.



DAY 22

DO NOT PROTECT THE WRONG SPOT

Text: John 10:10 NKJV

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly"

Dad played a lot with us while growing up. One of our regular games was 'playful' boxing. We still do some of these things. Dad would lift his hand as though he was aiming for your side. While you try to protect your side, his hands are already landing somewhere on your head. We kept defending the wrong spot.

That is exactly how the devil operates also, he distracts you while he goes for the real kill. He steals your attention, then he aims for the treasure.

Do you remember the parable of the wheat and tares? The wheat was planted. The planters went to sleep. While they slept, the enemy came and sowed tares. Did you notice that the enemy did not uproot the wheat? He only infiltrated the field.

The devil does not begin to steal by taking away. No! He begins by adding something different to your field. He does not steal your job to take your children. He keeps you so busy that you have no time for spiritual values; no time to pray for or with your children. Family devotion breaks down. Church time suffers a blow. Do not let us mention mid-week meetings.

Do not protect what the devil is not after. You spend so much to protect material things but you give little attention to spiritual things. The devil wanted to

hand over the material world to Jesus if only Jesus would "bow and worship".

You have built high fences around your house but have you built faith walls around your home?

You take care of your car at the slightest unusual sound but your soul has been giving cracking sounds that you have ignored for months.

Are you protecting the wrong things?
May the enemy not outsmart you!

CONFESS I O N

I do not give the devil a chance in my life and family. I guard against the devil's antics and attacks. I am victorious at all times.

DAY 23

DO NOT SUFFER A BLOW- (Do not sit on the fence)

Text: Galatians 5:1 NKJV

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

I was visiting a doctor friend at work when I saw a young lady with a fully swollen mouth. My friend said to me that she had a broken jaw. That was even worse. How did she get it? She got in between two people exchanging blows in a bar.

First, there is no in-between in the things of the kingdom.

You are either good or bad:

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

II Corinthians 5:10 NKJV

You are either hot or cold:

"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth."

Revelation 3:15-16 NKJV

Lukewarmness is not welcome in this kingdom.

You are either righteous or unrighteous.

"All unrighteousness is sin..."

I John 5:17 NKJV

You are either serving God or serving Mammon:

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

Matthew 6:24 NKJV

You must make up your mind early whether

you want to be fully committed to God or you want to be a borrowed vessel in the hands of the devil. Do not sit on the fence. In the game of sports, you rarely see a fan of a football club support another club. It is not permitted in sports. It is not permitted in the kingdom also.

A lot of times, believers cannot live with conviction because they want to live a life of convenience.

Jonathan loved David but he did not want to leave his father, he did not reign with David as he prophesied. He died in battle alongside his father. There is no neutrality. Choose your ground.

In the battle, there is no middle ground. The one who stays in the middle without choosing a side lacks defence and is the worst hit.

Like Moses asked, let me ask you also: "Who is on the Lord's side?" Friend, there is no neutral ground.

CONFESSION

I am for Christ. I stand for Christ. I fight for the kingdom. I live for Jesus every day.

DAY 24

REVIVE YOUR TROUBLED SOUL

Text: Colossians 3:16 NKJV

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

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

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

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

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

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

What did Jehoshaphat know that made him take singers to face swords and arrows? What did the Shunnamite Woman know that made her saddle her donkey after she saw her dead son and all she kept saying was "It is well"?

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

The dancing steps of a Christian will never be the same as that of everyone else because we listen to a different drummer. What will make me keep singing the song "God will do wonders but how He will do it I do not know" a day before a deadline? In the face of your tests, let the words in

your heart erupt into songs of the spirit in your mouth.

When the enemy requests you to sing the Lord's song amid strange circumstances, sing a loud one; they just requested their funeral song!

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

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

CONFESSION

I am not weakened by present unpleasant circumstances. I respond to fear by faith. My spirit and soul are loaded with the words of God

DAY 25

YOU ARE NOT DOING GOD A FAVOUR

Text: 1 Chronicles 28:9 NLT

"And Solomon, my son, learn to know the God of your ancestors intimately. Worship and serve him with your whole heart and a willing mind."

I was speaking with a dear son when he made a very profound statement. He said, "Sir, the Lord told me that whenever He asks me to sow a seed, it is because I am the one in need". It was too profound for me.

There are times we posture as if we are doing God a favour. If God calls you to ministry to serve Him, you are not doing God a favour. When you leave your certificate to serve in ministry, you are doing God a favour. Do not begin to develop a sense of entitlement. If you will do, you will leave the stage. Once you think, you are the only one, your replacement is waiting!

If at any time you find yourself giving to God through a ministry, a minister or the needy, you are not doing them a favour and you are not doing God a favour. It is only a privilege. If men are wise enough to know there can not be just one pillar in a building, God knows that one man must never be able to boast that, "If not for me, that church would have not stood or that Pastor would have been homeless". Never let it happen to you at all.

If you know you are in your church by revelation and instruction, do not think you are doing your Pastor a favour. You are not! Put your heart and your hands fully into what the Lord has commanded you. Perfect alignment is needed for fruitfulness. Branches do not produce fruit by playing "touch and go" with the stem. They stay there! The branch that winds succeeds in carrying away has been denied its destiny.

If you are called alongside a minister and you know it with all assurance, serve with your heart. Men will call you names but the Lord will never put you to shame.

Jesus made a very heavy statement while explaining offence to his disciples. He said even if your master does not thank you for all you have done but He goes ahead to give you more work to do:

"Suppose one of you has a servant who comes in from plowing the field or tending the sheep. Would you take his coat, set the table, and say, 'Sit down and eat? Wouldn't you be more likely to say, 'Prepare dinner; change your clothes and wait table for me until I've finished my coffee; then go to the kitchen and have your supper? Does the servant get special thanks for doing what's expected of him? It's the same with you. When you've done everything expected of you, be matter-of-fact and say, 'The work is done. What we were told to do, we did.'" Luke 17:7 – 10 MSG

Kill that entitlement. You are not doing God a favour.

CONFESS I O N

I serve God's purpose with the right heart. I seek the Lord with a perfect heart.

DAY 26

HE LOST THE DESIRE FOR DRUGS

Text: John 15:3 NKJV

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

He had spent some of his teenage years living in a Pastor's house. He felt he was being choked. Once he got the freedom to step out to school, he slid into sex and drugs. He was getting into gambling. He had seen one of the popular foreign musicians as a role model. He wanted to look like him no matter the cost. He was a low-budget version! His life was a mess.

Fortunately, he had to be withdrawn from school. He found his way into the church. He would come to church and return to his drugs. One good thing was that he kept coming. He said once that his body would be shivering with a desire for drugs even while in church.

But one day, he left the church, as usual, to go smoke some of the stuff. That day everything changed. The desire to quit was suddenly overwhelming. He could not smoke his hemp. It felt strange. Something had died on his inside. Constant exposure to the Word of the Lord has changed his story. He also got baptized in the Holy Ghost and that was the beginning of a new life.

First, life has no meaning without the Lordship of Jesus. A sinful life is not a free life. Stop thinking sinning is the freedom to do what you want. No! A life of sin is a slave of the devil. How do you know you are a slave? You cannot stop of your own volition. Just try to stop using your will. You can try for some days but you return to your indulgence. Sin is slavery.

A sinner is a servant of sin- "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin..." Romans 6:17 KJV

Second, sin wants to have dominion even over the believer but constant exposure to the Word of God is what makes it impossible for sin to rule over us. No matter what, make sure you are constantly exposed to the Word of God.

The Word of God is your defence against sin. When sin tries to penetrate your life, it can only

be resisted by the Word. David said that we must hide the Word of God in our hearts if we will not sin against the Lord. In every temptation of Jesus by the devil, Jesus had to reply with "It is written". Keep the Word in your heart.

The Word of God is a cleansing agent. It cleans us up.

that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
Ephesians 5:26 KJV

By the Word, spots, wrinkles and blemishes are dealt with:

that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:27 KJV

If you stay long enough with and in the Word, your life cannot remain the same. Do not let the devil lie to you to stop staying around the Word and studying the Word because your case is bad. He is a liar. The Word works. That addiction will bow to the Word. Stay there! Do not leave the church. Stay there.

You will be free!

CONFESS I O N

I stay long in God's words. My soul and spirit are saturated with the word of God. I live by the word of God.

DAY 27

LEGIT EXCUSES AND MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Text: Hebrews 6:12 NLT

"Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance."

I was already in the city of Ibadan before I sent Papa (my grandfather in the faith) a message that I wanted to drop a gift as sent by my Dad in his office. He replied and said, "Bring it tomorrow please. I am out of town".

Now, it would have been easy to say to him that "Sir, I am already in Ibadan. I have to return to Eruwa today because I have a tight schedule tomorrow". He would likely tell me to simply drop it in the office. But I refused to. I simply responded with "Yes sir".

I had to return to Eruwa that same day. I preached the opening session at my Dad's convention early the next morning and began a return trip to Ibadan again. And the road was not even a comfortable drive.

But something happened after I had delivered the message. First, Papa asked me to come back because he wanted to see me personally and ask about an important decision in my life. Second, as I was to leave his office, he said some very powerful words to me that became a life-shaping encounter.

He said, "Son, I just returned from a retreat to prepare for ____ (their flagship meeting for the year), you are the first person I am seeing, let me bless you". Yes, he did.

Beloved, you are made by following. Jesus said to the disciples, "Follow me and I will make you..." (Matthew 4:19). The Christian walk is not an isolated one, neither is it a solo run.

Second, following will never be cheap. The demand will be high at times. You must be willing to pay the price. Peter mentioned a huge price they paid in following Jesus:

Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!" Mark 10:28 NIV

There are times following would mean leaving

all behind to follow God and the one God has ordained to train and equip you for the assignment of God upon your life. You cannot be emotional or sentimental about it.

So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant. 1 Kings 19:21 NIV

Some decisions you make while following your God-ordained destiny link would look stupid to those who do not understand destiny decisions. They will see you as Ruth following Naomi who has "nothing" to offer. Stay focused. Stay humble. Stand learning. Don't be discouraged. There is a divine parcel that is tied to your obedience.

For someone questioning why we should follow a man (since we have Jesus already): that ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 6:12 KJV

Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:1 KJV

Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine and learn from those who follow our example.

Philippians 3:17 NLT

CONFESS I O N

I follow a good pattern of Christ. I am not led into error. I enjoy the blessings of following.

DAY
28

SOME WARNINGS CAN BE VERBAL

Text: Hebrews 12:25 NIV

"See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks..."

A dear father had a strong pattern of indulging in alcohol. It was so terrible that at a point when the wife delivered a male child through Caesarean section. He left his wife in her state and went to drink with his friends. He was the late-night crawler.

One of such nights, he returned home drunk and his daughter said to him in Yoruba, "Useless man, he has gone to drink again". Amazingly, that was the day he stopped drinking and his walk with Christ began.

His warning came loud and clear. He had to choose between heeding the warning or doing things just the same way. His life went upward from that day.

God can use voices in your life to get you back on track or preserve you from trouble. It was the nephew of Paul the Apostle that brought the news about the scheme to eliminate him. That information saved Paul from those zealots.

Apostle Paul warned the captain and the crew that there was going to be a storm but they looked down on his warning. They followed expert opinion and perceived the external calmness of the wind.

Shortly after setting out, the storm hit them badly and showed us what happens to those who refuse to yield to divine warnings:

First, they lost their course. There was so much difficulty and the journey was very slow.

We made slow headway for many days and had difficulty arriving off Cnidus. When the wind did not allow us to hold our course, we sailed to the lee of Crete, opposite Salmone.

Acts 27:7 NIV

Second, they wasted and lost time. There are

people today full of regrets because they had wasted and lost time in life and destiny.

Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous...

Acts 27:9 NIV

Third, they lose precious resources. Some losses are avoidable.

We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard.

Acts 27:18 NIV

Fourth, if caution is not taken, they will lose hope. When hopelessness sets in, the journey of life becomes difficult.

When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

Acts 27:20 NIV

When you heed divine warnings, your life takes an upward and forward trajectory. Correction lifts us in life. Take it with joy. If it comes through a sermon, do not argue. Adjust! If it comes through a situation, adjust. If it comes from a small child, take it and adjust.

What warnings are you ignoring? Can you bear the consequences?

CONFESSION

I do not despise the voice of the spirit. I discern and follow my inner witness through the spirit of God. I will not fall into deception.

DAY 29

HOW TO HANDLE HURTS

Text: Matthew 5:44 NLT

"But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!"

I looked at my proteges that night and said to them, "I pray the blessings of the Lord more for those who hurt me". They obviously needed more explanation.

I did not know when these words dropped from my mouth, "Every hurt is a test for me. The Lord checks my attitude. He checks my heart".

Honestly, offence will surely come. People will offend you. You will at times be repaid with evil. There will be times you will be ill-treated even though you did well.

You will be sold and betrayed by those you call brothers. You can be falsely accused and treated as scum.

Can I whisper some things to you? Every hurt is your audition for greatness. God is much more interested in your response to the hurt than in the hurt itself.

Jesus mastered this. He was not thinking of Judas' betrayal as the nails were driven in and the pains intensified; He was fixated on His love for you and me. He was lost in the assignment.

You are hurt I know, but must you now add a bad attitude to it? Ah! You will stay long in that wilderness.

The password out of the prison is not your brooding but the breathing of life and graceful words to others around you.

Every hurt is your audition for greatness. God wants people who will be stuck to the kingdom agenda rather than those who will be plotting revenge.

I know! I know it hurts. Sick people are never coronated. Get well fast and face the journey to the throne. Heal at the altar. Walk to the throne.

Do not let that hurt become bitterness. The man called Ahitophel whose words were like the counsel of God got so fixated on his hurts that he could not forgive a man God had forgiven.

If you handle that hurt well, it will turn out as a blessing in disguise.

The one who hurt you will no longer seem like your enemy. Why? It turned out for good.

Pray for those who hurt you. Heal. The sick are not coronated. Every hurt is your audition for greatness.

Do not be fixated on vengeance when Kingdom Agenda is waiting to be executed. Every hurt is your audition for greatness. Are you passing or failing?

CONFESSION

I am not crushed down by hurts. I do not entertain offence in my heart. I have a perfect heart.

DAY 30

LET NOTHING STEAL YOUR JOY

Text: Habakkuk 3:18 NKJV

"Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation"

I left home that morning in very high spirit. I walked to the ministry office praying and singing. I was singing with joy. It rained the previous evening. It was a really cool morning.

When I got to the office and I opened the door, the song in my mouth vanished. The entire office was flooded. I was momentarily down. Thoughts began to rush- "Why are you even in Eruwa?" "A whole lawyer! Is this what you will be doing with your degree?" "Do you see that is why others are leaving and not staying for long working with you" (the two ministry volunteers just left town. I was the only one in the office).

But then humorously, I told myself, "Jesus walked on water. Temi, this is your opportunity to walk in water". I remembered a statement from a training that season, "I am not sad because things are bad. Things are bad because I am sad".

Everything turned at that moment. The devil will not have me. I began to sing again. I sat in the middle of the flood and sang for a while. When I was done, I had strength. I called those who could help. We salvaged the situation.

Beloved, do not let the devil use a situation to build a web of strange thoughts in your heart because of an isolated incident. He is the master in linking unrelated matters to build an image of hopelessness. You must not agree with the image he is bringing into your space. Refuse it! Reject it.

I have seen situations where a spouse made a simple statement and before you know it, you begin to hear strange narratives that were never spoken or intended. If you permit, the devil will drag you into the abyss of despair. You will begin to ask yourself, "How did I get here?"

If you have been feeding yourself with songs and teachings that sponsor mood swings, once

you get into a crisis, you will sink deeper. Listen, the person or things you give your ears to are very important. Who has your ears? What are you being loaded with?

When physical things begin to go wrong around you, kindly note that the aim of the devil is not the physical things, it is always spiritual things he wants to deny you of. For instance, if you lose your job, it is not about your job. The devil is after your joy. Joy is more expensive. Joy can get you another job. Joy can turn you into a full-time soul winner while waiting for a job.

When the devil steals your job, do not let him proceed to steal your joy. That would be a greater loss. If you are trusting God for a child, kindly keep rejoicing over your spouse. Do not lose your joy because of what you are waiting for. Enjoy yourselves to the fullest.

Things do not fail until joy has failed:

The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, *even all* the trees of the field, *are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men*.

Joel 1:12 KJV

Fight for your joy. Stay in joy.

This season, do not feed yourself with negative news. Hold on to the profession of your faith. Build a canopy of God's Word over your heart. You are blessed!

CONFESS I O N

I have joy in all situations. Sorrow is not my portion. The joy of the Lord is my strength.

DAY 31

IF YOU HAVE AN ASSIGNMENT

Text: Ephesians 5:14 NKJV

Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

While I prayed at midnight, I heard the door of the library opening and there walked in Danielle. She had been attempting her assignment late the previous evening but it was obvious she was already very tired. I asked her to get some sleep.

My surprise is she woke up at about 2 am and picked up her assignment. She was more active. She solved the sums with greater ease. When she was done at about 3 am, she went in to sleep.

But a few minutes later, she was back to ask me, "Daddy, is it not yet time to pray". I smiled and said, "Baby, go and rest. We still have about two hours more to family devotion".

Assignment-conscious men cannot sleep all night. The routine of men who are conscious of destiny assignment is not normal. They take adequate rest but the rest is to gather strength to confront the assignment. Even rest has a purpose.

Jesus Christ is our model. Jesus would arise long before dawn and find a place of communion with the Father (Mark 1:35). He would download templates for the execution of his life's assignment. He knew and showed us that the flesh cannot execute divine tasks. It will be too tough.

There were times when Jesus spent the evening on the mountain. He then returned to spend the day in the temple. People were drawn to him to learn but that content was not built in one day.

And in the daytime, he was teaching in the temple; and at night he went out, and abode in the mount that is called the mount of Olives. And all the people came early in the morning to him in the temple, for to hear him.

Luke 21:37 – 38 KJV

My mentor would say to me that the last thing he does at night is to take note of what will be done the next day. When you sleep with a vision, you will wake up with a mission.

It is very easy for the last thing you did at night to become the first thing you will do in the morning. If you press your phone surfing social media before sleeping, you will likely do the same when you wake up. If you put a prayer signal in your spirit before sleeping, you will wake up with prayers in your heart and on your lips.

Be disciplined enough to know that assignment consciousness requires you to be alert. Champions during the day have mastered the night also.

When you have an assignment to deliver, sleep for strength but do not oversleep such that you wake up and realise that you have just a little time left before the season of accountability. Pace yourself in destiny so you do not need to be running with the urgency of a late-comer.

May God help us all. Amen.

CONFESSION

I awake from my spiritual slumber. I receive the strength to forge ahead. I am conscious of my divine assignment. I will fulfil my purpose.



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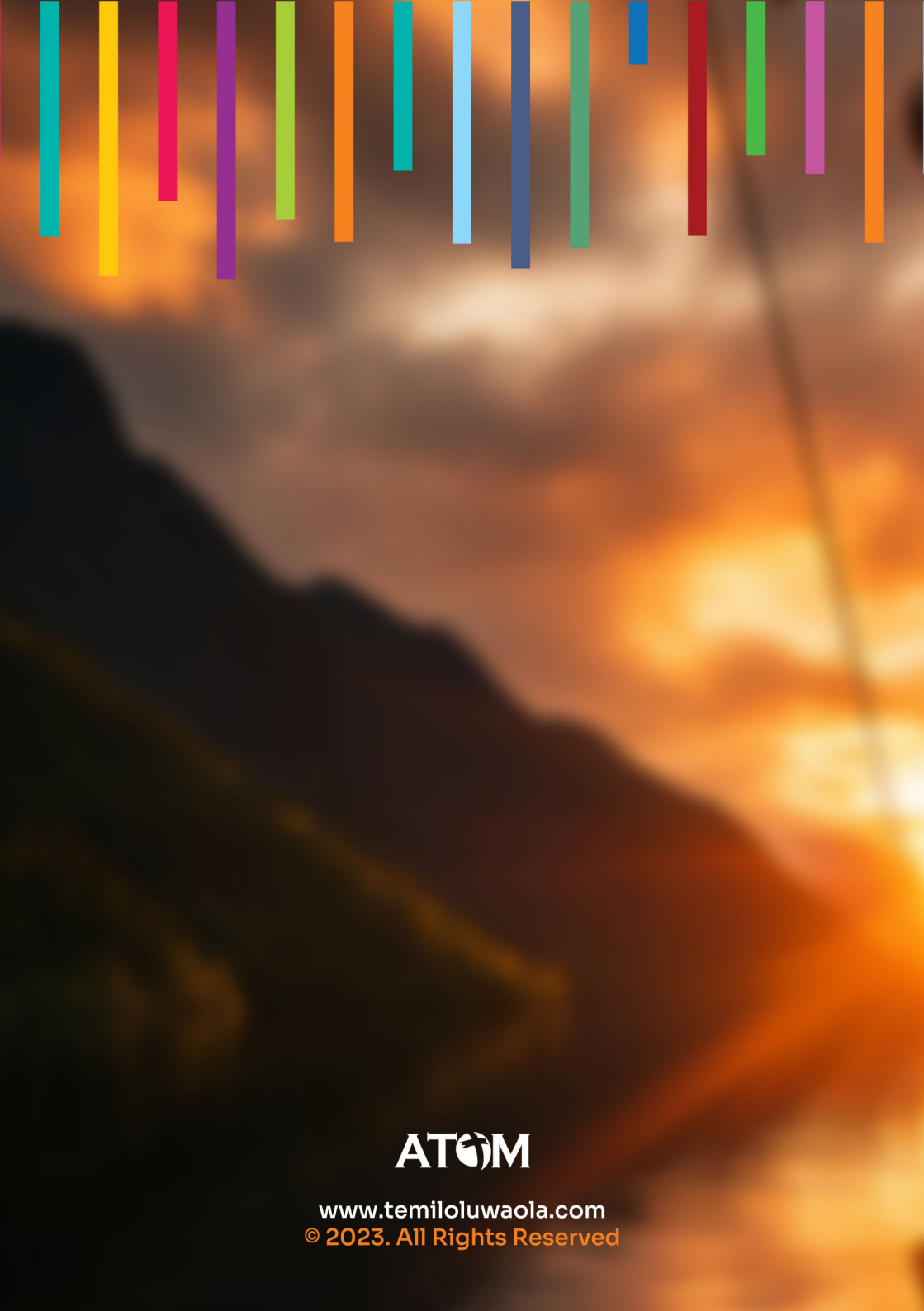


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