

- MARCH 2024 -

COMPASS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



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Temiloluwa Ola

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I write because I love God and I love you.

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

The Lord bless you and multiply you all around.

Feedback

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

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

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

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

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

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

- CHISOMAGA, ABUJA

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

- JUSTINA OYEDEJI, ILE-IFE, OSUN STATE

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

TGod bless you, Pastor.

- MICHAEL, GHANA

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

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

- TOLULOPE, IBADAN

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

- ESTHER AMOS, ENUGU

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

- DESIRE, UGANDA

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

- INIOLUWA, OGBOMOSHO, OYO STATE

Feedback

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

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

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

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

- JEREMIAH UGWULEBO, PORTHARCOURT

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

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

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

- REBECCA OSEYI, EDO STATE

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

- MARIE LAUREL, CAMEROON

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

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

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

- NANCY GABRIEL, NASARAWA

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

Thank you so much Sir

- OPE POPOOLA, UNITED KINGDOM

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

- OLUWABUSOLAMI, LAGOS

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

- DUDLEY CHIDZIVA, ZIMBABWE

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

- PATRICIA, ABUJA

DAY 01

THE FOCUS OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Text: Acts 20:28 NIV

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

In my first year in full-time ministry, I asked my grandpa in the faith a simple question: "Sir, if you are to start ministry all over again, what will be your three major priorities?"

He responded with a question, "Son, are you trying to buy land now?" I told him, "No, sir". He asked another, "Are you trying to buy a new car?" Again, I responded in the negative. I wondered what was happening when he asked a third question, "Are you trying to build a church now?" I said, "No, sir."

He then answered me, "Son, if I am to start ministry all over again, my three major priorities will be: First, build the people. Second, build the people. Third, build the people". I am sure he saw my puzzled look. He added, "The people you build will return to buy the land, build a church and buy the cars. Just build the people".

Beloved, ministry is serving people in the name of the Lord. Ministry must be about obeying the one who has called you and impacting the lives you have been sent to.

The ministry of Jesus was about impacting lives also:

After this, Jesus travelled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Luke 8:1-2 NIV

The lives that had been impacted became channels of blessing to Jesus and the ministry:

Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's business manager; Susanna; and many others who were contributing from their own resources to support Jesus and his disciples. Luke 8:3 NLT

What impact are you making with your life? Thank God for your structured income (salary

or business profits), but do you know that God can also bless you through other means?

There is impact income. There is a time when lives that your life and assignment have blessed return with a thank you. But the question is, "Who are you a blessing to?"

A believer who lives in the consciousness of divine assignment will not become a stylish beggar during festive seasons with a status update like, "It is my birthday, and no one is asking for my account number" or "This is Christmas and I have not seen you show the love of Christ to me."

If you take your assignment seriously, you will be surprised how God will bless you. Listen, the primary purpose of the assignment is to please the one who has sent you. However, the assignment has blessings attached to it. No impact will mean no blessings.

Low impact will mean low blessings.

High impact will produce huge blessings.

God cannot be mocked. If you are lazy with the assignment, the field of the lazy also produces something- weeds.

Take your eyes off what people have. Focus on the work. Do not have a sense of entitlement. Do the work. Focus. Do not get offended because you blessed lives and they did not show appreciation; do more. It is a trap. Men cannot reward you. God rewards you if you do the work:

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. Revelation 22:12 NKJV

Beloved, do the work. May we not lose our reward here on earth and in eternity. Grace.

CONFESS I O N

I focus on impacting lives. I am a blessing to all around me and to those God has given to me.



BEWARE OF WHAT CAN CORRUPT THE ASSIGNMENT

Text: Proverbs 4:23 NKJV

Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

In the second year of ministry, we were preparing for a meeting called Bold and Beautiful Conference. All hands were on deck the evening before the meeting.

When we were done in church, a beloved member who had a car decided to drop off those who lived some distance from the church. After they left, there were three of us left- A young man who lived beside the church, a young female student, and myself.

I told the young lady that I would drop her off at home. She lived not too far from church but I was concerned that it was too late for her to walk in the dark alone. The young man just told me "Good Night Pastor".

The Holy Spirit stepped in, and wisdom hit my soul in a flash. He said, "Why don't you go with the young man to drop off the lady? You can then drop the young man on your way home". What a wisdom. I did exactly that.

Eruwa sleeps early. This was quite late into the night. The question is, "Was she a bad girl?" No! "Was I a terrible boy?" (Put no confidence in the flesh, but honestly; no). The next question is the real issue: "Can the devil sow a seed in a 30-second drive?" Yes! If he succeeds, he will return for the harvest.

What seeds can he sow?

First, he can sow a seed of lustful thoughts in any of our hearts. The scriptures say that the devil left Jesus for an opportune time.

When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune

time. Luke 4:13 NIV

Never give the devil that opportunity. Do not give him a foothold. He will always go for more. By the way, the temptation of a Christian brother will likely be a Christian sister.

Second, he can sow a seed of a "bad name." In such a small town, if you see a pastor dropping off a girl alone late in the night, the devil can take advantage of such a scenario. That is when you will know the difference between "Pastor" and "Paaaaaaasssstttt" with a sarcastic emphatic tone.

Do not let indiscretion destroy the assignment before it takes off. Passionate and sincere people have been caught in strange demonic traps.

Listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Build principles that will safeguard your life and testimonies. When you look closely at men who have lasted for many years, you will see a lot of wisdom that has preserved them. Do not talk down on a man's consecration when you do not know what is at stake. There are heights that a man should never fall from. May the enemy not use us as trophies! Amen.

CONFESSION

I apply principles that guard my heart. I do not give room to the Devil I operate in divine wisdom.



DILIGENCE AND DIVINE IMPACT

Text: Proverbs 22:29 KJV

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

A month after the church was planted, we were preparing for our first major meeting. I had one other person who worked in the office as a volunteer. We worked late into the night sorting materials.

The next morning, I got to the office at the usual time, but the beloved volunteer was not yet in. I waited for about two hours and then placed a call to him. He still sounded sleepy. His excuse was that we had worked late the previous day. I smiled and asked him, "What if you worked in a bank, would your attitude be the same?" He showed up at work.

I still laugh at myself when I remember such seasons and the unimaginable audacity I had.

My favourite statement was, "The location that every visionary must be in is diligence. It does not matter where you are based, even if it is in the backside of the wilderness, diligence will introduce you to kings". David was in the backside of the wilderness, but someone mentioned him in the palace as a skilful player.

You cannot treat the call of God with the mindset of a volunteer, and you must not be lazy with any assignment that the Lord has given you. Some people are genuinely called but have limited the work with how diligent they are.

You cannot be a pastor who waits till 4 pm on service days to determine what you will preach. You begin to tell stories from movies. That is a shame. When others head to work, you are still sleeping. When you wake up, you just waste time strolling around with a towel on your waist and debating about national issues. That's weird. You will remain small.

Your impact will also be limited.

Look at Jesus, our perfect example. He called his assignment on earth "my father's business."

And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" Luke 2:49 NKJV

Jesus Christ referred to the urgency and diligence that the father's business required.

I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. John 9:4 NKJV

There was a day when Jesus was tired but still decided to go the extra mile. That day, he met the Samaritan Woman, and an entire city was eventually impacted.

Your finest is in the extra mile. Place a demand on yourself. There is no future for the lazy person, even if he is heavily anointed. It is a skill that brings success. Sharpen yourself. Place a demand on yourself until the wine in your grapes begins to emerge. Push.

If you are a student, make sure you study like you would not pray and also pray like you would not study. It is a combination of spirituality and skill that makes the difference. Make sure you are not a bad representative of Jesus Christ. Be diligent. Be pushful. Give your best.

CONFESS I O N

I cultivate a culture of diligence. I excel in life, ministry and kingdom service.

DAY 04

WAKE UP TO SONSHIP!

Text: Proverbs 1:8 NIV

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

There was a time in ministry when our annual event was always the same time as that of my spiritual parents. For many years, I would host our event and then return to watch some part of the convention they were hosting. I would send a text message saying, "I was blessed." That was my yearly pattern.

One year, it struck me that I was robbing myself and the people I led. I cannot lead well if I do not feed well. I woke up to sonship. I moved our meeting away from the same season. I would attend the conference with my spiritual parents and return refreshed for the work. It was the first step towards greater things happening in our ministry.

Today, our life, marriage and ministry took a different dimension because I woke up to sonship. Amazingly, my spiritual parents did not suggest it or even complain at all. I only woke up to the fact that I was not doing it the right way.

There are dead sons. There are lost sons. There are "found" sons. There are also living sons. Sons who are alive to their responsibilities.

But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' " Luke 15:32 NIV

Amazingly, our culture has an interesting way of describing different kinds of sons, too. Follow closely:

There is the "Omo Oju". This literally means "Child of the Eyes". It means that this son is so smart and wise that he can pick things you have not said. All he needs is non-verbal communication, and he decodes it. He can leave when you are talking to visitors. He can keep quiet and not say a word just by a sign. That's the kind of son every parent loves.

There is the "Omo Oro". This is the "Child of Words". It means they always wait to be told

before they take any initiative. Their excuse is, "You did not tell me". Sometimes, you would have to shout and scream. Some are like that in the Christian journey, too. You have to shout it before they get it.

There is the "Omo Igi". This is the "Child of the Rod". They have to be beaten into understanding. They are so stubborn. They despise non-verbal communication and disregard words. Until the cane lands on them, they do not get to cooperate. Sons like this learn the hard way.

There is a last one called "Omo-komo." This one behaves like a bastard. He does not portray the values of the family at all. You are not even sure if he is part of the home. He always goes the opposite way. He does not care a bit!

There is a reason why the believer is a sheep. We are wired to be led. There will be the leading by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, and there is the place of fathers and teachers also. The instructions of fathers must align with the Word and that of the Spirit. Their presence gives us patterns to study and build after.

Beloved, the cheat code to an amazing life is studying and following the pattern that the Word and the Spirit handed to the Fathers.

I will be twelve years old on the journey of full-time ministry, and I have been on both sides of the divide- the side of the untrained and the side of the Fathered, I can tell you one is better. The journey is longer when you are trying to build your own road. Wake up to sonship!

CONFESS I O N

I wake up to sonship. I heed fatherly instructions. I prosper in all my ways.

LOST AT HOME

Text: Isaiah 51:2 NIV

Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who bore you; For I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him.

I had known my spiritual father for sixteen years. I just did not have any understanding of our relationship. I even invited him to Eruwa in 2007. I still remember the love and humility that he related with.

I hung around that relationship for years without plugging in fully. It was just about "Hello sir. I just said I should check up on you". There were times I had questions, and I got answers. There were times he was quiet and did not give me answers (Maybe my question was higher than the depth of my commitment). I was like a switch- on and off! I was not stable. I found something but did not understand it.

Some people are like coins but lost in the house. They have found a house and a family but they are lost in that house. You can hang around a father in different dimensions:

– Like a Seeker: You are just there to observe. You have hints here and there. You know some things. You only scratch the surface.

– Like a Servant: You have an amazing heart. You keep running errands. You are greatly helpful, but you lack insight into why you are around him.

– Like a Student: You ask questions, and you get answers and lessons. That is where it ends.

Many have found a home, but rather than plugging in fully, they would rather stay on the surface.

Just like I used to be, some people have turned their "spiritual father" into a conference speaker. As long as people know they have a relationship with him, they are fine. It is called

chasing clout rather than sitting to learn, be groomed, and imparted. They are annoyed when they cannot get them to feature in their meetings. Beloved, you can be lost in the house. You have a relationship, but it lacks depth.

One sign that you are lost in the house is the understanding of the difference between 'a father' and 'my father'. Every nursing mother can breastfeed a child, but a nursing mother will only breastfeed her child. She is a mother, but she is not everyone's mother.

If you still say things like 'He is like a father to me' or 'He is like a teacher to me,' you are not plugged in yet. A student says, "This is my teacher". A son says, "This is my father," but you hear a believer say, "He is like a teacher to me" or "He is like a father to me." Many in the house are lost. Are you lost at home?

When you are lost at home, you will be led by suggestions and not instructions. Conversations will stay on the surface. It may take years for you to see the light of a simple suggestion. You will not learn by observation. You will see things and yet be blind. Why? Your heart is closed up.

How did they find the lost coin? They lighted the room and swept everywhere. You need to appraise your walk constantly. Am I just there? Am I fully plugged in? Am I being trained? Am I being instructed and corrected? May God bless us with light and insight. Amen.

CONFESSION

I tap into the treasures of my spiritual parents. I am guided in the path of destiny.

DAY 06

DEAD SONS AND POISONED COUNSEL

Text: Proverbs 7:1-2 NLT

Follow my advice, my son; always treasure my commands. Obey my commands and live! Guard my instructions as you guard your own eyes.

When I got into the land of Eruwa, someone reached out to my brother and said, "Your brother is in Eruwa. He will soon leave. He cannot survive in that place". After some years, the same person said, "Your brother is still there. That's amazing". I know God kept me on the assignment, but another thing did the guidance of my spiritual father, interpreting seasons and giving accurate counsel to navigate each season.

I watched a movie about a girl who had to run a marathon once. The dad used to be a coach. When they reconnected, even though the dad took ill and could not be at the race, he recorded instructions of what she should do at each level of the race. He coached her on when to pace and when to sprint. He coached her on when to catch some breath and when to conserve her strength. She won the race even though her father was not there. His voice was enough.

A dead son no longer hears the father's voice. Even when he remembers counsel from a conversation, he is probably offended and annoyed with something flimsy, and he does not heed such counsel. He wants to be his own man.

Once Esau despised his birth, he died to the signals and the guidance of his parents. A dead son brings grief to the hearts of his pastors or parents.

When Esau was forty years old, he married Judith, daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath, daughter of Elon the Hittite. They turned out to be thorns in the sides of Isaac and Rebekah. Genesis 26:34-35 MSG

A dead son wants other sons dead. They are hurt and want the pattern to spread.

From that time on, Esau hated Jacob because their father had given Jacob the blessing. And Esau began to scheme: "I will soon be mourning my father's death. Then I will kill my brother, Jacob." Genesis 27:41 NLT

You will pick it in their words. If they do not make it, no other person should also make it.

Lucifer is a dead son who wants other sons dead too. He was kicked out of heaven when he said, "I will be like the most High". Do you remember?

For you said to yourself, 'I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.' Instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead, down to its lowest depths. Isaiah 14:13-15 NLT

When he was brought down, and he saw the son of God called Adam (Adam was the son of God Luke 3:38 NLT), he began to scheme, and guess the lines he used to cause man to fall, "You will be like the most High"

"God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." Genesis 3:5 NLT

A dead son does not want any other son standing. They move around with poison. Be careful. They have crossed the line and made up their mind not to return.

A dead son is an ex-anointed. A dead son knows so much about being on fire, but he is no longer on fire. A dead son knows about prayer but no longer prays. A dead son knows about fathering but now attacks it with poisoned thoughts, words and actions. He tells you that the father does not have your best interest at heart. When you see a dead son, anoint your feet and run.

The man who told my brother that I would soon leave the ministry had his reasons- he left the ministry. He forsook the assignment. He could not stay through. He went into strange things. He got into astrology. He is no longer in ministry.

Be careful of counsel from poisoned hearts and ex-anointed people- the devil was also formerly anointed. He wants you to be like him- kicked out, wandering and fatherless! Refuse his counsel.

CONFESSION

My senses are opened to God's instruction. My heart is cultured to pick divine prompts. I walk in obedience.

DAY 07

FIND YOUR WAY HOME

Text: Luke 15:18 NIV

I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

When I sat before my grandfather in the faith many years ago, I promised to attend the monthly mentoring meeting for ministers and give him continuous updates about my life and ministry.

I started well. Despite the bad road linking our cities, I would leave home as early as 5 am so I can be in the venue by 7 am. The conference would kick off at 10 am.

But along the way, I began to drift. I started giving excuses for the same bad road I had conquered. I was on the brink of getting married when the Holy Spirit rebuked me during morning devotion.

Some of the most powerful lessons that shaped my life and ministry came right from the first visit after I apologized for the distance.

There are four dimensions to being a son:

It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’ Luke 15:32 NKJV

Let’s start with the lost son: The lost son is the one who has drifted far from the father and his spiritual family. He has legitimate excuses, but excuses are the graveyard of the uncommitted and the untrained.

What causes you to drift?

Distance: There can be distance in the physical, but make sure there is none in the spirit. Make sure you are deliberate with staying in touch. When distance becomes

the excuse, drifting happens faster. Fight that spirit that tells you home is far now. Fight it!

New and Exciting Relationships: Sometimes, you begin to drift when you meet new people who seem to excite you. One of the ways to keep new relationships is by infusing them into the old ones. Let people who knew you in your process meet people who met you in your “success.” You need a balance of the two to stay in the lane of destiny.

A semblance of success: There are times that the first appearance of success makes people forget. God warned the Israelites to ensure their love and commitment did not wane when they spent their first few years in the promised land. Think this way- if one instruction or counsel helped your life, then what will more instructions do to you?

Lack of awareness. When a man is ignorant of the weight of destiny connected to certain relationships, he would likely take it for granted. Mordecai was a constant voice for Esther. Esther knew the weight. Lack of awareness makes men miss destiny appointments. Elisha could have just told Elijah that his clothes fell. But he knew it was time to close the distance.

Are you a lost son? Will you find your way home?

CONFESSION

I am not full of myself. I grow with instructions and counsel. I do not despise my spiritual home.

DAY 08

DON'T CONCEAL YOUR NEED FOR HELP

Text: Proverbs 11:14 NKJV

Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

I made my considerable share of mistakes as a young minister. They were flowing out of genuine passion that lacked guidance and accountability. Financial issues were a touchy ground for me as a husband and pastor.

There was a time when I would use our money or Irewamiri's money to settle ministry bills. It was a form of soft loan. Afterwards, I would return it (mostly the same month). That was how things were month in, month out!

One day, we were with our spiritual parents, and Irewamiri asked our spiritual father about the matter. I was scolded and rebuked, but I was also taught and instructed on what to do. From that day on, family and ministry finance had a great switch. To date, we do not borrow. We are not pressured. We run a principled financial life. There is ease.

Most people (especially men) are either on two ends when seeking help: First, there is the end of "I do not want to bother anybody stemming out of shyness and timidity." The second end is the angle of "I can handle things myself. I do not want anyone to know what I am struggling with." It can stem from ignorance or pride.

No matter the side of the spectrum that a man is on, there are always consequences. A man's journey is longer when he lacks the necessary tools and handles to tackle life's issues. Such a man has hidden frustrations.

Refuse to believe the lie that only weak men seek help. Jesus was on His way to fulfilling the life assignment of dying for us. When the soldiers saw that he was getting tired from carrying the cross, they found a man to help

carry it. There are times when the best of us will need help. It is not a weakness to ask for help. Ask questions rather than stay in ignorance or foolishness for years.

The truth is that it is men who seek help that ends up great.

So his fame spread far and wide, for He was marvelously helped till He became strong. II Chronicles 26:15b NKJV

Helped men become strong men. If you hide your pain, shortcomings, struggles, weaknesses and troubles under a thick layer of macho skin, it can end up eating you up.

Frustrated people frustrate other people.

Hurting people hurt other people.

Stop transferring aggression. Ask for help.

Ask questions. Relieve yourself of the unnecessary burden. You are no less a man because you asked for help. Great men need great help!

Ask! Be genuine. Be humble. Ask questions. When it comes to sin and addictions, "I can handle it" has never handled it.

CONFESS I O N

I am not helpless. I attract the help of God. I attract help from men.

THE CODE OF GRACE

Text: Psalm 103:8 AMP

The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in compassion and lovingkindness.

Before Irewamiri knew I would get to ask for her hand in marriage, I had a code that one of her friends gave me- she loved a particular drink. I began to keep the drink handy in my office.

One evening, I handed over the drink to her. As she stepped out, one of her friends took it from her. She did not argue or fight at all. She simply told the person, "My daddy will give me another one." She indeed got another one.

There is a mindset that keeps you from the strange spirit of unhealthy competition- it is a knowledge of how gracious God the Father is. God, the Father, is rich in mercy. He is so rich that you cannot afford to play the judge or the jury in anyone's matter. When a man encounters mercy from the Lord, there will be things about him you will never be able to explain.

Father Abram knew this dimension of God's graciousness. When Lot and his herdsmen were grabbing as much as they could and sowing the seed of strife, Father Abram was willing to let go. Why? He told Lot, "We are brothers. Let there be no strife between you and me".

The working of God on Abram was not just to be the father of Isaac, it was to be the father of nations. The first step was to work on his heart. The heart that will father a nation must see Lot misbehaving and still go all out to fight for him.

You can be born-again and small if you are tied to the spirit of competition. If the devil succeeds in sowing the seed of strife in your life, marriage, career, or ministry, he has succeeded in shrinking and stifling your growth. You will remain perpetually small.

The heart that cannot forgive the past of Saul can never see the wonders of Paul. If you are a pastor, your sermon can become a flow from strife. The anointing is now flowing through the pipe of offence. Your doctrine is stained by the blood of your wounds. You will remain small.

You cannot father nations if you escape the surgery room of the Lord where the hearts of men

are enlarged. You will pass the test of betrayal, denial, and outright hatred. Your response must still be love. If you are not crucified, you cannot resurrect. It takes men to crucify you. You cannot do it yourself.

You will stay down forever if you go down with a hurting and offended heart. Job may have a double portion reserved for him, but the password must be to pray for his friends who have hurt him with words. Can you speak the blessing over those who hurt you deeply, or do you just say, "I don't wish them evil," but can you pray blessings over them? That's your test.

If you know how generous the Lord is, you will not stay scrambling for what is available in abundance.

The prodigal son got lost away from home, squandering his inheritance. The elder brother got lost at home, caught in the spirit of strife. They both needed the same cure- the father's love. Are you lost at home? Are you offended because you think you deserve more attention or appreciation?

Hear the father: "His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. Luke 15:31 NLT

Do not let the devil trick you again- strife will make you fight for what you already have. Remove that blindfold. There is more than enough to go around. Share love. Share grace. There is always more with the father.

CONFESSION

I do not get into the trap of strife and unhealthy competition. I am sufficient because my Father has more than enough.

DAY 10

FROM “TOO SLOW” TO “ON FIRE”

Text: Acts 9:15 NIV

But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.

There was a season when we needed a new set of ministry leaders. I hinted at some of those on board already about a young man in particular. They hesitated a bit when they heard he would be leading a prayer team. They seem unsure. One said, “Pastor, this brother does not look like it. He is too slow”. Another said, “The person that should lead prayer should be passionate.” I smiled and told them, “Just wait and see.”

I called the person and handed over the book “Alone with God” by my Grandfather in the faith to him. I told him to finish it up in a week. This beloved one would come to the church office and read in a corner. Before you knew it, he would begin to roar in prayers. He would pause again and read. The next moment, you would hear sounds of intense and fervent praying. In a week, the passion to pray woke up in him. I jokingly renamed him after “fire.”

One of the lessons I have learned and still keep learning as a pastor is that “My head must never become the barrier to what the Lord wants to do with a man who comes back home.” Listen, left to Ananias, Saul was never the person to be given a chance. His track record was a total mess- grade one murderer.

Beloved, even the apostles were sceptical about him. How on earth would they accept the same person who has persecuted the church as a brother? He was the least expected.

Do you know that it is possible to keep holding grudges against a man that God has forgiven? The man who fell has returned to the father’s embrace, but the ones who have been with the father feel like the father was too quick to forgive and restore. They are the holders of the “divine forgivometer”. They measure the repentance quotient and the remorse level. There is a depth you must get to before you satisfy their requirements.

I have seen men stuck in life because they refuse to accept that God can forgive and restore men. Some elder brothers are used to

the quietness at home. The sound of rejoicing is very strange to them. They are used to the coziness and warmth of their church. They misinterpret the sounds of rejoicing as a competition for attention. They feel they will be dethroned. They feel threatened. They put up religious shows.

This is your test of a solid love walk: If you are bidding for a contract and do not win, you then hear that it was one “Mr Stone” (someone you do not know) who won the contract; you can easily let it slip. But if you hear that it is your neighbour, “Mr. Emeka,” who won the contract, you begin to ask yourself, “What does he have that I don’t?”

It takes grace to know the history of men and still trust in their becoming and their evolving. The history you have of men can become a stumbling block to accepting that God can forgive, restore, and use a man for greater works.

See the elder brother:

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So, he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So, his father went out and pleaded with him. Luke 15:25-28 NIV

The father is pleading with you too, today. Do not be angry. Do not shut yourself out. God knows what He is doing.

CONFESSION

I plunge into the abundance that my Father can give. I rejoice at other people’s success. I walk in love.

DAY 11

COME HOME, BELOVED

Text: John 6:37 NIV

All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

As we wrapped up our conversation, her words were, “Pastor, I wish I had been listening to you way earlier. My life would have been better than this”. Seated in front of me was a brilliant load of potentials that poor and low-quality decisions had severely damaged. Her life would have turned out better if she had a strong voice of counsel.

One of the most painful things that can happen to anyone is to lack a home, a pastor to run to, or a spiritual family to strengthen you. But if you have been blessed with any of this, one of the lies the devil will tell you is, “Why on earth do you want to call someone you have not been in touch with? Do you know how they will respond?”

A beloved one had not been in touch for years. I always call him occasionally to check up on him. At a season, I sensed a prompt to pray for him and others. In less than twenty-four hours, he reached out. He was already contemplating ending it all. He feels there was no way he could regain all the lost ground morally, spiritually, and in his career.

Friends, if you have a home, run there now. You may not have learned by instruction, but you also do not have to learn by destruction. The devil wants you to feel like there are no options and you are hopeless. It is a lie. It is a lie. It is a lie. There is always that way of escape—the path that mercy has created. Please begin the long walk home.

Hear the words of the father: for this son of mine was dead and has now returned

to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began. Luke 15:24 NLT

You are still a Son. Do not let the devil lie to you. Some things may be dead right now, but there is life right at home. No matter the number of abortions you did or made happen, there is still a home.

No matter how bad a car is, when it is returned to the manufacturer, it can come back as new. Beloved, no matter how messed up you are, the devil has stolen— he stole some time, but God redeems times and seasons. He stole virtue from you, but God can still anoint you till your cup overflows. He stole your dignity, but have you read that the lost son was given royal robes and shoes?

He stole, but do not let him conclude by killing and destroying. You are not his game. You are not his prey.

The most beautiful picture ever is that of a loving father hugging a son in rags. You do not have to stay beaten by the sun and violated by snakes. The father is running towards you using voices of counsel in your life. He is also using me right now, saying it is not the end. A dead son can still become a living son.

Come home. The doors are wide open. The arms are wide open.

CONFESSION

I enjoy the blessings of my Father. I heed divine instructions.

DAY 12

WHAT MINDSET DO YOU HAVE, SON OR A HIRED SERVANT?

Text: Philippians 2:22 NIV

But you know that Timothy has proved himself because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.

I kept encouraging her for a while to be stable in church. She was finding it hard. She would take trips at random times. She would rarely show up for midweek services. She would be married soon. I counselled her to get serious about the church as her home.

One afternoon, she came into my office and began to cry on her knees, "From today, sir, I just want you to know that you are my pastor. I did not accept that in my heart. The Lord corrected me this afternoon. I came to say I am sorry". I was moved. I prayed for her. She settled and took her church home seriously.

That weekend, Irewamiri and I prayed for her and her husband-to-be during their counselling class. We asked for the favour of the Lord.

Some days later, we had a guest who came to church. He was about to relocate. She was in service. Long story short, he gave her a lot of household items, especially those needed in the kitchen. He was in the same city where she would be settling down. Favour found her at home.

Beloved, when you deal with strangers, you will beg, and your dignity will be soiled. Out of the major things about home is that your dignity is protected. At home, correction flows, but it is wrapped in love.

I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' Luke 15:19 NIV

Like the lost son, there are two kinds of mindset that you can have at home (your local church):

The mindset of a hired servant: A hired servant is in it for pay and appreciation. You take spiritual tasks and church commitment with the mindset of "Are they paying me?" Your faithfulness fluctuates. You must be

psyched and flattered to get any positive response from you.

The mindset of a son: In your home, when you are asked to do anything, your response can never be, "I am not in the workforce." The day you were born in that house, you joined the workforce. It is only in a spiritual home that you hear those words, "I am not in the workforce". Are you waiting to be hired? You are a son and not a hired servant.

Even if you are an instrumentalist in the church, you can choose the service of a hired servant or that of a son. If you are a pastor in a ministry, you can serve as a hired servant or as a son. You can be paid millions and still behave like a hired servant. Why? Money does not buy sons; it only upgrades hired servants.

Sons also serve but not like "they are for sale".

But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. Philippians 2:22 NIV

Settle first at home. Enjoy the bread at home. Be well fed. Grow. Resources you need will flow to you. Even when you are paid for what you do, your heart is not tied to the pay. Why? You get more by the blessing than you do by the service!

What mindset do you have, Son or a hired servant?

CONFESSION

I have the mindset of a son. I enjoy the blessings of my spiritual home.



FINDING HOME IN THE RIGHT CHURCH AND PASTOR

Text: Psalm 92:13 NKJV

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

Irewamiri said her brother would call her after every service when she first got to Eruwa, asking how church went. She kept complaining about the church she was attending. After praise and worship, she sleeps throughout the sermon time. She was willing to learn. The challenge was that right after the sermon title, there was nothing to note again. It was not a good experience.

Her brother kept nudging her to change church. She mentioned that she had passed Nourishing Ground many times (then known as The Eagles Assembly), but one of her friends kept saying she could not attend church. Eventually, she came, and all her friends also came. Church became home for all of them. The story changed.

There are churches, but there is the right church for you. One of the things that you must get right is the place that should be called home. A church must be like a home for you. There should be enough bread that nourishes your spirit. You cannot and must not stay where your spirit is malnourished and not fed.

One of the primary assignments of a pastor is to feed. Pastors are God's gift to every believer. If you are not being fed, you are not in the right place.

and I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. Jeremiah 3:15 KJV

When God settles you in a new place, ask the Lord to also show you the home where you will be nourished. One of the things you cannot be sentimental about is the church you attend and the pastor who feeds you.

Some people want in life because they lack pastors. Some people want and lack bread because they are wrongly pastored. Some respond wrongly to the right pastor.

When you wanted to go to the university, you chose one that was offering your course of study. You cannot study medicine in a Polytechnic. You did not go to the nearest school. When it comes to your spiritual journey, you must be willing to pay the sacrifice even if the church is not near your home.

I do not blame those who travel miles to get to church. They know where their bread is. They are willing to pay the price for it. One thing you cannot and must not be sentimental about is the church you attend.

Think about the prodigal son- the only place he could return to was home where there was enough bread both for sons and servants.

Do you have a home?

Do you have a pastor?

Are you being spiritually fed? Are you just being sentimental?

Check today. Pray today. Let the Lord lead you.

CONFESSION

I enjoy the blessings and graces in my church. I do not take my spiritual family for granted. I am led by the Holy Ghost to the right assembly for me.

DAY 14

DEAR LEADER, THESE TWO THINGS MUST NOT MIX IN YOUR SOUL...

Text: Mark 3:14 NIV

He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach.

In the early days of serving in full-time ministry (and even just before then), I thought ministry was about holding the microphone and preaching. It was really exciting getting invitations and, if possible, gracing billboards.

Truth be told, somewhere within me, I followed fathers in the faith and networked with some others so that when my gift is seen, I can be given platforms to preach, thereby enhancing my visibility. I felt I could also preach well. It was about platforms and what I could get, never about private shaping and who I could be.

Before arrows are shot, they must be shaped, straightened, sharpened, and must wait in the quiver till the warrior pulls it out and shoots it to the intended target. There are hustling arrows-fighting for visibility. Some arrows have lost sensitivity. It has fallen into competitive jealousy and is laden with envy and offence.

Bitterness in the heart of a gifted man will fulfil two dangerous ministries: First, it will cause trouble. Second, it will defile many.

There are preachers of bile today doing great work of causing trouble in the body of Christ rather than uniting the body, and their words unfortunately spread, defiling many.

If you do not deal early with the seed of bitterness in any situation (marriage, career, ministry), it will take root and wreak havoc.

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this, many become defiled; Hebrews 12:14-15 NKJV

Bitter people have company with other bitter people and some ignorant ones who cannot see through the bile.

Your cry must always be about "make me" first and never about "give me." Be willing to sit and learn.

Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. Luke 2:46 NKJV

Jesus was not teaching the teachers. He was listening and asking questions. Premature exposure is not a blessing. Be calm.

He was not just sitting to learn from teachers; he was also honourable towards his parents:

Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. Luke 2:51 NKJV

Rebuke that spirit telling you that you can do better if you were the one preaching or that mind that analyzes the teaching in every service. You now have a mental note of "50 Ways Pastor Could Have Preached Better". It is "make me" before "give me."

Do not let pride and bitterness mix in your soul. They are fatal. Rise like that lost son and cry, "Make me..." Even if I do not have visibility, just make me. Even if I do not get to be announced, just make me.

Today, when my Spiritual Father gives me an assignment as simple as leading prayer in a small group, I tremble with reverence. I check notes to see how he has done it in the past. If it is to take offering, I watch previous videos of those who have done it. I check the pattern and pray, 'Lord, help me.'

Lord, Help Me!

CONFESSION

Pride is not found in me. I have a submissive heart in serving the Lord.

DAY 15

LOST AND FOUND!

Text: Psalm 51:1 NKJV

Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.

When my phone rang that evening, he only asked me, "Pastor, why do you still keep in touch with me? Why have you not given up on me? Why do you believe in me this much? Is there something you know that I do not know?"

I sincerely did not know how to answer. I was just interested in ensuring he did not go astray or miss the mark in life. He had abandoned the call at least twice. He had a brief stint of feeding (not pigs) fish. He told me how strange that was for him that season.

Eventually, when he returned, he said to me, "Pastor, I am sorry that I did not see you or accept you as my pastor for a long time. I thought I was just passing the time. But now, I want to say to you that 'you are my pastor.'"

You will never beat the pathway home until there is an awareness within you. One of the revelations that must strike you at a point in life's journey is, "There is home for me, and there is a pastor's love or fatherly love that I have not maximized".

It is pretty tough at times to be a pastor. I see beloved ones I pastored years back get into cities and just seem to lose it. Some got saved in Eruwa. Some got baptized in the Holy Ghost. Some got to drop strange habits and addictions but now have stopped going to church after a while, some begin to dress, exposing their privacy, and some have embraced a lifestyle that is not Christ-like. I am always broken seeing those things at times. I have cried on the phone as I spoke to one of them before. My last words were, "No matter what, remember we are always here for you. We love you. We will be praying for you".

Beloved one, no matter how bad it is, there is the love of God and the heart of a dear pastor still longing for your return. Your space in the heart of the Lord and a sincere pastor is still there. True pastors carry people in their hearts. True fathers carry sons in their bosom. We are always on the lookout for the one that will return.

You know that pastor you met who disciplined you long ago. You need to call him today and say, "I am not sure if I am even a Christian anymore. I have been in places that I am not proud of. I have done things that are not Christ-like. Fear of rejection has kept me from making this call, but I would love to be trained, disciplined, and held accountable in my spiritual walk. I cannot continue like this".

That was what the prodigal son did:

So, he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. Luke 15:20 NIV

How far have you gone from Christ?

How far have you gone from pastoral love?

I was broken when I lost a dear one who grew in the faith while with us. A strange illness suddenly returned. This beloved one died after servicing ancestral "strange gods." Ahhh! Nothing else breaks the heart of a pastor than such reports.

What are you doing outside?

What are you doing alone?

Call home now! Come home now!!

Son! Daughter!! Come home now!!!

We still love you and believe in God's grace in your life. Call home now.

The devil is whispering to someone, "Death is better than shame." Do not believe that liar. Life and love are waiting for you. Come home now.

CONFESSION

I do not stray from God's presence. I am preserved by His grace.

DAY
16

HOW TO BREAK FREE FROM THE PRODIGAL SPIRIT

Text: Hebrews 10:39 NLT

But we are not like those who turn away from God to their own destruction. We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved.

She hinted to us that a young man who had been “on her case” (wanting to marry her) would be coming to visit her on a Sunday and would love us to interact with him. She had made mention of him earlier. We obliged. It is always a joy as a pastor to meet anyone who wants to marry a church member.

There was already some pressure coming from her family. He had a great job and looked like it. We interacted and had such a great time but I sensed to just ask a final question, “Do you drink alcohol?” I love his sincerity. He said, “I do but just socially. I drink it once in a while”. The young lady did not need anyone to say a word to her afterwards. That was the end of that journey. Today, she is married to a man who fears the Lord and loves her dearly.

Listen! One of the things that will happen when you are possessed with a prodigal spirit and in a time of need is the tendency to hire yourself out to a “foreigner” who will use you to nurture his “pigs”. You will be strangely entangled in things that are messed up.

When the prodigal spirit takes over, you will be in a relationship where you are “helping him” sexually but you will still claim there is no sex involved because you are both still a virgin. You are feeding his pigs.

If you are a minister called to serve in ministry, when the prodigal spirit takes over, you will be begging and running after those who can pay your bills. When such men call you, you are in a hurry to drop hints of your need. You will lack three things- faith for the assignment, confidence in your calling, and courage to speak the truth to those you are sent to. Why? One of the ways to master faith is to follow those who have walked the path before you! A father will guide you showing you the combination of faith and patience.

Listen! You will be dropping hints all over your discussion about your needs. Everyone you talk to already knows your needs. You

have been hired for your needs. Your needs are leading you. You can even call a known sinner to sponsor the work. You will hide under the guise of “God can use anyone.” You have hired out yourself.

When your conscience is now led by your desperation, and no longer by your identity, you are already in trouble. If your desperation to marry makes you forget that your “knight in shining armour” has pigs, you will soon know what real hunger is. Be patient. Listen to pastoral counsel. Truth may sound hard today but the voice of regret is a heavier weight that your soul cannot carry.

Dear man of God, be humble. Learn contentment. You left home with gifts but do you have the handles that will give you a firm grip when you need to stay strong?

A prodigal spirit can take over an employee too. Do not resign until you know how your salary and those of others get paid without fail. Do not just leave in pride. Leave because you have a handle on the major issues that will arise.

One prayer that the prodigal spirit does not pray on time is “Make me”. It is more of “Give me”. Have you hired yourself out to strangers? Are you already feeding his pigs? Hunger does not mean you should die feeding pigs. That hunger in your soul is proof that home is not as far as you think.

May the Lord help us all! Do not feed pigs.

CONFESSION

I do not hop between the works of the flesh and righteousness. I stay under the cover of the leading of the Holy Spirit.

DAY 17

DON'T BE A SPIRITUAL NOMAD!

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.

At a season in my journey, I was unsure whether I was growing or just floating spiritually. I was getting carried away with the excitement of trending names and teachers. Yes! I was learning, but I knew there was a longing that I had that was not yet met. I kept wondering what was wrong.

Until one day when it struck me hard- I needed to take the teaching of my spiritual father seriously. I became intentional. I began to listen to every service. Something was fired up again in my spirit man. It was also easier to draw closer to my spiritual parents. My heart was at home. Home became sweeter. Truthfully, everything went to a new level for us- our marriage got better, ministry impact multiplied, and personal spiritual growth became obvious.

Like the prodigal son, many people have "anything but made at home" appetites. They long to be fed whatever is available. They eat anywhere and anything, yet they sense an emptiness within.

Listen! Some people are addicted to the latest. If it is trending, they must get on it. You are confused because you do not know the difference that the prodigal son eventually discovered: No matter how far you travel and how adventurous you get, there is something called "my father's bread."

Let me explain: We were in a meeting where a baby cried for food. The mother picked him up and breastfed him. I asked another nursing mother there, "Do you have what it takes to feed that baby?". She said, "Yes". Then I asked, "But will you feed him if you were the one carrying him and he cried for milk." She laughed and said, "No, I will give him to his mother." I smiled and said, "You are a mother, but you are not his mother."

pastor" and "my pastor". There is a difference between "a father" and "my father". There is something that food at home does to your spirit. Unfortunately, the only teaching lacking on your phone is that of your pastor, who teaches you every Sunday. You are tired, and you now crave food from 'another' mother. Wake up your senses!

Listen, beloved: Begin to take the teachings of your pastor seriously. Your home is a mess because your wife has a favourite preacher, and you have another favourite preacher, but when you have issues, you want your pastor to counsel you. There is no space for his words in your home. It carries no weight when there is no crisis. How will it automatically carry weight now?

"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and you. Luke 15:17-18 NIV

Get back to your senses. Listen well to your pastor. Wait! Do you even have a pastor? Set out and go back home.

No matter how much jollof rice you eat at a wedding party, it can never replace food at home. Wake up! Kill that long throat. Feed well at home. Thank God for jollof, but eat well at home. Have you been to a wedding where you did not eat from home, and then food did not get to you? Next time, what do you do? You eat from home.

CONFESSION

I am patient and diligent in following. I walk in the fulfilment of God's promises for my life.

Beloved, there is a difference between "a

DAY 18

BUILDING SPIRITUAL RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF CHALLENGES

Text: Matthew 7:25 NIV

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

When asked about my vision as a minister of the gospel and a called one to the land of Eruwa, I was quick to respond that I desire to control the city's spiritual and financial climate. I still remember how Grandpa Bishop laughed. It rings in my head to date.

He looked at me and said, "Son, choose one". He gave me the reasons: First if I chased the two, I would not be either a financial or spiritual giant. He told me I would get lost in between.

The second reason was more humbling. He mentioned that on the journey of the calling, there will be the wilderness season where my heart will be tested. He mentioned that if that season comes and I am chasing the two, I will abandon the spiritual and fall for the convenient, which is the financial.

He then charged me to focus on the spiritual and watch how my life, impact, and journey would all be affected. The one who controls the spiritual climate is indeed powerful.

Beloved, a gifted person who lacks training, would not survive when the test of famine comes. Even if the person is called, they will abandon the call when the pressure mounts. Why? If you are used to getting it done the easy way, a little pressure will reveal the void within.

If you pick up a bottle that is full of water and you keep pressing it, it will keep returning to shape. Why, there is something in it!

But if you pick an empty bottle and apply the same pressure, you will see that it will cave in after a while. Why? There is nothing in it.

It was the same pressure, but the impact of pressure was different. Why is this illustration important? What destroys us is not the pressure on the outside. No sir! No ma! It is the emptiness on the inside.

That is the reason why the devil wants to empty you of the word and prayer and, if possible, of valuable relationships before he applies the blow of pressure that flattens you out. He is a schemer.

If you are not disciplined with feeding on the word, or you take praying for granted, or you are now offended with everyone that can strengthen you, or you are simply careless and not deliberate with critical voices in your life, the devil has got you in the perfect place where the impact of a single blow will be intense. You better leave that spot in a hurry now.

Go back to the word. Get back into prayer. Call your pastor or father in the faith now and tell him you have been far! Get back into the community of believers. The famine is close! Famine is close!! You cannot survive famine without family.

Job's friends may not be perfect, but tough times are easier when you are not navigating it alone. Isolation makes tough seasons hellish.

After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. Luke 15:14 NIV

The famine is a general wave but will hit you badly if your structures are porous. Rebuild your structures now! Wake up before the enemy's blow hits. Wake up!!

His first need was not food; his first need was family. How did I know this?

Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. Luke 15:15 NKJV

He looked for relationships first. Isaac blossomed in famine. But do you remember he had a relationship with Abimelech that proved to be helpful?

May the Lord grant you understanding. Amen!

CONFESSION

I am disciplined in feeding on the word. I do not take prayers lightly. I build spiritual stamina against the storm.

DAY 19

THE COST OF RUNNING WITHOUT TRAINING

Text: Luke 24:49 NKJV

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

For many years as a pastor, I was doing all I could. But one day, a dear father in the faith counselled me: "Pastor Temi, we pastor in similar terrains. One of the factors in both terrains is that people transition very fast. Let me tell you the mistake I made for the first sixteen years of ministry".

At another time, my grandfather in the faith saw that I was not comfortable with the challenge of men coming and going; he gave me insight prophetically into my season and what the Lord was doing. That was the game changer for us.

Beloved, you will lose many things if you keep running without training. You will be a waster of resources. I know people who have started so many things that did not thrive. By the time they come up with another fresh idea or put money into a new enterprise or vision, we just wait for the time when it will stop running, and they move on to something else. You know someone like that also. Isn't it? I hope you are not the one.

When a man is gifted and untrained, like the lost son, he will squander whatever he has been given:

"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. Luke 15:13 NIV

An untrained person will waste time. They are not even sensitive when the other party gives one-word answers as proof that he is uninterested.

An untrained person will waste money. They

think money will do it all. They soon realize a fool and his money is soon parted.

An untrained person will waste men. They cannot sustain solid relationships. You will always see them with new people around them. No stable relationships.

What other things can an untrained person waste?

An untrained person will waste opportunities. They can shout at an opportunity, but they lose it very fast also.

An untrained person will waste talents or gifts. They think that since it comes easy, there is no need for intense preparation. They remain small and average.

An untrained person will waste the present and the future. They cannot build a bridge between the two. They lack the discipline required.

An untrained person will waste lessons even if they learn a lesson today; they forget very soon. Purpose is sacrificed on the altar of pleasure.

An untrained person will waste himself. Yes! Unfortunately so. The graveyard is full of untapped or waste potentials.

What are you squandering now?

CONFESSION

I am not wasteful. I am trainable. My best version begins to emerge.

DAY 20

WE KNOW YOU ARE GIFTED, BUT ARE YOU TRAINED?

Text: 1 Corinthians 4:2 NIV

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

We were in a meeting discussing when some of the pastors shared a story with me about what happened in church. It gladdened my heart. They had cause to take some pictures after service.

One of the teenagers was handling the camera. Some young man approached him and said, "Can I have the camera. Let me help out". The teenager politely turned him down. When some of the friends saw what was happening, they said: "He is a professional photographer. Give him the camera". The teenager did not bulge. They were shocked.

Why was the teenager not bulging? He knew he would give an account if anything happened to the camera. He also knew that the young man may be a professional, but he did not know our values about stewardship yet.

A young man was carrying a speaker and asked his team lead, "If I am tired, can I drop it?". His team lead responded, "When you are tired, don't drop it. Please, put it down". There is a heavy difference between the two.

Never be in a hurry to ask for things you have not been trained to handle. When you receive things that you have not been trained to handle, it will not last in your hands. Trained men preserve wealth. Untrained men waste resources.

Let me explain: I know how to drive, but I realize that driving a friend's car is never the same as driving my car. I always have to adapt to the peculiarities of their own cars. The brakes may be sharper. The weight may be different. I drive patiently till I get used to their own.

If you change churches, be willing to learn the

culture of the house you belong to. Do not get offended because you have a huge title from your previous church. Your submission to process will soon speak for you. Do not try to prove any point. Calm down and learn again.

Do you remember the parable of the lost son? He was in a hurry to get the portion of his inheritance from the Father.

And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood." Luke 15:12 NKJV

An untrained man has a sense of entitlement. If you will grow, kill entitlement. If the leprosy of Naaman would be cleansed, he must not boast about the rivers of Syria when he is meant to dip seven times in Jordan.

Some of us are like that. Pride will not let us learn. Arrogance will not allow us to receive the instructions that will shape and change us. You prefer to be covered in leprosy with the glimmering armour of a General.

You may be gifted, but settle down and learn first, even if all you are hearing are things you already know. Be humble enough. You may be able to call down fire, but settle down and grow. Stop referring to the rivers of Syria- you are always harassing everyone with your "achievements," but your leprosy is covered. Calm down!

We know you are gifted, but are you trained?

CONFESSIO

I am submissive and intentional in the place of learning. My gifts are refined and sharpened in training.

DAY 21

NEVER BE ASHAMED OF THE ASSIGNMENT!

Text: Habakkuk 2:3 NKJV

For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.

When I first got into the land of Eruwa for the work of ministry, I had a lot of hesitation telling people about where I was. Whenever people call and ask, I would say, "I am in Oyo State". I did not want to start explaining or answering questions about Eruwa and what I was doing there after being called to the bar as a lawyer.

I have seen it happen practically to some of my beloved ones whom the Lord also sent to Eruwa. Some even say, "I am somewhere around Ibadan." Eruwa is still some distance away.

One day the Lord told me that if I did not accept where I have been sent with all joy, I would not eat the best of the land. From that day, I even added Eruwa to text messages and write-ups. Someone called me once and asked, "Am I speaking to Pastor Eruwa?" Do you know my answer?

Beloved, you cannot fulfil a calling that you are not accepting wholly. You cannot thrive in a place where you do not receive joy. Anything you do not accept wholly cannot be a blessing to you, nor will you see progress there.

Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, so that your progress may be evident to all. I Timothy 4:15 NKJV

If you will make visible progress,

you must give yourself wholly to the assignment, including loving the location. You must love your spouse and stop saying, "I only married her because God said she is my wife, or he is my husband. He is not my spec, or she is not my spec". Stop that! Such a union will not bless you.

Jesus was called "Jesus of Nazareth". Nazareth was stigmatized, but Jesus did not fight it. He only went on to fulfill the assignment gloriously.

There is no future in whatever you cannot accept wholeheartedly. If you are still seeking escape routes, you are not ready at all. If you are half-hearted about it, never expect the fullest blessing from it. It would not be surprising if you abandon the call or leave the marriage:

And if their hearts were still remembering what they left behind, they would have found an opportunity to go back. Hebrews 11:15 TPT

Your life will eventually move in the direction of your heart! Where is your heart?

CONFESSION

I trust God's vision for my life. I do not abandon my assignment. I stay true to my calling.

DAY 22

GET DRUNK...

Text: 1 Kings 19:7 NKJV

And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you."

An incident happened in our first year in the University- a young man who seemed to be in love with another girl but could not face her to express his affection did something very strange. He walked into the fresher's female hostel one evening and began to say, "I love _____" quite loudly. What a strategy.

Eventually, when they had a grip on him, they discovered that he was drunk. He had gone to take alcohol to enhance his confidence. The story spread quite fast on campus.

Beloved, some assignments cannot be done with human strength. The calling of the Lord requires the Spirit of the Lord. The flesh cannot execute the task of the Spirit.

In the valley of dry bones when the Lord asked the prophet Ezekiel if those bones could live, even the prophet could only say "Lord, you are the one who knows". It was a task beyond him.

The Lord told the Prophet to speak to the bones. He prophesied as he was commanded. From there, the Lord took over bringing bones to bones, flesh to flesh, and sinew to sinew! What a miracle.

Even when they all came together, there was still no breath in them. The Lord asked the prophet to speak to the wind. He did as commanded and there stood on their feet an exceeding great army.

Friends, when the assignment looks impossible, you dare not rely on the flesh. The flesh cannot accomplish it. Let the God of all flesh who makes impossibilities possible take over by His Spirit. You must then cooperate with the Lord.

Men struggle when they try to do by effort what was commenced by grace.

There was a time when Irewamiri and I were having so many disagreements. The more I

spoke to her, the harder the matter became. Eventually, I remembered the Holy Spirit and I asked for the help of God.

The Lord asked me a simple question, "Who gave her to you for marriage". I said, "Lord, it is you". He then asked, "So who should you speak to first when she seems to need attention?" I got the memo.

That's even for matters as simple as marriage. What then happens when you have a call from the Lord? Jesus himself did not step out to do any assignment without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

His birth was by the Spirit. His commencement of the work was by the Spirit. His assignment was totally by the help of the Spirit. Even his resurrection had the Spirit involved.

Be humble. Since you have tried your head, your effort, your talents and gifts, your human connections, your degree, and your money, have you made the necessary headway? Go back to the Lord who gives grace to the humble. You will see mountains leveling up. You will see valleys being filled. You will see the crooked paths made straight. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

Let Grace help. Do not try to conclude by effort what was born by grace. You will get frustrated.

Get drunk in the Holy Spirit! Lean totally on Him.

CONFESSION

I do not depend on my human strength for divine assignments. I operate by the strength of the Holy Ghost.

DAY 23

BREAK FREE FROM THE CHAINS OF COMPARISON!

Text: 2 Corinthians 10:12 NIV

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

I was on my way out of the city of Ibadan some years back. I ran into a colleague of mine somewhere in the city. We parked and greeted one another. I was still about two years in ministry in Eruwa.

As I drove away from him, the devil decided to hit me with strange thoughts of discouragement, "Look at your life. Your mate is driving the same car you are driving. Unfortunately, yours belongs to your Dad". Honestly, I gave him some minutes to throw strange jabs at me. I was driving but felt slightly weakened internally.

Then, the Spirit of Joy took over. First, I gave thanks that I had a vehicle to use. Second, I gave thanks because the Lord had called me to serve Him. I also gave thanks for the progress of my classmates and friends. That broke the backbone of discouragement.

The enemy is an expert in planting the seed of unnecessary comparison that leads to discouragement and, if caution is not exercised, to depression. Many have abandoned God's vision because they wanted "more." They got tricked into thinking they are not making any sense with life.

The proof of progress is obedience. Progress is not necessarily first about forward visible movements. It is about being where God wants you to be per time- even if it means staying in the same spot. Settle that today, and you would be free from comparison.

Think about this: If we look at Joseph's life a day before the Palace called him, we would have judged his dream a mirage, a fantasy or wishful thinking. He was far from the palace by human appraisal, but by divine

map which men can be blind to, he was just a few hours away. Beloved, God's ways are not our ways. A disadvantaged foreigner, prisoner and slave became the talk of the nation in one day! Your case is not hopeless. Be calm. Be patient. Trust the one who commissioned you.

Am I saying you should live nonchalantly or without drive? God forbid. I am saying that you should not get obsessed with proving a point with what the Lord has not approved. Paul said to the Galatians, "If I am still trying to please men, I cannot be a bondservant of Christ."

Some will be holders of five talents. Some will be holders of two. The important thing is to do ALL with the measure you have received from the Lord. If you abandon your assignment to do that of another person, the grade of your assignment will be outright zero! Passionate commitment to an unassigned task carries no reward.

Today, as I reflect on God's goodness, I can only conclude that His ways are beyond and deep. Do not give up. Do not fall into comparison. Be a passionate learner. Be a committed visionary. Stay in the fight. Stand tall. You are on a journey with God.

I pray you grace to finish well!

CONFESSION

I break free from the shackles of comparison. I am not held back by voices of discouragement. I will fulfil my destiny.

THE VITAL ROLE OF MENTORING AND DISCIPLESHIP IN LIFE'S JOURNEY

Text: Acts 18:26 NLT.

When Priscilla and Aquila heard him preaching boldly in the synagogue, they took him aside and explained the way of God even more accurately.

We were walking towards the sports complex, and my friend and sister said, "Temi, we normally attend a mentoring vigil with Pastor." I wondered what mentoring vigil was and why I needed it. I told her, "The most important thing is that you study the Word of God and know God for yourself"

Deep within, I was wondering why I needed any discipleship or mentoring. I was already getting invitations to preach in churches, even in cities like Lagos. I was even getting an honorarium as a student. There is something I must be doing right. I had even gotten an invite to preach outside the country. I do not need a mentoring vigil. I just have to sit with the Word and pray by myself.

If you sense the call of God upon your life, you must be wary of the combined effect of ignorance and pride in your life. It is a potent weapon of limitation. Ignorance will make you move around blindly. Pride will keep you in the prison of your ignorance. Ignorance is the prison. Pride is the prison warden. You will get nowhere.

A gifted, ignorant person will remain trapped and limited. Some people are gifted but frustrated. It is not a place to be or a company to be found. It is worse off if you keep explaining it away.

If you are already gifted and sense God's call, be sensitive when God begins to nudge you toward teachers. The urgency you sense most likely is an urgency to prepare and not the urgency to jump out.

You can learn by instruction. It means you will submit yourself to the hands of teachers and guardians. A dear brother who sensed the call and had already begun a fellowship received instruction to close the work and learn from our spiritual father. He obeyed. He closed the work and began to serve in a ministry where all he did was sit down, set up and clean up. The devil laughed. Men mocked him, but today, the difference is clear. You fly by instructions. He learnt the lessons needed. Today, I learnt a lot from him.

You can learn by personal experience. When it comes to personal experience, you will make many mistakes. You will lead by trial and error. You will be caught drifting while you wonder if you are making sense. Even if God sends you men, your lack of training will limit them. It can be worse if you are married. You would not know how to lead your wife into God's calling and assignment. You will always have clashing points. You will be great at home but struggle to bond in the calling. For peace to reign, she will likely withdraw into her shell. You will waste the little resources you have. You may not have the confidence needed to execute the call. You will find it hard to live by faith.

There is a call upon your life, but at what level would you execute it? If you are God's own Archippus, you would have to take heed to the ministry you received in the Lord. There is a demand to fulfill it. You cannot do less.

The worst that can happen is that you get offended by those you see making progress. Your doctrine will be corrupted by jealousy and envy, sandwiched with subtle lines of inferiority complex, and you will still remain stagnant. Stagnant waters still stick. You will lose the things you have and still lack what it takes to attract more.

If you are a Timothy, learn from your Paul.

Your teachers are never far away! May you meet your teachers before your test. When you meet them, may you recognize them. When you recognize them, may pride and ignorance not keep you away from who you need.

Grace!

CONFESSION

I give attention to learning the ways of the Lord. I walk in humility as I grow in the things of God.

DAY 25

THE UNSEEN IMPACT OF FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

Text: Philippians 3:14 KJV

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

On the day he responded to the call to give His life to Christ, he was the only one who came to the altar. A fellowship had invested so much to assemble a meeting, but only one soul responded.

I imagine them telling themselves they could have done better in an appraisal meeting. Maybe they even expected more! But it was just one soul.

But that soul used to be a sinner per excellence- he had been in crimes since a tender age! It was never a wasted effort. Today, that soul has raised many to the Lord and won many souls to Christ directly and by proxy!

Never drop the standard of what the Lord has asked you to do because you see less than you could have expected in the physical. You can print fliers for a meeting, lead the distribution, and expect 500 people, but only 15 show up. Those fifteen souls are priceless.

Listen, Doctor Luke, the writer of the book of Luke and the Acts of the Apostle, wrote to just one man called Theophilus.

With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. Luke 1:3-4 NIV

He was just doing a thorough job of giving an account to one person. He even did a sequel again:

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach Acts 1:1 NIV

He wrote to one person! But the Lord knew that faithfulness with that person was the link to billions of souls. Today, we read the book of Luke and Acts. He was writing to Theophilus,

but God was writing to a generation he would never see. It was more than a Theophilus assignment.

You may be the only choir member in that new work- do it to Theophilus!

In an outreach, it may be just ten persons under that shed- do it to Theophilus.

You may be tempted to drop the standard of preparation because you think it is not worth your effort; please do it to Theophilus.

If Dr. Luke decided to do shabby work, billions would not be blessed today in any form. Do not wait for a big opportunity. Steward well and properly the small ones you have.

Do not be discouraged when the assignment is to just one person. It can be the bridge to billions in a generation you will not see, but you will touch.

Dear children's teacher, you are not there to just keep them occupied. Theophilus is in that class. Be the Luke.

Dear music minister, let the passion be stronger and effort better the day those instrumentalists or vocalists refuse to show up for rehearsals. Do it to the Lord.

That can be your Gospel according to Luke and your Acts of the Apostles!

What will happen to a billion if you are not faithful to one?

CONFESSION

I stay committed to my work for the kingdom. I am not discouraged by numbers. I press forward for the furtherance of the gospel of Christ.



BEFORE MORE... SAY THANK YOU FIRST!

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 NKJV

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

WDanielle had been with Mum in the kitchen- clearing dishes alongside. It was a sweet adventure for her. Mum was also making Moin-Moin (a delicious delicacy made from blended beans that taste amazing when cooked in special leaves), and she was helping with the process.

At a point, Mum had to relieve Danielle of some of the technical parts of the process that was difficult to handle. Danielle got upset, and an argument began. I stepped in. I spoke with her and asked, "You wanted to do more, right?" She answered in the affirmative. But then I asked, "Have you thanked Mum for the ones she allowed you to do?" She said, "No". I told her, "The way to get more done is to give thanks for that which is already done." She got the memo. She began to smile. She hugged her mum and apologized.

We all need to know this truth- The way to get more done is to give thanks for that which is already done. Gratitude is the password to more in this kingdom.

After that successful outing (in business or ministry), do you return to God with thanksgiving or do you "pepper them" all over social media with pictures and updates? We spend more time in preparation than we do in gratitude. We pray and fast for days for a meeting, but do we give thanks for days afterwards?

The Prophet Jeremiah brought us insight into this matter. He said to us in a prophecy:

And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be

small. Jeremiah 30:19 KJV

Thanksgiving amplifies what is available. Once thanksgiving flows, multiplication happens, and glory is seen.

If you do not give thanks for five loaves of bread and two fishes, you will never be able to use what does not look like it to feed a crowd of five thousand.

Do all things without grumbling or arguing. Whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God. In all things, give thanks. Let Thanksgiving fill your heart.

After the Red Sea was crossed, Miriam led the other women in praise. They left Egypt in a hurry but they did not forget to hold a tambourine. No matter what, never leave Thanksgiving behind.

What have you been complaining about?

Have you given thanks for what has happened so far? Even when hungry, we can give thanks that we can be hungry, it is proof that we are alive! God will never abandon you. He will surely show up for your sake.

Give Thanks. Make your request. You will see what will happen.

CONFESSION

My heart is full of gratitude. I am not an ingrate. I give thanks always.

DAY 27

DO NOT TURN A HEART GOD TOUCHED TO A “SPONSOR”

Text: Psalm 125:1 NKJV

Those who trust in the LORD Are like Mount Zion, Which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

I woke up one morning to a message from someone that he was led to give to the ministry. When he eventually sent the seed, it was timely and it was quite heavy for the season we were in. What a joy it was.

Then I made a mistake: Some months afterwards, we needed to get something done. I sent the person a message. I am sure the Holy Spirit must have smiled at me. Well! The person eventually gave a token. I am sure he did it simply because he did not want me to feel bad. I got the memo from the “Resources Deployment Department” of Heaven: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not upon your own understanding or on man. Look to God and not man.

If you are in ministry or you are a believer building your walk of faith this season, take note of this: one of the mistakes you will make if you are not careful is to turn a giver that the Lord himself touched into a sponsor. Be careful.

If God touches a man to meet your needs miraculously in a season of life or ministry, never take your eyes off the Lord to the man. If you do, you would not be focused on God and you would still get nothing from man.

If you trust the Lord, when He shows up, He comes big. But if you go about relying on human props and soliciting, you will be treated as a beggar. You will get tokens. Do not start mounting pressure on someone who sensed the Lord would have him or her give to you. Now, you bombard them with every need you have. Two things will happen: First, they will likely get irritated. Second, you would have lost the opportunity to build your faith by trusting the Lord.

This is the time to stop calculating. Stop all those mathematical gymnastics like, “If 50 people give us 10,000 naira, the work is done”. That is how marketers with deadlines to meet think. You are not a marketer. You are a minister. Look to the one who called. You are God’s child, lean on your Father. You are not an orphan.

The waiting season builds our faith and strengthens our character. For God, it is not just about what you receive, it is more about how much of Christ-likeness you caught in the process:

While waiting, were you grateful or grumpy?

While trusting, were you content, or were you comparing? Did you become calculative or did you still trust the leading of the Lord? Did you become manipulative or you maintain a heart of integrity?

The only time asking is permitted is when you are sure you are instructed to. God told the Israelites to ask the Egyptians. They left with wealth. Jesus told the disciples to get the colt. If it is not instructed, do not start doing guesswork.

If you continue, your phone list will soon be full of people you are asked for “urgent 2k” and you will not be sure of who to ask again. That is not how to build your faith and walk with the Lord.

When you are in faith, pressure dies!

CONFESS I O N

I am not pressured by needs or wants. I trust in the Lord at all times. My supplies flow from the divine direction.

DAY
28

BE GRATEFUL FOR A WIFE THAT ASKS QUESTIONS

Text: Romans 12:10 NKJV

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.

That evening, Irewamiri asked me, “I wanted to confirm from you, why did you tell ____ that story while speaking to so and so?” I quietly explained.

There are times that I would buy things (even for her) and after she has appreciated it, “She will ask me,” My husband, where did you get the money for this?” Especially when the gifts seem to be more than our cash flow at that season.

Initially, I used to feel like the questions were a bother. But one day, I was driving and about to get on the major road when she said, “Darling, there is a bike coming”. I applied the brakes. I did not see the bike. It was already in my blind spot. She saw it. I understood that day the privilege of having someone who sees what you do not see.

A dear father in the faith said one of his greatest lessons in ministry is never to take the counsel of his wife for granted. There was a time when my mother in the faith also told my dear father that a particular lady in their ministry seem to have a mission. He felt she was being oversensitive until the day the lady in question walked into his office flashing him her breasts.

Dear man, the closest person to you who would see what you do not see is your wife. If you shut her up rather than reflect and answer her questions, you would have lost a major defence and likely get into trouble pretty soon.

Your spouse is not a mere decoration in your life. She is an accountability partner. If you are not ready to answer questions, it is better to remain single. You must be willing to share where you got the extra money. You must be willing to share your schedule and routine. You must be willing to share your temptations and struggles. You must be willing to be naked before the only one who can get intimate with you.

When Achan brought in the accursed and hid it in the tent, there was a conspiracy of silence. On the day of judgement, ignorance or innocence was not an excuse. The whole family bore the consequence. They all paid for it with their lives.

When Gehazi ran after Naaman and brought home “things they did not have yesterday”, the consequence was not personal, it was generational leprosy.

Listen, financial transparency is very essential in marriage. You cannot claim to be faithful when you cannot be financially transparent.

Do you remember the day you bought ice cream for that lady in your office and you kept it away from your wife? You bought for your wife also as an afterthought to cover up your “guilty spending”. She said “Thank you darling” and asked “Why did you buy me ice cream today?” You could not say, “I gave Jennifer a ride and she requested for ice-cream so I bought it for you too”. You dodged and pretended. When the devil sows a seed in your heart, he will return for his harvest. You are already slipping off the path of faithfulness.

Dear husband, do not get angry when you are held accountable.

Dear wife, ask with patience. Raise the concerns with honour. Approach issues with wisdom. Talk to the king in your man.

Work together as a team. Let nothing come in between both of you.

CONFESS I O N

I am accountable to my spouse. We are accountable to each other. We talk to each other in wisdom.

DAY 29

THE METAL POLE, THE RAIN AND THE MARKS

Text: Zechariah 10:1 NKJV

Ask the LORD for rain In the time of the latter rain. The LORD will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, Grass in the field for everyone.

I slept off while praying and I had a short dream that woke me up. I saw a metal pole with some rusty elements on it. Then it began to rain. After the rain, they came to carry off the pole. On the spot where the pole stood, there was a brown mark on the floor made by the interaction of the water and the metal.

The Lord said to me as I woke up, "You cannot leave a mark of what you have not carried". In the same way, just like the rain, it takes an outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord upon us for us to leave a generational impact here on earth.

We are in a prophetic season. You must be willing to make a mark in your time. There is no one that is redeemed that is not appointed for impact. By the prophecy of Joel:

"Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions" Joel 2:28 NLT

There is nowhere that rain falls that is left the same way. When rain falls, dry things come alive. When rain falls, seeds buried underground begin to sprout. It reveals what we never knew was there. When rain falls, there is a refreshing.

We are in the season of the rain. Dry prayer lives are sprouting with a new passion. Potentials that had laid fallow and dormant are coming alive. Men who did not know what they carried are entering a realm of revelation. All of these will be refreshing to the carrier and to the body of Christ.

Therefore, your goal must be to stay

continually yielded to the Spirit of the Lord. A yielded man is a great vessel in the hands of the Lord. Train yourself early to be yielded to Him.

At all costs, resist anything and everything that makes it difficult for you to yield to divine leading. Fight it hard. When your life becomes so encumbered for God to lead, you become stranded and confused and it will seem as though things got complicated. God makes our lives simple.

No matter how much you want to carry on a journey, it would be unwise to put the load on the driver's seat. No matter how hectic your life is now, leave the driver's seat to the Lord. The load will not count much when you have handed it all over to Him. Do not make it hard for God to lead you.

If it is hard for God to lead you, it will be hard for God to use you. If it is hard for God to use you, it will be impossible for you to leave a divine mark here on earth. Your life must produce kingdom impact.

Look at Jesus: He was so delighted with "His father's business" from age 12. How old are you now? Do divine things excite you? Are you postured constantly for the rain of the Spirit? When it pours, would you be a part of the manifestation?

CONFESSION

I am in tune with the speaking of God for my life. I stay continually yielded to the Spirit of the Lord.



WHAT MY GRANDPA TOLD HIS FRIEND

Text: Psalm 22:30 KJV

A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.

My Dad told us a story: While they were still young and their Dad was doing all he could to get them educated, a concerned friend walked up to his father saying, "Why are you not using your money to build a house instead of using the money to pay for education?" My grandpa's response was simple- he mentioned the names of all his children and said, "Those are the houses that I am building now".

There is the spirit of fatherhood. It is not every man that is doing things in the spirit of fatherhood. A father thinks and acts generationally. A father weighs his words, actions, and decisions from a generational point of view.

For a father, it is never just about them. It is about their children and their children's children. The spirit in the latter years of Hezekiah the King is a strange spirit that must be resisted.

Some Fathers build for generations and some fathers waste what a generation laid and built up.

Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. Isaiah 39:5-6 KJV

A strange father is not bothered about his sons. As long as things are fine in their own time. As long as they are fine, they do not care. It is a strange spirit.

And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon. Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. He said moreover, For there shall be peace and truth in my days. Isaiah 39:7-8 KJV

Do you know the next prophecy to the nation about those strange words and actions by King Hezekiah:

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Isaiah 40:1 KJV

Today, I speak the comfort of God to everyone who has not enjoyed a generationally thinking fatherhood. I speak comfort to everyone who had the wrong picture of fatherhood. I speak comfort to ladies abused by their fathers. I speak comfort to hearts that were hurt by the decisions of fathers. I speak comfort to our nation, Nigeria!

Finally, you are either a Father or a potential Father. Make sure you do it right in your time. Make sure you make decisions thinking about generations. Do not just think of yourself.

CONFESSION

I have the foresight of a father. I think and do things generationally. My children will serve the Lord.

DAY 31

SAY THANK YOU LIKE YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE

Text: Isaiah 12:4 NLT

In that wonderful day, you will sing: "Thank the LORD! Praise his name! Tell the nations what he has done. Let them know how mighty he is!

I had the privilege of visiting a dear father in the faith who dedicated a day of the month to teach ministers and impact them prayerfully. The meetings were very impactful. I knelt by his side and said, "Grandpa, thank you for the monthly training. They have been a whole blessing". His response has stuck with me for years. He said, "You are the one who appreciates it".

There was a day someone reached out to me and said, "Pastor, I know a lot of people say thank you and appreciate you. I want to just add my voice to that also. I want to say thank you". I told the person, "You are one of the very few who show appreciation".

There was a year that I told a dear sister I was grateful for her consistency in equipping us with teachings on purity. She said to me, "I was almost thinking I should stop but your appreciation has energized me".

Beloved, from the days of Jesus Christ, the flow of appreciation has witnessed scarcity, and only a few returns to express it. Many people assume that "many people" are showing appreciation and their own is irrelevant or inconsequential. It is not true.

Jesus met ten lepers. He told them to go show themselves to the High Priest. They discovered they were healed on the way. Only one of them returned to show gratitude.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. Luke 17:15-16 KJV

Give Glory to God. Yes! God deserves the glory always. You must give all the glory to God. He is the one who does mighty things. He is the source of inspiration. But it does not end there.

Giving him thanks. Show appreciation to the vessel or channel God is using or has used to bless you also. Let your pastor know that his teachings are a blessing to you. Share testimonies of how impactful it has been.

With a Loud Voice. Do not be quiet about it. Do not try to be "humble". Let it be loud. Fight every spirit that tells you that your appreciation is excessive. Share the testimonies. Send that message. Say, thank you.

Even our Lord Jesus had to ask and then also add a statement:

And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. Luke 17:17-18 KJV

Where are the nine? They are not found.

Where are those who say they have been blessed? They are not found

Where are those who tell their pastors how much their lives have been impacted? They are not found.

Go and say Thank you to your pastor today. It will strengthen his heart. Do it.

Never forget- Appreciation that is not expressed is no appreciation at all.

Will you be the one?

Or are you part of the nine?

CONFESSION

I cultivate the habit of thanksgiving. I am expressive in giving thanks. I testify to the goodness of God always.



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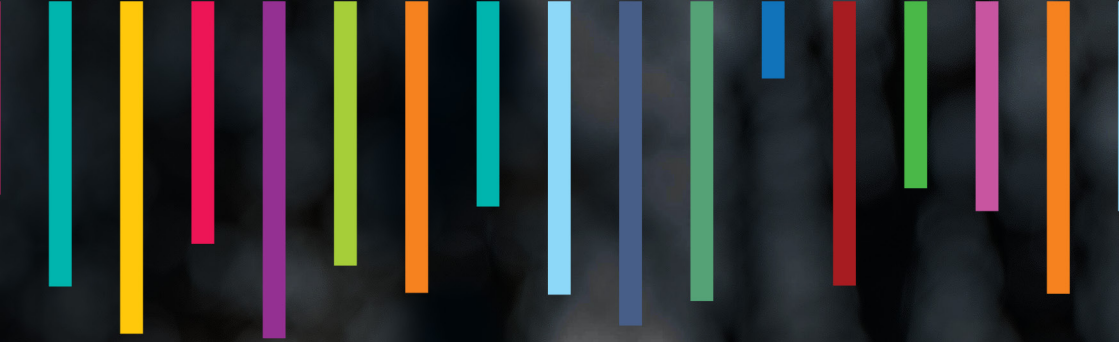


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