

- FEBRUARY 2024 -

COMPASS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



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SALE!**

Temiloluwa Ola

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I write because I love God and I love you.

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

The Lord bless you and multiply you all around.

Feedback

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

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

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

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

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

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

- CHISOMAGA, ABUJA

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

- JUSTINA OYEDEJI, ILE-IFE, OSUN STATE

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

TGod bless you, Pastor.

- MICHAEL, GHANA

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

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

- TOLULOPE, IBADAN

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

- ESTHER AMOS, ENUGU

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

- DESIRE, UGANDA

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

- INIOLUWA, OGBOMOSHO, OYO STATE

Feedback

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

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

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

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

- JEREMIAH UGWULEBO, PORTHARCOURT

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

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

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

- REBECCA OSEYI, EDO STATE

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

- MARIE LAUREL, CAMEROON

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

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

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

- NANCY GABRIEL, NASARAWA

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

Thank you so much Sir

- OPE POPOOLA, UNITED KINGDOM

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

- OLUWABUSOLAMI, LAGOS

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

- DUDLEY CHIDZIVA, ZIMBABWE

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

- PATRICIA, ABUJA

DAY 01

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

Text: Hebrews 13:5 NKJV

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

I rewamiri stepped out. Danielle stepped out also. Olive began to look around and wanted to cry. She did not know I was right behind her. I picked up her toy, got her attention and said to her, "You are not alone. I am here with you". She beamed a smile and continued playing.

I believe the Lord is asking me to say to you that "You are not alone. God is right there with you". The storm will not bury you. You will see the end of the crisis. It will not be the other way around.

Do you remember the disciples went through a storm when Jesus was not there in the boat with them? The storm was intense. Just at that same time, Jesus came walking upon the waters. Jesus is walking right on top of whatever is attempting to bury you. You are not alone!

Paul amid a hectic storm said, "But take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down. For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me"

Acts of the Apostles 27:22-23 NLT

Beloved, the Lord never leaves or abandons his own. David knew that quite alright.

"God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we

will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea." Psalms 46:1-2 NLT

In the days of King Saul, Nahash the King of Ammonites attacked the town of Jabesh-Gilead and told them that he would gouge out their eyes so they could be a symbol of shame in Israel.

They asked him for seven days. He saw them as hopeless and helpless. But they sent to Saul and they got a response from the king saying: "Tomorrow, by that time the sun be hot, ye shall have help."

1 Samuel 11:9 KJV

I declare concerning someone who is quarter to shame that "You will not be disgraced. Help will show up for you. Shame will be far from you".

Today, rest assured that you are not alone. Walk with that understanding. Favour surrounds you like a shield.

CONFESSIO N

I overcome every form of storm. I am not stranded. Shame is far from me. God is with me.

DAY 02

JUMPING TREES

Text: Psalm 92:13 NKJV

Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

A young man came to me once after one of our services. He said that he felt led to be a member of the church. He said, "It was the Spirit that led me to come here this morning. As a matter of fact, I left my church to come".

I thanked God for his life but then asked him, "What role do you play in church?" He was in assisting the leadership of one of the units. I said to him, "Thanks for coming today. We would be glad to receive you here on one condition- would you kindly approach your pastor and tell him what the Spirit told you? Come back after you have met with your pastor. God bless you". I did not see him afterwards.

I could relate with him because I used to be like him in my early days as a believer (He was even better off). I had no church where I settled (back then on campus). I could be on my way to my regular fellowship and then "one spirit" will just blow me to another one that I heard their sound on the way. I fellowshipped as the wind blew. It did not help my growth in any way. I thought that was being led by the Spirit.

First, God is not a God of disorderliness. He is also not the author of confusion.

For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. Let all things be done decently and in order.

1 Corinthians 14:33, 40 KJV

People who behave that way have not come to understand the place of the Local Church and the role of a Pastor in their lives. There are two things the Lord will bless every believer with: A Spiritual Family (The Local Church) and a Shepherd (A Pastor):

Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion: and I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. Jeremiah 3:14-15 KJV

God will bring you to Zion (a picture of the church) and He will give you Pastors according

to his heart.

It is pride (that flows from ignorance) to say "I belong everywhere. I don't have a church. I go anywhere as the spirit leads me".

Even by nature, when a child is born, his identity is traced to a family where he is nurtured and trained. He is also taught how to be responsible. The family cares for him also.

Can you imagine your child brought home a potential spouse and you ask about his identity and family and he or she says, "I am a human being. I don't belong to any family. Being a human being is enough. There are times I am a part of your family and there are times I can belong to another family. But just know I am a human being". Will you allow your child to marry a vagabond? Definitely not!

One of the important decisions you must make this season is to be rooted in a Church as led by the Spirit of the Lord. Stop confusing yourself. Stop jumping around.

Only trees that are planted can be fruitful. Trees are not made to jump from place to place. They cannot survive that way. You are also the planting of the Lord; you are not wired to jump around.

Jumping trees have no fruit.
Jumping trees have withered leaves.
Jumping trees lack nutrients
Jumping trees cannot get pruned.
Jumping trees end up lacking life
Jumping trees dry up.
Are you a jumping tree?

CONFESSION

I am not a spiritual vagabond. I am planted in the house of the Lord. I am committed to my local church.



THAT MISTAKE IS NOT THE END!

Text: Isaiah 30:15 AMP

For the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel has said this, "In returning [to Me] and rest you shall be saved, In quietness and confident trust is your strength." But you were not willing...

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

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

God is not excited when we make mistakes, but God's love for you is more than your mistakes. If you are open to showing him where things went wrong, He is more than willing to improve.

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

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

Luke 15:22 KJV

God never runs out of supplies. We only keep running out of His presence. The devil delights in using schemes to keep people away from fellowship with the Lord.

Do not be attracted to what looks like a beautiful alternative. Do not eat a fruit while you lose a garden. It is a device. No matter how messed up you are, the arm of the father is always open. His outstretched arm is wide enough to heal and provide.

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

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

CONFESSION

I do not wander from God's presence. I enjoy my Father's presence always.

DAY 04

THE VOICES IN THE CROWD

Text: Hebrews 12:2 NKJV

Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

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

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

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

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

Friend, one of the things that keep us going and enduring in this spiritual race is the quality of the witnesses in the grandstand watching and hailing us.

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

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

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

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

Think of David screaming and saying, "Yes! That's how we do it. We get the forehead of that giant. We run towards that challenge"
Think of Paul saying to you, "Pick up yourself. I was worse off. I started later than others but I still

attained the prize".

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

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

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

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

This season, do not be discouraged. Remember Hebrews 12:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. Hebrews 12:1 NLT

CONFESSION

I enjoy the company of encouragers. I have the strength of God to keep running my race. I stay on track. I will end well.



HOW TO KNOW YOU ARE GROWING (1)

Text: 1Corinthians 13:13 NIV

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

When I got her text message recounting some of the moments, she had been through in her life's journey, I rolled over from the bed to the floor and burst into tears. Rather than feel disgusted, the love in my heart skyrocketed to an amazingly great level.

Love is not pity. Love is proof that you have encountered the resurrection power of God. You have moved from death to life. If you have been touched by God's love, you have a duty to pass it on.

Do you remember the leper that came to Jesus? He asked that if Jesus is willing, he should make him whole. Jesus before healing him touched him. Who touches a leper?

I heard of a couple who decided to live in a leper colony so they could share the gospel. They said to those who discouraged them, "Are there no souls behind those walls?"

Do you know those dirty young beggars that grab your hands in some cities, how do you treat them? Are you quick to shove them aside?

I remember driving with a dear one a couple of years ago who said derogatory things about a young boy tapping the car and asking for alms. He called the boy a thief. I was unsettled.

Love is also proof that your mind is being renewed by the knowledge of God. Love is the weapon of the believer to win souls. Love is our tool for building unity.

A believer who knows the love of God is not tied to tribal sentiments. He or she does not say, "I cannot marry from that tribe" or "I cannot do business with that tribe". In Christ, there is no Greek or Jew.

A Christian walking in love does not call her leaders unwholesome names. For instance, how do you say "stupid governor" or "mad president" and you don't have a bite in your heart?

This is what Jesus said: 'Don't hit back at all.' If someone strikes you, stand there and take it. If someone drags you into court and sues for the shirt off your back, giftwrap your best coat and make a present of it.

And if someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant's life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously.

"You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst.

If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that. Matthew 5:38-47 MSG

CONFESSION

I walk in love. I speak and express love to everyone. My words edify and show love. I am a love child of God.

DAY 06

HOW TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE GROWING (II)

Text: Acts 24:16 NKJV

This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

In 2013, I was on the bus returning from Uyo to Ibadan. A corps member sat by my side. We began to talk. Then she began to talk about an organisation called TOUCH. She said glowing things about the person who started it as she was told.

I asked for the name of the person who started it. She said, "I think it is one Pastor Temi". I was sitting right beside her. She discovered a few hours into the journey that I was the one. We had a good laugh.

One of the qualities of a mature person is a godly report- people have great things to say about him or her. Before they chose the seven Deacons to serve in the early church, one of the prerequisites was to be men of good reputations.

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. Acts 6:3 KJV

When Paul got to Lystra, he found Timothy and "he was well spoken of the brethren in Lystra and Iconium".

As a matter of fact, Paul said that he takes the pain to do what is right in the sight of God and man:

For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man. 2 Corinthians 8:21 NIV

Stop using "God sees my heart" to cover up your terrible reputation.

Hear the words of Samuel: "Look at me! Do you have any complaints to bring before God and his anointed? Have I ever stolen so much as an ox or a

donkey? Have I ever taken advantage of you or exploited you? Have I ever taken a bribe or played fast and loose with the law? Bring your complaint and I'll make it right."

The people responded "Oh no, "never. You've never done any of that—never abused us, never lined your own pockets." 1 Samuel 12:13-4 MSG

What is your testimony at home? Have I told you a story my Pastor shared about the Elder who beat his wife, locked her up at home and led "I see the Lord" on the pulpit? The pastor told him, "When you finish seeing the Lord, see me".

What is your testimony at work- productive or lazy, approachable or touchy, upright or otherwise? What do your clients and customers have to say about you? What do your neighbours have to say about you? If your pastor visits and introduces himself, would they be shocked that you go to church?

One of the signs that you have grown is simple- people have great things to say about you. What is your testimony? What do people have to say about you? Those things count.

CONFESSIO N

I have a good testimonial. I do not engage in shady things. My life exudes virtues and kingdom character.

DAY 07

HOW TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE GROWING (III)

Text: Hebrews 10:36 AMP

For you have need of patient endurance [to bear up under difficult circumstances without compromising], so that when you have carried out the will of God, you may receive and enjoy to the full what is promised.

As the doctor treated the bullet wound on my back, he said to me “You will feel a small bite on your back soon. Endure the pain. We will be close to finishing the stitching”. I felt the small bite but let out a deep groan. It was painful but I knew it would soon be over.

One of the proofs of growth is endurance. You will have a promise of a seed and you will have to patiently endure even though everything is telling you to sleep with Hagar and birth an Ishmael.

When a woman takes in, she knows that it is a journey of nine months. She does not pray that God should shorten the time. A baby born in 4 months is an abortion.

No matter what you do, some things must be endured. God makes all things beautiful in their own time. If it is not beautiful yet, be patient. Keep giving your best. Its time will soon come.

One of the attributes of a wise man is the ability to understand time and master process. If you know the season you are in, it will be easier for you to endure.

A student can endure training and a regimented lifestyle because it is a season of life. He will endure sometimes unfavourable conditions and tough teachers. What season of life are you?

The question that Elisha asked Gehazi is simple but weighty. He asked him, “Is this the time...?” If you can ask yourself constantly whether the time is right for a decision, you will operate better in life.

When we are at the right place at the wrong

time, we will see what we are not meant to see and do what we are not meant to do. David and Bathsheba are great examples. Proper placement and the right timing are protection on the journey of life and destiny.

If you do not want to see Ishmael taunting Isaac, then you must endure. The pain of regret is more than the pain of enduring the process. Your inability to endure can leave a generational scar.

When I stepped into Eruwa, I had a small card on my table where I wrote the words of Jentezen Franklin: “Others have been where you are now and did not quit, why should you?”

Friend, if you cannot fly, run. If running seems hard, walk. If you cannot walk, crawl. If you cannot crawl, ask for help! But never quit.

My pastor taught me that the reason why a lot of people fail is simply that we do not stay long enough on one assignment to see it succeed.

Endure the pain. Endure the process. Master the timing. Take one step at a time. Do not abort the process. Be strong. It will turn out well.

CONFESSION

I have staying power. I do not give up easily. I stay on the vision of God for my life.

DAY 08

HOW TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE GROWING (IV)

Text: Philippians 4:5 NLT

Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.

DAn “evangelist” was telling me passionately about how his mentor had helped a lot of prostitutes. He claimed his mentor would drive to a red-light district to pick up one or two prostitutes. He would “romance” them in the car. Afterwards, he drives them home where his wife is waiting for them to preach the gospel to them. I was shocked.

One of the signs that you are growing as a believer is an ability to make the right choices as led by the Spirit of God.

God’s standard will not be lowered to accommodate our weaknesses. God made it clear when that we do not have to struggle to find His will- abstain from sexual immorality!

Paul told us – “Don’t allow love to turn into lust, setting off a downhill slide into sexual promiscuity, filthy practices, or bullying greed. Though some tongues just love the taste of gossip, those who follow Jesus have better uses for language than that. Don’t talk dirty or silly. That kind of talk doesn’t fit our style. Thanksgiving is our dialect.” (Ephesians 5:3-4 MSG)

If you are ever caught in a place and you will have to start explaining why you are there, is it not better not to even start it at all?

There are some forms of speaking that must be far from you as you grow. Growth refines our walk and our talk.

One of the reasons why we study the Word of God is to attain maturity and moral excellence. We get trained and we develop skills to recognize the difference between

right and wrong.

How do we handle other people’s money? Can you be trusted with what is not yours? Do you borrow and convert to yours without returning it? That is what Proverbs calls wickedness.

We must not be believers with stickers on our car that speak better than our character. You cannot be speaking in tongues but still fornicating. We must be believers whose lives are free of offences and full of love.

We must be believers whose virtue is patience and would not call “cutting corners” breakthroughs or compromise testimonies. We must be God’s gentle fire; burning in the morning and ablaze at night.

When our character is strong, our influence gets better. We will be the man on our street whose voice cannot be turned down or counsel rejected.

As believers, we are called to Moral Excellence. We cannot drop the ball. God’s standard is so high. In His court, lustful thought is adultery and anger is murder.

Do not drop the ball!

CONFESSION

I do not languish in character deficiency. I am transformed daily to be Christlike. I am a model for Christ to my generation.

DAY 09

DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH FUEL?

Text: Ecclesiastes 9:8 NKJV

Let your garments always be white, And let your head lack no oil.

I woke up at night and realised that the water had stopped running. The normal thing to do was to get to pump water but there were two challenges: First, there was no power supply. Second, there was no fuel in the generator. We ran out of fuel the previous evening.

Night seasons come in life's journey and you must be prepared for it. Do not get to the night season of life and realise that you have no supply to power the needs that the night season is presenting.

The story of the ten Virgins makes us know that there is nothing as important as having extra oil in the night seasons. If you use up all the supply in the ordinary things of life, you will be stranded when extraordinary things happen.

Paul and Silas were Apostles with extra supplies. In prison at midnight, the proof that supply was available manifested. They were in chains and should be asking questions but there was supply- They sang hymns and prayed.

When there is a supply in the midnight season, the things that depress others become your fuel for refreshing.

And beloved, you have supply in the Word of God. The Word of God feeds and strengthens the soul. Feed on the Word. When challenges come, you will be able to stand. Jesus did not start reading the scriptures when the devil was tempting

him. It came out because it was there.

There is the supply of the Spirit. Pray in the Spirit at all times. Pray without ceasing. Pray to build up your inner strength.

For I am well assured and indeed know that through your prayers and a bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ (the Messiah) this will turn out for my preservation (for the spiritual health and welfare of my own soul) and avail toward the saving work of the Gospel. Philippians 1:19 AMPC

Do not burn till you burn out. Do not run out of fuel when it is most critical. Store up. Build up. You will never be stranded.

Read what Paul told the church in Rome:

Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Romans 12:11-12 MSG

Do you have enough fuel or are you burning out?

CONFESSION

I am not stranded in the seasons of life. My head does not lack oil. I keep my altar aflame. I enjoy constant supplies of the spirit.



BE PATIENT. JUST OBEY. YOU WILL SOON UNDERSTAND

Text: Jeremiah 17:7 NLT

But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence.

We had checked on the house about three weeks earlier and I told my wife that we were not going to rent that particular place and I had my reason.

She did not argue with me. As I drove into our former residence, the Holy Spirit impressed in my heart that the house I rejected was actually the house to rent. Later, I knew why the Lord would have us stay in that house.

There are times when the Lord is leading us but we only get to understand in retrospect. How many times have you woken up months or years later to say “I now understand why so and so happened”?

The first important thing we must learn is to trust God even when we do not understand him. Putting our trust in God must be our priority.

God can order your steps to meet someone today that will be critical for the phase of your life that you have not even seen yet. He can bring a person today that you would not understand why until an event takes place years later.

The prophet Isaiah said, “His understanding is unsearchable”. You will have challenges with following Divine prompts if trust is poor.

Sometimes, the thing the Lord will ask you to do will not make any sense to you and the people around you.

For instance, to date, I still have to answer questions like, “Why are you not practising Law?”, “You are so smart. Why did you leave Law for Ministry?” Or “Why did you decide to be in Eruwa of all places?”

Trust is a key part of our journey of faith. When

faith starts in obedience, it always ends in thanksgiving.

On the journey of faith, there are no two pairs of eyes, just one! Make sure God is the seeing party. Be the blind party.

Let him hold your hands while you follow his lead. Let him tell you when to walk and where you place your feet. Let him tell you when to stop and where to step.

When Paul told the men not to set sail because he perceived in his heart that the journey was going to be full of troubles, they discarded it. They followed the “expert” opinion. Expert opinion is credible but it is based on experience. The revelation of God is incomparable- it is a withdrawal from what has not happened yet.

There are things the Lord will ask you to do today that may take the next 10 years to make sense to you. Please, just trust Him. Be the blind party. Let Him lead you.

When we follow God in trust, we will always return with thanksgiving.

Trust God, Beloved! Trust Him!

CONFESS I O N

*I do not pattern my life after reason and logic.
I trust in the Lord. I walk in obedience.*

DAY 11

DO NOT FALL INTO THIS TRAP

Text: Matthew 11:16 NKJV

And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.

As we left the meeting, a dear protégé of mine said to me, “Sir, it takes pastoral grace to do what you did and still minister the truth to those young ones”. I was to teach a large crowd of teenagers, but they were distracted and noisy.

I said to him, “Sir, when I saw how distracted and noisy they were. I knew it was a trap to get me angry. Once I am angry, the anointing is hindered because you cannot be offended and anointed at the same time”.

I stayed calm. I kept speaking in love and taking charge of the atmosphere spiritually. In less than five minutes, there was perfect silence. The meeting ended with a huge impact.

Anger and offence are tools that the devil uses to distract us from what God is doing or what God is about to do in or through our lives. Offence blindfolds a man.

If you view people and life through the lenses of your hurts and anger, all you will see are faults. Offence will magnify a simple issue and turn it into a mountain. Offence quickly wipes away good memories and then replaces them with junk of faults. Refuse that trap.

For instance, the trap of offence will make a Pastor begin a lecture on the evil of late-coming to those who are in church early. The real latecomers are absent. Offence makes a man focus on what is missing rather than appreciate what is available.

Before you begin to make a list of what you wish you had, have you raised praise for what you have? Thank God for the old car before you begin to complain about its faults or ask

for a new one.

Thank God for the only child you have before you begin to complain that you have not gotten a second issue. Thank God for your marriage before you lay down the request for a baby. Give God praise for what you have.

When you are locked down in the prison of offence, the anointing to praise and make a difference will not flow. Those who know the protocol of the palace are never stranded at the gates.

We enter His gates with Thanksgiving. We enter His courts with praise. If offence steals your praise, your gates will remain shut. If anger shuts your mouth from thanksgiving, you will not access His courts. When you get into His court, anything can happen—mountains melt, rivers are divided, bread is multiplied, prison doors open, and raiding armies are scattered.

Do not let offence keep you away!
Glory to God.

CONFESSION

I do not permit offence in my heart. I am not consumed by anger. I yield to the spirit of God. I give thanks always.

DAY 12

FLY ALL "APPEARANCE" OF EVIL

Text: 2 Timothy 2:22

Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

While I was a student in one of the State Universities, I was not that rooted in the faith but the discipline of godly parenting helped me a whole lot.

I was studying one evening when one of the ladies who frequented our residence pulled away my notes from me and said, "Spencer, if you don't visit me, you will not get your note back. You will always just be looking gentle. Come and visit me". My note is still with her to date. She was one of the 'big girls' in school.

The fear of the Lord will keep you from falling. Stupid boldness will lead you into trouble. In matters that involve your destiny and suggestions of sin, flee like a coward. Let men call you weak but let heaven call you strong.

Joseph left his cloak in the hands of Mrs Potiphar. He did not return to say, "Ma, I want my cloak, please". He knew that it was a race where you must not look back.

If you already know that the young man or woman has some strange chemistry towards you and you also feel the same way, do not put yourself in a position that will lead you to unsolicited explanations. You do not have to go and unwind in his house. That's not the place to go for Netflix and Chill. You may be frozen forever by the choice you end up making.

When it comes to sexual sins, the definition of fighting the good fight of faith is anointing your two feet and running. Do not try to take a stand while Delilah is rubbing your head on her lap. You will lose your head and lose your life! Flee! There is no way that a

head on Delilah's lap would be coordinated enough to run. It will be caught between the mixed signals of pleasure and obedience.

Let men call you names but let heaven honour you. If you are a male minister of the gospel preaching out of base, do not allow a female friend to visit you alone, especially where you are lodged. Do it for the integrity of the gospel.

Paul was definitely a man of wisdom. Think about these statements:

-Carefully determine what pleases the Lord (Eph. 5:10)

-Don't act thoughtlessly (Eph. 5:17a)

-Don't be fooled by those who give excuses for sin (Eph. 5:6a)

-Abstain from all appearance of evil. 1 Thessalonians 5:22 KJV

Are those not wise words? Do you practise them?

CONFESSION

I flee from any appearance of evil. Sin will not have dominion over me. I am preserved by the Lord.

DAY 13

HARDER EFFORTS CAN'T REPLACE OBEDIENCE

Text: 1 Samuel 15:22 NIV

...To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

I was speaking with two ladies when the Lord dropped a Word in my heart for one of them. I did not know who in particular when I got the word. It was simple:

God said, "No matter how much you have invested in the wrong relationship, turn back now".

One of them confided later that she knew she was in the wrong relationship but she does not know where to even start. It has been on for so many years- the man is not even a child of God. She cried but I am not sure if she had the courage to obey God.

Amaziah was preparing for war. He took stock of his military strength. He realized that he needed to hire mercenaries for the battle.

"He also paid about 7,500 pounds of silver to hire 100,000 experienced fighting men from Israel" 2 Chronicles 25:6 NLT
After such a huge investment, a word came from the Lord:

But a man of God came to him and said, "Your Majesty, do not hire troops from Israel, for the Lord is not with Israel. He will not help those people of Ephraim! If you let them go with your troops into battle, you will be defeated by the enemy no matter how well you fight. God will overthrow you, for he has the power to help you or to trip you up." 2 Chronicles 25:7-8 NLT

You do not win battles by personal struggles but by divine alignment. No matter how much you struggle without divine backing,

it will end up as a loss.

Amaziah asked a question that we would all have asked:

Amaziah asked the man of God, "But what about all that silver I paid to hire the army of Israel?"

The response of the man of God is the reassurance that we all need when we need to obey God but the flesh does not find it comfortable.

The man of God replied, "The Lord is able to give you much more than this!"
2 Chronicles 25:9 NLT

Friends, no matter what you have to say bye to, God can give you much more.

Say bye to that ungodly relationship, he can bless you with someone better.

Say bye to that ungodly business, he can bless you with better ideas and ways of making a profit.

Harder efforts cannot replace obedience!

CONFESSION

*I do not make efforts in disobedience.
I yield my heart to God to obey His
prompts and instructions.*

DAY 14

IF YOU ARE IN LOVE, DO NOT HIDE IT!

Text: Jeremiah 31:3 NIV

The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

My parents were classmates in the tertiary institution. During an examination, my father took ill right in the hall. He had his work tools as a Fine Arts student but in his words, "I just kept looking at the paper before me. I had gone blank. The stress had taken its toll".

He was almost collapsing when some of his colleagues got a hold of him and carried him out for medical attention. But out of his fainting moment came the proof of love. My mum could not compose herself to write her paper. She had fallen in love. She left school to look for him that day. The rest is history.

I laughed over this story again recently but my spirit knew no rest as I picked the prompt, "Can the one you claim to love be fainting and you do nothing? Would you just mind your business?"

Friends, there is no hidden love here. Love comes with proof. Love is demonstrated. God demonstrated his love toward us by paying the ultimate price for our sins.

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. (Romans 5:8 NLT)

You cannot love God and hide it. When you are in love, it shows in your walk. When I got my first "Yes" from a chic, my brother knew something was different that day. Love will show on your face. You cannot hide it.

You claim to be in love with God but you mind your business without thinking of His business- you are not a lover. You claim you love God but you have never spoken about Him to your family and friends- you are not a lover.

Wait a minute- can you imagine being in love with someone who is not proud to show it? You are their hidden lover. That is rubbish! When men are in love, they will drop hints in every

discussion (even when it does not apply).

I know you go to church and play an active role but when last did you even win a soul? The best offering you can give to God is a soul. Your highest offering ever is nothing compared to the soul of a man. Souls are priceless. Souls are heaven's delight.

Your money does not wreak havoc in hell like when a soul is won. Soul-winning wreaks hell. You must love sinners so passionately that you hate to see them head to hell. Can you imagine you have a friend you see daily and yet your mouth is sealed? You sit with him daily to discuss business but every time you have a nudge to share the gospel, you wave it aside. Can you have the cure for cancer and keep quiet? No!

God did not set us up for mere activities. No shoe manufacturing company does not produce shoes- that would be weird. There cannot be an airport without planes landing and taking off- that would be strange! How then can we be a part of the church without souls being saved? We cannot be comfortable with our lights and sounds. We must not entertain people to hell. It would be terrible.

Love will show proof. You cannot hide it. It must show on your face and reflect in your walk but much more, it must come up in your conversations.

Cars, houses, and the latest gadgets are good but souls are priceless. My spiritual father said to us, "Only kids are impressed by toys". Go after souls. That is our only task!

CONFESSION

I love the Lord continually. The love of God abounds in my heart. I am product of God's love.

DAY
15

DO NOT GO! YOU MAY NEVER RETURN

Text: Psalm 37:23 AMP

The steps of a [good and righteous] man are directed and established by the LORD, And He delights in his way [and blesses his path].

In 2011 (right after my service year), the Lord told me that “every company builds its factory where the raw materials are. Go to where I have sent you”. I agreed with the call but I had just one more thing to tick off my to-do list- travel out for three weeks.

I was in the documentation phase. I had gotten all the documents I needed and was to progress to the agency managing the visa process. In devotion that morning, the Lord said to me, “Johannesburg. No!” It was tough to communicate with my loved ones but I did. I left Lagos and returned to Eruwa for the work.

Some years later, my sponsor for the trip said to the church while visiting, “Thank God you did not make that trip. By our plans, you would not have been here”. In his love for my progress, he had plans to schedule meetings with his friends who worked in multinationals. He was hoping I would get a good job that would necessitate a relocation. God saw it and blocked me!

I bring a word from the Lord to someone who has a call upon his life who is planning to take some time to cool off before hitting the ground running for the Lord, “If you go, you will get caught in the web of comfort. You will not find it easy returning to the place of your destiny”.

One of the major excuses you are giving is “Let me just go. It is just for a while”. You are in the negotiation phase with the Spirit of the Lord. You would not be the first to speak that way:

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. Ruth 1:1 NIV

What happened in the days when the judges ruled? Everyone did whatever they wanted. There was no regard for the guidance and governance of the Spirit of the Lord. We are back in those days.

Did you notice that the man from Bethlehem in Judah (the same place that Jesus Christ came from), who was meant to be a part of the progenitors of the biological lineage of Christ decided to go live for a while in Moab?

That “for a while” changed everything: He did not return. His sons did not return. Everywhere you see Boaz as a part of the lineage of Christ, it should have been first Elimelech. Boaz was physically the third in rank. Another elder who was selfish and wanted to protect his estate refused to take responsibility for Naomi and Ruth! Boaz did. Out of him came David and then Christ!

We are in the days of sensitivity where men like Boaz will be engrafted into God’s plan for a generation because those who were called abandoned their estate “just for a while”. We are in the days of the rising of “Boaz” who have been raised by the “Rahabs” of this world.

They are lovers of God. They would not break the covenant. They do not sleep with “Ruth” before marriage.

They honour authority. They have the money and the means but they are humble enough to submit to process and training. They are men of faith and they will not cut corners.

If there is a David in your loins, if there is a “Christ” in your loins, you cannot make decisions like every other person. Yours must be a destiny-grade decision. Some may make decisions for pleasure. Some may make decisions for survival. But for you, you must make decisions because destiny is involved.

CONFESSION

My steps are ordered by the Lord. I am guided to covenant places. I will not miss my direction in life.

DAY 16

IN YOUR WALK OF FAITH, LEARN THIS EARLY

Text: 2 Corinthians 3:5 NKJV

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God.

In my early years as a full-time minister, I was only assured of five thousand naira every month. It was a seed from a dear one who insisted that it was for me. I would still give four thousand out of it to the only ministry volunteer we had at the time. I would also pay my tithe.

I have an aunt and uncle who lives out of town. If I had any reason to be in their city, I would always stay in their house. It was certain that they would give me some cool cash anytime I was leaving.

When I saw that my heart was getting tied to it, I made a quiet decision. I announced my departure the day I arrived and I would not be reminding them again (some reminders can be stylish begging).

On one such trip, I got to them on a Sunday evening and told them I would leave on Tuesday because of our midweek service. They left for work pretty early. When it was time, I also left. They were angry with me but I got my freedom. My heart needed to be trained to rely on God alone.

Beloved, in your journey of faith, if you know you are trusting God, trust God. Do not start posturing around people with “strategic stories” that will elucidate pity. Do not drop hints strategically. Trust God. Trust God. On the walk of faith, only do what is instructed. Faith comes by hearing and it is also strengthened by hearing.

On the journey of faith, I have learnt that

you will get a beggarly portion when you choose to beg. Sometimes, the portion can even be subtle insults. But when you wait on God, He shows up in a big way. He gives you a kingdom portion.

If you know God, you will wait for Him. In your strength, you can produce Ishmael. However, in your waiting and in God’s strength, you can produce Isaac.

If God has called you to the work of ministry, please, do not go about begging. The calling works. God will show up. It is an opportunity to train yourself and strengthen your faith. There are things I remember now and process with God that bring tears to my eyes. Why? God never disappoints. Be calm. Be patient.

Let no man be able to point to you and say, “I made him. Without me, he cannot be who he is”. God forbid. Only God should take the glory.

CONFESSION

God is my sufficiency. I rely on divine supplies and God-inspired blessings through men.

DAY 17

UNDERSTANDING, NOT AGE!

Text: Hebrews 5:14 NLT

Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

Many years ago, I was visiting my uncle and aunt. My aunt, her first daughter (who was still a teenager) and I were discussing in the girls' room. We were so carried away in our conversation that we did not notice when my four-year-old niece stepped out of the bathroom.

The next thing I heard in the middle of our conversation was her voice. She said, "Uncle Temi, can you please excuse me? I want to dress up". We all froze. What did she just say? I quickly excused the "young lady" so she could dress up. I did not argue. I simply left. Why? She was talking from understanding.

Beloved, in the Christian walk, things respond to understanding and not age. A twelve-year-old boy who has grown in understanding can manifest manly traits. A sixty-year-old man who is limited in understanding will display a childish attitude.

Casting out the devil and his demons is not a function of age but a function of light. Any believer can cast out demons but the absence of light has kept many victims of the devil and his wiles.

If you do not invest in understanding, the enemy will stay in your space and relish seeing your nakedness. When you are not soaked in the word, you will be ignorant. When you are ignorant, you will be dominated.

There are two things that the believer must fight:

First is Ignorance. A lack of knowledge will destroy a believer. An ignorant believer will go through the same cycle as an unbeliever. Invest in studying the Word. Get soaked in it. If you are a parent, you are the primary Bible Study teacher of your children. Load them with the Word. Let them go to school "worded" in their minds.

The second is timidity. If you know it but you are not confident to act on it, you will get the same result as the ignorant man. The man who does not know the answers to an exam and the one who is afraid to write the answers because he is not sure will fail.

Confidence is the backbone of the Christian walk. The righteous must be as bold as a lion. The lion is not prey. The lion does not turn back from challenges. The lion's roar can travel up to eight kilometres. That's scary. You are not the one to be pitied. You are not the one to go hungry.

You are not the one to shiver because of the devil. No! That's not you. That's not you.

Your defence is in your growth in knowledge and boldness.

You need to be like my niece, "What are the things you need to say to- Excuse me?" What are the things to kick out of your space? Do it today.

CONFESSION

I am filled with the understanding of the word of God. The word is my defence. I grow in the word of God.

DAY 18

DEFINE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

Text: 2 Kings 2:12 NKJV

And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So he saw him no more...

I was having a conversation with a protege some years back and he shared a priceless lesson with me. He told me that it was better to give counsel only to people that I have defined relationships with. He mentioned that giving counsel to people who do not care is a waste of time.

My Pastor told some set of protégés once that his first rule of mentoring is, "I do not waste my time on people who do not care about their own lives".

Beloved, do not be pressured to share counsel with everyone. Jesus spoke to the crowd in parables but he gave explanations to the disciples whenever they came to ask for clarity.

The weight people attach to your counsel is the same weight that they attach to you. One way to be free from offence is to define the relationships you have with people. It will help you to stay within your boundaries.

Let no one stay in your circle that you cannot define exactly who they are to you- Teacher, Friend, Brother, Protégé, Son, Colleague, Husband, Wife, Pastor, and so on. A loose canon will become a wrecking ball.

Look at the people in your life today and ask, "Who is he or she to me?" It saves you a lot of emotional stress.

I learned a major lesson once as a Pastor. I was giving pastoral counsel and instruction to someone who is in church and he did not heed the counsel. I went back to the basics by asking, "Am I your Pastor?" He told me that he sees me as a brother. The fact that I preach to you every Sunday must not make me assume I am your pastor. I withdrew my counsel honourably afterwards.

Even Jesus asked his disciples two questions: Who do people say I am? Who do you say I am? (Matthew 16:13-20) Do not dignify a stranger

with access. Do not reward people equally. Define your relationships. Do not expect the contribution of a brother from someone who is an accomplice.

If you are in ministry, do not put the stamp of sonship hastily on anyone. You don't even pastor everyone in your church.

My Pastor would always say, "I know I don't pastor everyone in this church. I would not deceive myself". The fact that he attends every ceremony in your family does not make him a son.

There are questions that only a friend can ask. There are questions that your Pastor can ask. There are questions your siblings can ask. Do not set yourself up for disappointment. Define relationships. There is no need for sentiments.

As a pastor, there are times people want to put you on the spot, send them back to their Pastors. Do not carry a burden that is not yours.

There are instructions that a Father can give. A father must not use suggestion when he is meant to command. He must not use a command when he is meant to suggest. You must define your place in people's lives so that you are not living in a self-appointed palace of self-glory.

CONFESS I O N

My relationships are defined. I discern the right relationships. I am guided by the spirit of God.

DAY 19

“INVITATION TO PREACH” IS NOT YOUR SOURCE

Text: Philippians 4:19 NKJV

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

I was visiting an elderly one some years ago. I was still in the early days of full-time ministry. She was really concerned about my survival. She began to ask questions like, “How will you get paid especially in a place like Eruwa?”

As I was still wondering the best way to answer, she said “Well, by the time you get invitations to preach four times a month with an average of twenty thousand as honorarium, you would have about eighty thousand every month. At least, you will be able to take care of yourself.”

She said it out of genuine love and I did not even know what to say. I simply kept quiet.

One of the strange mindsets that you must never allow as a minister of the gospel is thinking that an “Invitation to preach” is your source. You would have started a decline on a dangerous slope that ends in frustration.

If you think this way, you will be lobbying for places to preach. You will fight friends whom you have invited but have not invited you. You would be taking invitations based on the permutation of who will give the highest honorarium. You will be angry when you visit a place as led by the Lord but the honorarium is lesser than the sacrifice you have made. It is a slope that you should run from if you do not want to become prey to a free fall.

It is the error of Balaam. Your calling is stirred by the size of the gift. It propels you to enter into places that the stamp of the Lord is not upon.

It is an error of Gehazi. You will see “big men” as your opportunity to be richer. They will become meal tickets and not souls

indeed. You will run after them and construct prophecies, build needs and share tales that will draw pity for you.

Do not be caught in this web.

Listen, God is an employer that does not owe his labourers. The labourer is worthy of bid wages. Are you really labouring or are you lounging? The amazing thing about the one who employed us is that you cannot do eyeservice. You cannot pretend to be praying and studying while all you did was sleep. Your employer does not slumber or sleep.

Dear full-time minister, sit down to build training manuals that generations you do not see will still need. Sit down to plan every single meeting that the Lord laid on your heart. Stop executing things like a mediocre. Take time to sharpen your edge. Sit with those two disciples and train them like they are twenty thousand in a stadium. Impact lives. Build men.

Take your eyes off men and invitations. God is your source. It may not look like it but it will pay off in the long run. That “small work” has a huge advantage.

Dear Wale, Dear Philip, Dear Sola, Dear Emeka, Dear Bola, Dear Ignatius, Dear Florence, if the Lord has called you to the ministry full-time, take heed to the ministry he has committed into your hands that you fulfil it.

CONFESSION

I do not make merchandise of the gifts of God. I do not trade God's gifts for money. God supplies all my needs.

DAY 20

DEAL WITH THE SPIRIT OF FEAR

Text: Hebrews 2:15 AMP

And [that He] might free all those who through [the haunting] fear of death were held in slavery throughout their lives.

One of my sons in the Lord who is just growing in the faith mentioned that he had been plagued for a season with the fear of death in his life and his family. He had become fearful. There was even pressure (due to his background) to make some rituals to appease a strange deity.

I laughed and asked him, "You have not said a single thing about your redemption and what Christ has done for you. Have you forgotten your previous testimonies of victory by the word so soon?" He said, "This season I stumbled on one of my notes where you said, 'The sacrifice of Christ is enough'. It kept me from being a part of any ritual".

I gave him a message from my spiritual father about "How to deal with the fear of death" and a teaching from church on "The Name of Jesus". He returned the following week with a testimony:

"Pastor, I listened to the message immediately. Then I listened several times each day. My spirit became so strengthened". He even had a dream that was a very powerful encounter and victory over that strange spirit of the fear of death.

Beloved one, fear will reign wherever the Word of God has no space. A lot of times, we have not built an arsenal of defence by the Word of the Lord. We have not sharpened our Sword of the Spirit in a long time. Some have even dropped the sword.

In the times we are in and at all times, your spirit man must be fuelled to the brim with scriptures. Your confession of the word must be solid. No matter how busy a soldier is, he does not joke with his rifle. When some Christians are busy, the first thing that suffers is their devotion to God. Where did we see such a pattern?

One of the most critical units in the military is the Intelligence Gathering Unit. If the intel is wrong, a mission can become suicidal. If there is no

intel, it will be like groping in the dark. Gather intelligence from the Word of God and sharpen your Sword- hell is not smiling but we are not retreating also.

Hear this, there is a covenant of long life over you. But do you remember the terms of the covenant?

First, you must have a relationship with the Most High. And if you are a child of God, you must be dwelling in the secret place of the Most High and abide under the shadow of the Almighty. It is not a place you visit. It is a place you dwell.

Second, you must watch what you say. The Psalmist said, "I will say of the Lord..." What are you saying? What the enemy turns into fiery darts are careless, idle, and vain words that we speak. Words are weapons in the realm of the Spirit. Choose your words with a Christ-guided and word-framed heart.

Finally, rebuke that foul spirit in the name of Jesus. Do not entertain the thoughts of death. Do not take any thought that is not of the Lord. It feels good when you are being pitied but make it hard for anyone to pity you. Do not court pity. Speak life.

I pray for you: You shall not die. You shall live to declare the glory of the Lord. God has satisfied you with long life. Till your hairs are grey, your health is preserved. That strange order of death is reversed.

Do not forget the terms.

CONFESSION

*I do not enter into my spirit the fear of death.
I break loose from such bondage of fear. The
sacrifice of Jesus is enough for me!*

DAY 21

WHEN YOU DO NOT KNOW HOW IT WILL HAPPEN

Text: Hebrews 6:15 NIV

And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

Some years ago, we were preparing for our annual convention. We had a budget of a hundred and eighty thousand naira (180,000) but we had just about ten per cent of that amount. The week before the convention, the pressure of "How will it be?" began to rise.

I did not say a word to anyone in the ministry. We simply carried on with what we had. I had a song in my mouth daily (it is in the Yoruba language):

Jesus will perform a miracle.
Jesus will perform a miracle.
The way and manner He will do it
I do not know
But Jesus will perform a miracle.

I sang that song all week. I refused to be under pressure. On the Sunday of the week of the convention, a lady reached out. She mentioned how the devotionals have blessed her family and their church. They had used some of them in church. She apologised for not taking permission before they used it. I was grateful for the feedback.

Minutes later, she messaged again. She and her husband have agreed to send a seed to us as a ministry for our anniversary and asked if we would not mind (I laughed hard. Money that I was in faith for). I sent the account number and there was silence for almost 48 hours.

Just two days before the convention, we travelled to get things we needed out of town with the little we had. On our way back, we received an alert of two hundred and fifty thousand naira. It was way beyond our needs. God did it. We danced. We rejoiced. We gave thanks.

First, when you do not know how it will happen, let your faith rest in God and His

Word. One of the ways you would show that you believe in the Lord is by glorifying him. That was what Abraham did to strengthen his faith while he waited for Isaac:

He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,
Romans 4:20 NKJV

Second, make sure you have a container that can trap the rains of the blessing. God used my writing to convey the blessing. If you are lazy, all you have is wishful thinking. For instance, it will rain everywhere but without containers, you cannot trap the one you will use in your house. You will see the rain and others with water but you will be in lack. Have a container.

Please, even if you are in full-time ministry, make sure you use the time fully. Only labourers are worthy of the wages. It is not for daydreamers.

Till your ground. Plant the seed of diligence and hard work. When it rains, it will produce fruits. But remember, if you are lazy when it rains, something will grow – weeds of worry, anxiety, pressure, and lack and if you are not careful, you will become manipulative.

Stay in joy.
Build a container.
Did you get it?

CONFESSIO N

My faith rests in God and His Word all the time. I stay in joy until my miracle arrives.

DAY 22

THANKSGIVING BRIDGES THE GAP

Text: Philippians 4:6 NIV

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

During my service year, I came back from a speaking engagement and I knew I had to say thank you to a dear sister of mine. At that point, she was doing a series on Facebook titled "Purity Series". She had a group of teachers write on different areas of purity.

At the speaking engagement, I was asked a question. The answer I provided came from her notes that I read online. I composed an appreciation note and included some "airtime" (I was not sure of her network).

Amazingly, I got a response from her appreciating me. She was at a point of wondering whether the notes blessed people. She was about to stop the series. I also got her telecommunication network correctly. She even sent her contact.

Today, she is a phenomenal voice in our generation and a blessing to nations. We are siblings in the kingdom. I have visited her home and she has been a blessing to our work many times and in many ways. I have had the privilege to bless lives through her calling also.

What if I was not grateful?

Do you remember the story of the ten lepers that Jesus healed? They all started far off. They could only scream and shout to get Jesus's attention.

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"
Luke 17:12-13 NKJV

They stood afar off. Did you see that? Well, From afar they got blessed.

So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.
Luke 17:14 NKJV

They heard his voice. They got instructed and got healed. They were impacted from afar. They were blessed from a distance. But one of the lepers when he discovered that he was healed did something different: And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God,

Luke 17:15 NKJV

He returned and began to glorify God. He returned with thanksgiving. It was not a quiet "hmmm", it was not a "wow" in his heart. He did not move on after reading a message that blessed him. When he saw the impact, he did not have to be asked to give feedback. He returned with a loud voice.

And what else happened?

"and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan"

Luke 17:16 NKJV

He fell at the feet of Jesus. Ten of them started far off. Ten of them got healed. Only one made it to the feet of Jesus.

Only one got access.

Only one got close.

Only one bridged the gap.

What did he do? He gave thanks.

Thanksgiving bridged the gap. Thanksgiving brought him closer.

There are powerful relationships I have today because I returned to say "Thank You" for a teaching, a post online, or dropping a word of encouragement. They moved from being faces in the crowd to becoming a part of my family.

What will you be grateful for today?

Who do you have to say thank you to?

Will you be like the nine lepers who remained afar or the one who returned?

Appreciation not expressed to the recipient is not appreciation. It adds no value.

CONFESSION

I do not practise ingratitude. I am not an ingrate. I am full of thanks always. I am blessed with resources by the Lord.

DAY 23

THE INITIAL CHEAPER OPTIONS

Text: Genesis 3:11 NIV

And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

Christmas and chicken are like five and six. Every time Mum is done frying the chicken, the temptation begins. Well! I lost many times. I would bite out of the chicken. But whenever Mum discovers, I end up losing what she would have given me.

One of the tactics that the devil deploys in life is to offer to people initially a cheaper option of what God has prepared and will hand over to them eventually.

In the temptation of Jesus, he told Jesus that if he would bow to him, he would hand over all the world and its glory to Jesus. Jesus resisted that temptation.

Then the Devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in all their greatness. "All this I will give you," the Devil said, "if you kneel down and worship me." Then Jesus answered, "Go away, Satan! The scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!'"

Matthew 4:8-10 GNT

Jesus, after the resurrection, has been given a name that is above every other name. After the resurrection, Jesus declared that all power in heaven and on earth has been given unto Him.

The case of the devil is so pathetic that he does not even have the keys to hell and death again. He was thoroughly

defeated by the Lord Jesus.

Do not let the devil lie to you. He wants to sell you the idea of fornication and adultery, a cheaper regrettable option of God's beautiful gift of sex within the confines of Holy Matrimony.

What if Joseph had taken the cheaper and lesser option of sleeping with Mrs. Potiphar? He would have some measure of regrettable enjoyment but his journey to national prominence and preserving an entire generation would have been cut short.

If the devil leverages your greed to have a grip on your life, he would ensure he reduces you to ridicule. He did the same for Samson. Samson's head on Delilah's lap was a spiritual guillotine. The anointed became a piece of sport, an entertainer in the enemies' camp.

Beloved, do not let the devil offer you an initial cheaper option of what God will give to you eventually.

CONFESS I O N

I do not settle for cheaper options. I wait for the full package from the Lord.



SIGNS OF AN UNTRAINED MAN (1)

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:22 KJV

Abstain from all appearance of evil.

The moment I drove in, my girls ran to me. I was holding a small nylon. The first thing they began to do was to ask, "Daddy, what is this?" I refused to answer. Then I said to them, "Greet me first". Afterwards, I responded.

There are other times that they would begin to search for any package that was brought inside. If it is your birthday gift, they are in a hurry to unwrap it for you. To teach them delayed gratification, we would tell them to hold on till we are ready to unveil what is inside the packs. It was always a tough wait but it was our way of training them.

One of the signs that a man is untrained is a lack of self-control. If he is in a hurry to see what is behind the pack without going through the necessary process and fulfilling scriptural vows, he is untrained.

Let's take a quick look at the process in Songs of Solomon:

A man who is in love with a woman (some are lust though) will see those attractive features—the shapes, the curves, and all:

Your neck is like the tower of David, built with courses of stone; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors.

Your breasts are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle that browse among the lilies. Song of Songs 4:4-5 NIV

But a man who is trained knows there is such a thing as self-control, accountability, responsibility, and waiting:

Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of incense. Song of Songs 4:6 NIV

Did you see "I will go"? It is not "I will touch" "I will fondle" or "Can I caress you?" Or "At least we did not have sex". It is "I will go".

Did you see the two locations he chose? First, is the Mountain of Myrrh. Myrrh was one of the gifts given to Jesus that was symbolic

of his death. A trained man must die to "self". A trained man knows that he has to attend his burial service when it comes to sin (and in this case, sexual sin). He is not praying in tongues and has "tongue-tasting" with sisters. He is not scheming to get hugs with the motive of "tapping current". He is dead to "self".

Second is the Hill of Incense. Although Myrrh is one of the ingredients used in sacrifices in the temple. Incense already tells us that priesthood is involved here.

A trained man takes his priesthood seriously. He does not joke with devotion to God. He knows that priesthood flows when it is unstained. A simple stain hinders the flow of fellowship. He does not kill his conscience while he carries on satisfying his flesh.

Dear sister, do not get into a trap because you do not want to marry a boring brother. Romance is an art. It can be learned. Becoming a priest is a spiritual thing. Such a man must be born-again. Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit, it cannot be learned.

You cannot motivate a dog to become a man. Salvation is a change of nature and not a self-improvement package.

Hear this: A man with the waiting power before marriage is the one with the staying power in marriage. A man who sins with you before marriage will likely sin against you in marriage. A man who runs his hands all over you now will end up ruining you. It is about self-control.

Dear man, will you go to the Mountain of Myrrh? Will you climb the Hill of Incense? Let God work on us as we trust to be better men.

CONFESSION

I am led to the right spouse. My husband is blessed by the Lord. My marriage is a blessing.

DAY 25

SIGNS OF AN UNTRAINED MAN (II)

Text: Psalm 144:12 NIV

*Then our sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants,
and our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace.*

As young boys, we had a yearly routine. On the first of January, my friends and I would begin a trip of visiting friends. We would go all evening from one place to the other. We would get back later in the night. It was all a day dedicated to drinking, eating, and catching up with friends.

One year, just before they came to call me, I began to ask myself questions about that decision of community tourism and the value it adds to me. It dawned on me that it was not profitable for my journey for that new year. I told them I would not be going with them that year. As we grew older, we all stopped the ritual.

One of the signs of growth is stability. A baby runs all over the place excited about every new idea. A man sits down and appraises his decision before committing to it.

You can even hide a lack of training underneath spiritual covers: A young man had spent some weeks on a mountain to pray. His pastor asked him to come back to church. He asked me what he should do because he still wanted to observe some vigils.

I had nothing against going on personal retreats but I gave him a simple analogy from the scriptures:

Esau wanted the father's blessing. He went all the way into the bush to get ingredients for the delicacy. Jacob was at home and prepared the same delicacy. Everything that Esau sought from outside was available in the house.

The righteous is compared to a tree and the planting of the Lord in the scriptures:
That they may be called trees of

righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."
Isaiah 61:3 NKJV

A tree that will grow is not going to be moving from one place to the other. It is firmly rooted. The proof of growth is not the ability to jump around. The fact that he is in every conference does not mean he has grown. The fact that he has pictures with all the big ministers of the gospel does not mean he is trained.

A baby is excited about walking all over the place. A man can walk but he does it in line with purpose and destiny. If you are trained, one of the first things to work on is the ability to sit to learn and receive from the Lord and God-ordained teachers. A dear teacher calls it "Bum-bum" training. Learn to sit down.

Will you jump around again in the New year? Appraise the places you went to this year and ask which one added the most value.
Hear the psalmist:

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

Training gets you rooted before you begin to flourish.

CONFESSION

I am intentional about training. I grow into stability in the character of Christ.

DAY 26

DO NOT JOKE WITH WORDS!

Text: Proverbs 18:21 NLT

The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

We enjoyed riding bicycles as children. Our neighbours had two different sizes. We would all converge and have some fun cycling. One evening, it had just finished raining, and we were cycling on the long corridor of their home. It was fun circling the pillars and showcasing skill. When it was the turn of a dear brother, he had bread in his mouth as he showcased his cycling skills. The wet floor took over the moment. He slipped, and I remember the bread spilling from his mouth! Honestly, we laughed, and the image stuck.

As funny as it may be, the question is, "What comes out of your mouth in the season of crisis?" Do you have the bread of God's word in your heart and mouth? You need the word on days when things are pulling you to the ground. You honestly need the Word of God.

A woman was in labour. She began to speak profanities and lay curses on her husband. The matron had to shut her up. What do you say in the days of crisis? What do you spill out in times of pain? What flows out of your heart? Out of the abundance of the heart, your mouth will speak.

The bread you eat before a crisis will sustain you during the situation. A dear family escaped a head-on collision. She said the words that came to her were, "I am the ransomed of the Lord, and I have passed over. I am the redeemed of the Lord, and I will always return". We keep declaring those words in every service. What have you loaded your heart with?

If you load your heart with stubble, you will stumble terribly in crisis. You will throw curses. You will speak death and curse-activating words.

A brother was involved in a ghastly accident that claimed lives. When they pulled him out

with quite some injuries and fractures, all he kept saying from a twisted mouth was, "I shall not die but live." He lived. His bones got healed.

Medical professionals would say when people die, "He gave up." That's profound. Believer, you cannot give up. There is hope for you. Did you eat some bread of the word? It is the bread of life! It gives life to the brokenhearted. Chew on the word. Sing it if you must. At all costs, put the Word in your mouth.

Your words will justify you. Your words can also condemn you. Do not joke with words. There are no jokes in the realm of the spirit-angels and demons do not know jokes!

A young man who loved taking his bath always jokingly said, "Mo ma we ku ni" (I will die bathing). It was meant to be an expression of ecstasy. But he really died stepping out of the bathroom. People said, "He had always said that he would die bathing."

Our jokes now activate death words-
Laugh wan kill me die (LWKMD)
Our expression of beauty activates death words-

"The boy or girl fine die."
Why must it always be about death?
Will you arise and speak life?
You are a life ambassador! Speak life.

CONFESSION

My words are seasoned with grace. I speak life into my situations.

DAY 27

HOW TO OVERCOME STRANGE HABITS

Text: Proverbs 4:23 AMP

Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.

I grew up seeing the changes in the world of technology. I saw the diskettes, some of the “big box” visual display units. I saw how these things began to change right before us.

As a young boy, I was visiting with an uncle during that era. He had a computer and internet linked to it. When I got the opportunity to browse one day when I was alone at home, the links I looked for were pornographic.

Being an amateur, someone discovered when they saw the history list on the system. I denied it.

During my first stint in a university, I had my first access to pornography. My roommates had video discs of it staring at you in the face. Now, here is my hypocrisy – When they are watching, I will go and hide. But when they are not around, I indulge in it. They thought I was the good boy.

These are the days that pornography is accessible at a click. You carry it with you anywhere you are. You are drawn to it at the click of a button. It comes for you so hard that it seems so difficult to stand. Listen! You can win the war.

Know this- You can never overcome any strange habit that you keep hiding. Temptation thrives on the ground of secrecy. As long as it is hidden, it is powerful. It loses its power when you stop denying and hiding.

In your intent to become accountable

and open so you can win the battle, do not look for someone that you will be “comfortable” with and “anonymous” with. Let it be someone who can hold you by the hand and ask you tough questions. Tell a mature person in Christ around you. Let that demon lose its sting on you.

Sin is comfortable when your ego keeps it hidden. It feeds on your ego but then bites hard again, and you fall harder every next opportunity. When sin sees you trying to escape, it fortifies its walls all around you. Break the hold by refusing it a place to hide.

Hear the word of the Lord:
You must catch the troubling foxes, those sly little foxes that hinder our relationship. For they raid our budding vineyard of love to ruin what I've planted within you. Will you catch them and remove them for me? We will do it together.

Song of Songs 2:15 TPT

There is a blossoming relationship between God and you. Will you let the foxes destroy the vine?

CONFESSION

I guard my heart from impurities. I do not yield to the pressures from the flesh. I overcome always.

STOP HIDING!

Text: Psalm 27:4 NIV

One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

There was a standing rule by the Dad of our childhood friends – no games on weekdays. Another standing rule was that “You read till noon on Saturdays before you can have access to games.” They had the highest number of childhood games in the neighbourhood- TV games, Handheld Games (Nintendo), Board Games, and even bicycles.

How do you want children to comply with such hard rules surrounded by so much temptation? Well! One day, Dad came in unawares. One of our older ones hid in a wardrobe. All in an attempt to cover up the disobedience.

Guess what! That was the exact cupboard that Dad needed to pick something from. He opened it and found him there. He was a man who tortured with tough words or cold silence but never with a cane. He did not say a word. But you already know the kind of mental reset we had afterwards when we all got to hear.

Listen! We can hide from man, but you need to know that you cannot hide from God. There is nothing you do that you can keep away from the Lord.

Hear the psalmist: Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.
Psalms 139:7-8 NKJV

There is nothing you have done that is hidden. If men do not see you, God sees you. Beloved, this is why you need to fear the Lord. It is the beginning of a life of wisdom.

Do not guard your reputation at the expense of your character. People may have a packaged dimension or version of your life, but God knows the real deal.

But if you refuse to heed the fear of the Lord, do not forget that your sin can also find you out.

But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out.
Numbers 32:23 NKJV

When eyes of accountability also find you out, do not start trying to cover yourself with fig leaves. It will not end well. It will always end in a loss of dignity and precious inheritances.

Gehazi packaged his sin with cover-up lies, he left with generational leprosy. David laid it bare when accountability found him, he enjoyed divine mercy.

Do not hide from the Lord. An elephant cannot hide behind a needle. It is a waste of time. What are you covering up? Where is your own wardrobe? Stop hiding. Mercy brings healing.

CONFESS I O N

I am accountable to the spirit of God. I do not hide from the face of the Lord. I stay in His presence always.

DAY
29

ANSWER THIS QUESTION BEFORE YOU PROPOSE

Text: Ephesians 5:21 NKJV

Submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Some years back, A fine young man requested to see me. He mentioned that it was quite important. I obliged; though I was travelling that morning. When he came, he mentioned that he wanted to propose to a particular sister in the church. He was not a member but he comes for our midweek services.

He began to speak about the sterling qualities of this young lady. He reeled them out effortlessly. He also began to speak about the values that she would bring into his life. I listened patiently.

When he was done, I appreciated him and backed it up with a question, "What will be your contributions to her life? What did the Lord show you that will be your responsibility towards her". He had no answers. I told him it would be great if he gets answers before he goes ahead with his intention. That was the last he raised the matter.

Everything about marriage is rooted in selflessness and service. A lot of people make decisions about who to marry based on their dreams and desires. A dear teacher said, "Marriage is God's cure for man's selfishness". Even to make a choice, we want someone that will meet our needs. It is always about you.

But it is deeper than that. For Adam to marry Eve, he had to bring "bones and flesh" that God used to shape and make Eve. Before you see those sterling qualities and the wonderful shape, would you be willing to let go of yourself for breaking and shaping? What will you give? It is not just about getting.

That is why marriage is not for consumers

but for contributors. Sex outside marriage is lust-filled. It is always about satisfying yourself. It is fornication. It is sinful. Sex in a godly marriage must exhibit the fruit of the spirit. It is love-making. You focus on satisfying your spouse. It is not some selfish passionate flame.

Men who have not died to themselves will only think of themselves. Patience is lacking. Joy is not present. Kind words and acts are rare. Self-control is absent. Manipulation, intimidation and control will be the order of the day.

Some people see marriage as purchasing jewellery they really desire. After purchase, they see other jewellery they like. If you are not dead to yourself, you will despise the sterling qualities you shouted about and begin to long to taste a stranger. A man in Christ must learn selflessness.

A teacher said that a great marriage must be about two funerals and a wedding. It is made up of two people who are dead to self and sin. Marriage will test the fruit of the spirit that you have grown. If you lack it, it will show. Are you dead to yourself?

You will apologise when you are not wrong at times. You will sacrifice to see each other grow and blossom. You will pay the price for peace. If you lack fruits, it will be hard!

CONFESSION

I operate by the principles of sacrifice in my marriage. My home is blessed with peace and love.



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