

- APRIL 2024 -

COMPASS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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Temiloluwa Ola

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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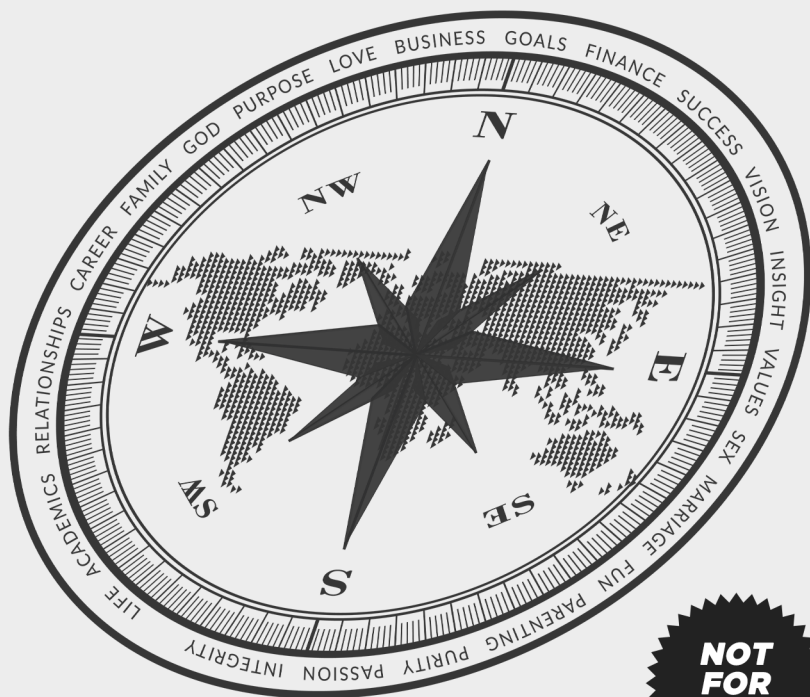
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Introduction

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

ANYTHING IT TAKES FOR THE GOSPEL

Text: Romans 1:16 NKJV

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Back in the day, while I was still an undergraduate, I would invite friends to join me in meetings in the land of Eruwa. At times, I was the host. At times, it was in my parent's church.

On one such occasion, I had the honour of hosting a friend. When we got to town, he had a necklace around his neck. Just before we stepped into the church, I spotted it. I pulled him aside and said, "My brother, I have nothing against your necklace but if you desire indeed to minister to this congregation, would you be kind enough to remove it so there is no restraint in their heart and the atmosphere as they observe you".

His response stuck with me. He said, "My brother sir, I am removing it right away. I will do anything for the gospel". He ministered powerfully and there was a free course for the Spirit of the Lord.

(This is not an argument for wearing or not wearing trousers, using jewellery, or any other matter like it. Our mindset when we were growing up was that attachment was made from the pit of hell. If a lady wears a pair of trousers, she is a prostitute trying to seduce men. Do you get the context now?)

There are times when you would have to sacrifice personal preference for the sake of the gospel. There are times when it is pure wisdom to know the culture of the community you are ministering to and make adjustments (as long as they are not sinful adjustments). You are doing it for Jesus!

One of the greatest hindrances to the move of the spirit is the reign of the flesh. The flesh will always argue because of its tradition. Peter argued because he would never go near a gentile. God had to first work on his mindset before he could send him to Cornelius. I am sure Peter was concerned about his image as a high-ranking Apostle, but his love for Christ was bigger than the sentiments of his culture.

I have missionary friends who share experiences that take guts to go through for the Lord. If it is about self, the gospel of Christ

will be trapped in our holy huddles. Is it the water they drink or they bathe with? Is it the places they lay their heads? Yet God shows himself faithful. They return with a huge harvest of souls for the kingdom.

I have ministered in churches where there are certain rules and regulations – we remove our shoes before we get in, and some have both genders seated separately. We do not argue. We simply comply. May I not become the hindrance to the gospel of Christ.

It is not wise to say, "That is who I am. I cannot change for any reason. If they cannot accept me as I am, then I am not interested". Why would you let "self" hinder you from kingdom exploits? Do not let it happen.

Apostle Paul said: "Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings." 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 NLT

Do not become a sinner to save sinners. Find a common ground. Make sacrifices. Do it for Christ.

CONFESSION

I make sacrifices for the gospel. The gospel of Christ will not be mocked through me. I am kingdom-minded always.

DAY 02

FIGHT LOOSENESS

Text: Proverbs 13:4 NLT

Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper.

He walked up to me after service and said, "Pastor, I want to quit my training as an apprentice". He went on to mention certain challenges that he was facing. He wanted to quit for those reasons.

I smiled and told him, "You are not going to quit. You have what it takes to endure till the end. If you look back, you will notice a pattern. Do you know it is not the first time you would stop a great venture halfway?" He took a deep breath.

Then I added, "Please, I am sorry to tell you this- Do you notice that your Dad quit many things also? If you do not fight this pattern with all you have gotten, you will repeat his mistakes".

He took heed. He pushed. He did not only finish his training, he has gone ahead to greater things that will change his story and that of his lineage forever.

One of the ways that the devil defeats a man is through the spirit of discouragement. Discouragement at times will disguise as legitimate excuses but if you look deeply and with insight, you will see that there is a spirit that you must rebuke so it does not alter your journey in life.

One key thing that having a shepherd does for you is to take you far from want, and restore your soul when you are down and discouraged while emphasizing the place of righteousness in decision-making. At other times, he will be there when you slide into poor decisions as a rod of correction and comfort. But the aim is to get you to that place the Lord has prepared for you.

A disciple must be disciplined. A disciple must be able to endure. A disciple must be able to discern when the devil wants to use weariness to introduce a strange pattern into his life. He fights back.

Can you imagine if the young man had no

pastor? He would have made a personal decision that has a great generational consequence.

There is a spirit of looseness in our times that you must fight. There are loose mouths that will speak anyhow. There are loose minds that will take all sorts of junk. There are loose clothes that show a lost state.

Beloved, you are either being harnessed by the Lord Jesus for kingdom purposes or you are being harvested by the devil as an ambassador of his schemes. There is no in-between.

Well! If you say you are neutral, let me announce to you that it is possible to be the devil's tool in God's house. Doeg the Edomite was in the presence of the Lord but he returned to kill priests and their entire family members. There is no neutrality. Neutrality means "I am for the devil". Will you go to war with a soldier who says, "I am neutral"? Neutrality is choosing the enemy side.

Being tied to the kingdom grants you ease in decision-making. You will talk like a kingdom citizen, you will dress like one also. "Let your will be done on earth" will not be lip service but your heart will be there.

Do not give up.

Be a disciple.

Use all the Lord has provided.

Fight loose

CONFESSION

I do not quit in the day of capacity. I have staying power. I do not give up.



ARE YOU A GREAT STEWARD OF RESOURCES?

Text: Mathew 13:12 NIV

Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.

We had a few days to go; yet there was still a lot to be done on the project site. The next phase needed quite some funds. We had to purchase things for electrical and plumbing accessories.

We all prayed and gave thanks before we left the site that night. By the time we returned in the morning, we had almost all the funds needed.

As I strolled on-site still giving thanks, we received the exact amount needed to take care of the balance. Our joy was palpable. God showed up. Yes, He did.

But here is the amazing part: I sent a message to the person who sent the seed and the response still rings in my heart to date: "You are an amazing steward of God's resources". It challenged me heavily.

Beloved, God looks at your stewardship before He increases the resources around you. If you are not faithful to one man, you will not be faithful with a hundred men. If you are not faithful with one dollar, you cannot be faithful with one thousand dollars.

If you are a minister of the gospel (this will help a businessman or woman also), please separate the resources of the ministry from your resources. Do not mix it up. Let there be accountability over the resources of God's people. Please, even if the offering is two hundred and sixty-five naira and you knew you gave two hundred naira as a pastor, do not complain. Do not grumble. It is not your money. Treat it with honour. It belongs to God.

Apostle Paul made it clear that one of the requirements of a Kingdom Steward is faithfulness. You must be faithful!

Moreover, it is [essentially] required of

stewards that a man should be found faithful [proving himself worthy of trust].

1 Corinthians 4:2 AMPC

There was a time when Apostle Paul had to administer the resources of God's people, we did not take things for granted. He ensured that a team of efficient and faithful men handled the funds and he gave his reasons:

And we are sending along with him the brother who is praised by all the churches for his service to the gospel. What is more, he was chosen by the churches to accompany us as we carry the offering, which we administer to honour the Lord himself and to show our eagerness to help. We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man.

2 Corinthians 8:18-21 NIV

They did not handle God's money like their personal money. They did this for two reasons:

- To avoid criticism about how the funds were managed,
- To ensure that they do what is right before God and man.

There is a tendency to mismanage divine resources when you are not deliberate about stewardship and faithfulness. Please be deliberate.

CONFESSION

I am not wasteful. I am prudent in managing God's gifts. I am a good steward of resources.

HOW NOT TO KILL YOURSELF

Text: Ephesians 4:7 NIV

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

I followed my pastor to a church for a Stewards' Vigil at another church some years ago. My Pastor preached like fire. Till now some of the statements he made still ring out loud in my head:

"God is not in the business of maintenance. He keeps making things better. If you cannot make it better. Quit". He was challenging us to better kingdom stewardship.

"You do not know how much of a sinner you can be until you have money. You need money to finance adultery. Money will easily help you hide a sinful life". He was challenging us to a life of purity and faithfulness.

"There is no happy husband of a sad wife. There is no happy wife of a sad husband". He was challenging us on marital stewardship.

But as we got into the vehicle that night to go home. My Pastor began to laugh in the car. We all wondered why he was laughing. He said, "They all look at me look like a superstar but I did not even touch their topic".

He then added, "I tried all I could to follow their topic. I even had a book on it but it did not open up. I followed what the Lord has graced me with".

Friend, the reason why you are frustrated is that you are struggling to fight giants in the armour of Saul while you disregard the sling and stone you have been graced with.

One of the most effective assassins of joy is trying all you can to please others without regard to the will of God, the grace of God and the gifts of God in your life.

Any minister of the gospel will know this: There are times you will struggle hard with a topic for hours. You have plenty of notes but you do not have a message. You have to put

aside your note and ask for the hand of God upon you.

There is nothing you are given to steward that you cannot access through an area that the Lord has graced you with. Your sling and stone will find a spot on the forehead of Goliath.

When next pressure is rising, calm down. Take a walk along the streams of meditation. Pick up your smooth stones. Carry your shepherd's pouch. Remember that the Lord who was with you has not abandoned you. Stop looking for a formula. Look for the grip of His hand on your Spirit and steward the gift He has blessed you with in confidence.

Some can sing it but you can write it. Do not try to sing it. Some can teach it but you can prophesy it. Do not try to teach it. Some can lead it while you can identify those who can lead it. Do not try to lead it. Use that gift of identifying leaders well.

Do you know what Paul said:

You see, we are not like the many hucksters who preach for personal profit. We preach the word of God with sincerity and with Christ's authority, knowing that God is watching us. 2 Corinthians 2:17 NLT

Do it with sincerity. Do it with the authority of Christ. Do not become a spiritual hustler! Do you get it?

CONFESSION

I labour according to God's measure of grace in my life. I am not a spiritual hustler. I serve in sincerity.

DAY 05

3 THINGS THAT MAKE MEN BOW

Text: Revelations 21:7 NKJV

He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

The only money I had in the office that day was the church offering. It was the first few weeks after church started. I needed to help a friend make a call and I had no airtime. It was hard not to “borrow” from the money. It was also hard not to rationalize and take a little for airtime. My friend got offended and disappointed in me.

The very next day after that pressure to dip my hands into church funds, I got a call from a dear friend who mentioned that he would love to partner with the ministry monthly.

Friends, you will face situations that make men bow. You must not.

Ex. 20:5 says that “You shall not bow down to them nor serve them...” You may not be bowing to idols but are you bowing to pressure to compromise, pleasure and even persecution? What will make a generation that has seen the power of God like no other bow to another god? Same as what makes many seek other options than God:

1. **PRESSURE:** When men wait on God and for God and they feel God is not showing up, they bow to pressure. They settle for quick fixes. They try to help God. At a point on the journey of waiting, Abraham was also pressured into sleeping with Hagar while waiting for the promise. He ended up with something that troubled the promise.

2. **PLEASURE:** Pleasure has ruined more lives than persecution. Men seek to forget God when the journey is smooth. Daniel said No to “defiling food”. Esau caved in. Joseph said No to “Free but costly sex”. Samson Caved in.

Jesus said No to Devilish Wealth. Judas embraced it.

3. **PERSECUTION:** Some are threatened out of faith in God- loss of jobs, denial of funding, death threats etc. Paul went through many threats but stood for God. Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego refused to bow in Babylon. When persecution and pressure do not work, the devil tries a more subtle weapon, which is pleasure. When an external attempt fails, implosion can work. Balaam tried cursing Israel. When it failed, they turned to the weapon of seduction.

In the last days, the love of many will wax cold (Matt. 24:12). Is yours cold?

CONFESS I O N

I do not give room for pressure. I do not trade my destiny for pleasure. I overcome persecution.



"I AM SORRY, THAT DAY CAN'T WORK"

Text: Joshua 24:15 NLT

...But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.

We all sat at the table and I told Irewamiri that I would still need to step out that Sunday evening. She looked at me and said, "I don't know about that dear. Sunday evenings are for us as a family".

I called the person I had an appointment with and requested that we talk on the phone briefly. Many times, I have to say to people, "I am sorry, that day cannot work".

No matter how busy you are, do not joke with the time created for your family. If you have none, create one. Your days must not be filled with all work and no moment for your spouse and children. Soon enough, you will realise that they are actually all you have got. They are the motivation for most of what you do. Do not take them for granted.

I read an amazing story about Jonathan Edwards. The preacher of the classic, "Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God". Despite his work as a preacher, he had a strong family moment. He spends his evening with his wife and eleven children. He lays hands on each of them and prays for them daily.

Almost two hundred years after, A.E. Winship, an American Author researched his lineage. His discovery was amazing.

In His published study, Juke-Edwards: A study in Education and Heredity, Winship revealed that the one marriage of Edwards produced an amazing lineage, including Two Hundred and Eighty-Five College Graduates on the Edwards family tree. The Edwards lineage produced:

1. Three Hundred Preachers
2. Thirteen notable Authors
3. Thirteen college Presidents
4. Sixty-five college Professors

5. One hundred Lawyers and a Dean of a law school

6. Thirty Judges

7. Fifty-six physicians (doctors) and a Dean of medical school

8. Eighty holders of public office

9. Three United States senators

10. One Vice President of the United States

11. One Comptroller of the United States Treasury.

(Culled from Purging Your House, Pruning Your Family Tree by Perry Stone)

What was it that Jonathan Edwards planted? He gave his home attention. He did not joke with his family. He planted the seed of love, faith and hope. What a lineage.

When last did you lay hands on your children to pray for them? What takes your family time? Is it just TV shows? What lasting kingdom impact are you leaving on your seeds? What adjustment will you make?

What day will you say to others, "I am sorry, that day cannot work, I will be with my family?"

CONFESSION

My home is a quarry for producing giants. I raise generationally-relevant seeds. My seeds will serve the Lord.

DAY 07

THE BLESSING OF ALL

Text: Numbers 32:12 NIV

...not one except Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun, for they followed the LORD wholeheartedly.'

After our trainers gave us the instruction that we should look for land, we commenced a search. While searching, we went to ask for a piece of land that we saw. The owner said, "Pastor, that's too small for what you intend. We have another one somewhere close by. Check it out and let me know if you would want that". We checked it out. And yes we wanted it! It was bigger. We got something bigger as a gift.

Beloved, God is still in the business of doing great and mighty things that are beyond finding out. Your role in the journey must be complete obedience to instructions.

It is only walking in complete obedience that will lead to complete possession. Let's check out the life of Joshua and the nation of Israel:

As the Lord commanded Moses his servant, so did Moses command Joshua, and so did Joshua; he left nothing undone of ALL that the Lord commanded Moses (Joshua 11:15)

Joshua did not leave anything undone of the commandment of the Lord to Moses. What was the consequence of his full obedience?

So Joshua took all that land, the hills, and all the south country, and all the land of Goshen, and the valley, and the plain, and the mountain of Israel, and the valley of the same; (Joshua 11:16)

He took ALL the Land and Hills.

He took ALL the southern country.

He took ALL the land of Goshen

He took ALL the valleys and mountains.

And it did not stop there:

And the Lord gave unto Israel ALL the land which he swore to give unto their fathers, and they possessed it and dwelt therein. And the Lord gave them rest round about, according to ALL that he swore unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of ALL their enemies before them; the Lord delivered ALL their enemies into their hand. There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; ALL came to pass.
Joshua 21:43 – 45 KJV

You cannot modify divine instructions to suit your fleshly convenience and expect to walk into the fullness of divine blessings. No!

What has the Lord told you to do?

Are you obeying fully?

Are you modifying the instructions of the Lord?

Lord, help me to walk in complete obedience to your instructions. Would you pray?

CONFESSION

I walk in complete obedience. I serve the Lord with the right heart.

DAY 08

“DON’T BRING THAT SICKNESS IN HERE”

Text: Genesis 18:19 KJV

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

As kids, anytime we got sick in school, our parents were beckoned on. As soon as we got home, Mum would say to the sick- “Temi, you know sickness is not permitted in this house. So before you come inside, rebuke that sickness”. You need to see me saying, “In Jesus’ name, I am not sick”. She would definitely take great care of us and take us for medical treatment. I hated injections.

There was a time Mum returned from a conference and all three of us were sick. She came into the children’s room that evening and I heard her say, “Devil, you have no space here. I rebuke you, spirit of infirmity. Get out”. Our health was restored that night.

Today, we do not just pray for our children but we also now pray for our parents. We now remind them of that strong faith in their ageing years.

There is something about seeing a great example of faith. It gives you a head start in life and destiny. Timothy had such a head start. He saw faith as a young child and faith was seen in him also.

“...when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also”
II Timothy 1:5 NKJV

Generational examples build you up for generational impact. It is easier to replicate what you have seen. But if it has not been seen, it is hard to replicate.

Unfortunately, the examples some saw were terrible and that is what they are also replicating. At times in the Chronicle of Kings, you will see words like this:

He did evil in the sight of the Lord and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin.
I Kings 15:34 NKJV

And he did evil in the sight of the Lord and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. He did not depart from them.
II Kings 13:2 NKJV

But we had the chronicles of those who followed great examples also:

And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, yet not like his father David; he did everything as his father Joash had done.
II Kings 14:3 NKJV

Examples are powerful.

Be a great example.

Follow great examples.

CONFESSION

I am an example of godliness to my household. My home is trained in the way of the Lord.

THE FINAL QUESTION

Text: Acts 6:3 NKJV

Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

A pastor narrated a unique experience once: A young man who used to work in their ministry office got an appointment with a financial institution. The financial institution sent a reference form to the ministry office that they had to fill out and attest to.

After answering all questions, the final question was, “If you get a chance to employ him again, would you?”

That was a powerful final question. You either had to lie or you simply tell them the truth. If you say things like “it depends”, you have wrecked the chances of the young man.

What is the lesson there?

First, character counts. Joseph went through intense tests of character:

“Until the time came to fulfil his dreams, the Lord tested Joseph’s character.”
Psalms 105:19 NLT

One of the sterling records in scripture about Joseph states thus:

So, Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn’t worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat! Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man Genesis 39:6 NLT

Second, you would be tested with small things. You will be tested with another man’s thing or things that are not your own. A lot of people keep failing character tests.

Third, God is looking out for men of Character and not just men of charisma. God knows when you speak, people develop goose pimples but He also knows that you cannot take your eyes off things that are not yours. He knows that you exaggerate your testimonies. He knows that you borrow things but never return them. He knows you make promises that you do not intend to keep.

Character defects will always put limits on a man. Men cannot trust you with resources and God cannot trust you with assignments.

What do you have to deal with now? Do not use giftedness to cover the cracks. Talent can take you to the top but only character will keep you there.

CONFESS I O N

I am not of a questionable character. I model my character after Christ’s.

DAY 10

HANDLING EMOTIONS ON THE JOURNEY TO DESTINY FULFILMENT

Text: Romans 8:14 NIV

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

My Grandfather in the faith shared a powerful lesson with us once: A dear friend of his visited him regularly in his city. Anytime he comes, they would jointly visit a senior minister of the gospel. After a while, they both noticed that when they visited this minister, they always returned discouraged. They never discussed it.

One day, as they drove to his place, he had a prompt that they should go back. He shook it off because he did not know how to tell his friend. Suddenly, his friend parked and said he was not going to visit the man.

He wanted to persuade his friend that it would seem somehow. His friend leaned to the passenger's side of the car, opened the door and told him, "If you still want to go, No problem. As for me, I turn back here". At that moment, he knew his friend was serious. They both returned to base. They are both great voices in the land today.

He told us that day, "When it comes to matters of destiny, be brutal".

Sentiments will hold you down in life and destiny. You need to wake up from the slumber of making choices that add no value to your God-approved journey.

Jesus was really hard on Peter when he suggested that the divine assignment he came to fulfil was not going to happen.

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law and that he must be killed and

on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Matthew 16:21 – 23 NIV

Jesus told Peter he was a stumbling block and did not have the things of God in mind. Right after, Jesus gave a brief lecture to the disciples on the kind of commitment that following God's plan would need.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

Matthew 16:24 – 25

Those are some tough words. Very tough! Jesus ended up saying that whatever you gain that makes you lose your soul is not worth it- friendship, attention, public approval, money, status!

You cannot be sent if you will be sentimental. Following God takes guts, grit and some gusto.

CONFESS I O N

I am not swayed by emotions in destiny choices. I choose the spirit's leading.

DAY 11

"I WON'T LIE TO YOU"

Text: Ezekiel 24:14 (ESV)

I am the Lord. I have spoken; it shall come to pass; I will do it. I will not go back; I will not spare; I will not relent...

We were about to drive out for just some minutes when Olive ran to her mum saying, "I want to go with you". She was not appropriately dressed. Her mum told her to go dress up. She ran inside with such speed to pick a dress and a pair of shoes.

While she dressed up, she heard the sound of the door and began to run and cry thinking she had been left behind. I kept reassuring her that Mum was still around. At a point, Mum walked back in and said to her, "I am still here. I would not lie to you that I am waiting for you. Is that okay?" She nodded with a smile.

We looked at each other and smiled. Why? We remembered the days when older ones used the trick of "Go get your shoes" to leave us behind.

First, it may be a long time since you were asked, but are you ready to go with the Lord when He shall appear? Will you still be looking for something? Will you be like Jesse's other sons, whom Samuel had to be telling, "Go and sanctify yourself"? They needed notice yet they were not chosen for kingship.

Or will you be like David who came straight from the field and did not need to be told to get sanctified? He was living a sanctified life. He needed no emergency preparation. He was ready for the day of the Lord's appointment for him in destiny. His daily living was sanctified living. It is better to live ready than just get ready.

A time is coming when there will be no room to make any adjustments. While the five virgins sought emergency oil, the door

was shut. We are urged to live "like men waiting". Will you be ready when the Lord shall come?

Second, as you go out today, I want you to know that God will always keep his promise. He is your Father and He will never lie to you.

God is not like people. He tells no lies. He is not like humans. He doesn't change his mind. When he says something, he does it. When he makes a promise, he keeps it. Numbers 23:19 GW

You can count on the promise of God. It will come to pass. His Word is His bond. It is impossible for God to lie:

that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Hebrews 6:18 KJV

Do not let the situation derail you.

Do not let the challenges derail you.

Do not let the promise of alternative comfort outside of God's plan derail you.

He cannot lie to you!

CONFESSIO N

I believe the word of God. I believe the promises and purpose of God for my life. I believe my Lord to the uttermost!

DAY 12

“WHAT DO YOU WANT- GOLD OR SILVER?”

Text: Isaiah 40:31 NKJV

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

I had spent a while waiting on the Lord. It was the predetermined day to break the fast. Coincidentally, we had some great meals ordered for the evening already. It was going to be a “wash it down with joy” kind of evening.

Just at that moment, I sensed a nudging to wait for another day. The question that the Lord asked me was what made it quite interesting. The Lord asked, “What do you want- gold or silver?”

It was hard telling my flesh and my mind to follow the leading of the Spirit, but I did. The next few hours became a gusher of divine insights and inspirations. I would have gotten silver but God gave me gold! What a glorious God.

Silver is costly and people will definitely appreciate it but you must make up your mind that; in destiny, second best is not your desire. Alternative to the best can never be the best.

The difference between gold and silver is always the extra mile. Don't be wrapped in silver when heaven wanted you clothed in gold. Men would applaud you for attaining silver. Your generation will call you a great man but heaven would know that you did less than was intended.

There is a level of discipline needed to become a “divine gold medalist”. In a race, the difference between the man who took gold and the man who

took silver can at times be as little as few seconds. Do not be haunted by underperformance when you know you could have done better.

Fast when you need to.

Pray when you need to.

Wait when you need to.

Study when you need to.

Do not give yourself any excuse to settle for less!

Paul mentioned to us that there is such a thing as running to attain the prize:

You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally. 1 Corinthians 9:24 – 25 MSG

This year, run to Win! train Hard. Do not miss the Gold. God has a destination in view for you and He is taking you there!

CONFESSION

I strive to obtain the best from the Lord. I do not settle for less. I am diligent.

DAY 13

"PASTOR TEMI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THIS DAY?"

Text: Romans 12:10 NIV

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

My trainer called me a couple of years back and asked me, "Pastor Temi, what are you doing on so and so day?" I was wise enough not to reel out my schedule. I simply asked, "Sir, what do you want me to do for you on that day sir".

He eventually sent me to a meeting that treated me like a king and opened my eyes to many things I would never have known.

Friend, you will not learn if you are not humble. You will not grow if you are not teachable. You can stay in the same spot for a long simply because you are legitimately busy with things. It is not busyness that makes you great, it is the blessing that comes from serving that changes everything.

It is great to be busy but you must be sensitive to those you must never tell you are busy. A Minister of God shared how his spiritual father called him. He asked him to go on a trip with him but he responded that he was busy. It took him two years to wake up from his slumber. He realised he was not smart enough. Today, his story has changed.

David was busy taking care of the sheep when his father called him. It is great to be productive. It is great to be busy. But David did not say, "Daddy, I am busy taking care of the sheep".

The three times he was called off the sheep by his Dad were significant moments of change in his story.

The first time was when Prophet Samuel stormed their family home. Jesse sent for David. If David had told his father that he was busy with the sheep, he would have missed the anointing for kingship.

And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here." So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"

I Samuel 16:11 – 12 NKJV

The second time that Jesse sent for David was the time King Saul needed someone to serve him in the palace. If David had said he was busy, he would have missed his opportunity to see how kings live and understand the protocol of the palace.

Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul. I Samuel 16:19 – 20 NKJV

The third time Jesse sent for David and told him to take some food to his brothers on the battlefield. David did not hesitate. That was the time he became a national hero. He killed Goliath.

Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves and run to your brothers at the camp. And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand, and see how your brothers fare and bring back news of them." I Samuel 17:17 – 18 NKJV

Friend, learning to heed the call of a father is a major key in life. Fathers are not frivolous. They do not just call arbitrarily. They know what season you are in. They know the opportunities and exposures that you need. Do not take the call of a trainer for granted.

The first call of David was a call to the anointing. The second call was a call to the palace. He stepped into where he was anointed for. He served the throne that he would soon sit on. The third call was to prominence. There are no casual calls.

CONFESSION

I am not full of self. I serve others in the Lord. My day of opportunity will not pass me by.

DAY 14

YOU CANNOT EAT FROM THERE!

Text: Hebrews 6:12 NKJV

We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

As I stepped out of the room, I noticed that my daughter had dipped her hand inside a waste basket. She picked up a maize cob and was about to put it in her mouth when I saw her. I quickly grabbed it from her and said to her, "Olive, you cannot eat from there".

If you are well pastored, you cannot feed on junk. It is the assignment of teachers and fathers as delegated shepherds to ensure you lie down only in green pastures. A good shepherd will never allow the sheep to lie down and eat what will upset their stomach and hinder their growth.

If you see anyone whose life looks like a spiritual junkyard, you do not have to look far- such a person is far from teachers.

The writer of Hebrews gave an admonition that is a solid warning for us all on the journey of faith:

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. Hebrews 13:7 -9a NIV

Your decisions in life become easy when you take your compass from the Word of God and the examples of your teachers in life and destiny.

When a member of the body is disconnected from the joints of the body, it brings pain to the body. A lot of those who transfer junks are disconnected from the joint.

A teacher like Paul would teach and also stand as a model of what has been taught so he can say, "Follow me as I follow Christ". It is easier to say, "Do not eat what I don't eat" than to find a cure for poison.

A teacher is more than just an instructor. They are our compass when it comes to critical decisions in life. If you lose track of your teachers, you will be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings.

When you want to make critical decisions, do you remember any example based on God's Word that your teacher gave or that you have seen in his or her life? If you cannot, you are far from your teachers.

When you are far from your teachers, your decisions will look strange- it will show that it has a different spirit! Do not get carried away.

Or else, you will sit at the table with Jesus but you will be thinking of the words of the Pharisees and Sadducees. That is how Satan gets the room to operate through a man!

Retrace your steps. Do not get carried away!

CONFESSION

I enjoy the blessings of teachers. I am trainable. I follow godly models.



THERE ARE STILL GENUINE PROPHETS

Text: 2 Chronicles 20:20 NKJV

...Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.

When she finished leading worship in our convention years ago, the guest minister was about to preach. He paused and called her. He asked about her husband. Fortunately, he was in the meeting. He said to them, "I do not know you but thus says the Lord, 'In nine months, you will have your baby'.

They had been married for about 4 years and trusted God for a baby. That was in March. The baby boy landed the last week of December. It was exactly nine months.

Beloved, there are still genuine Prophets and the Gifts of the Spirit are still actively at work in our midst.

Men have abused spiritual things. There are fakes, I agree but the presence of the fake is proof that there is an original.

If you despise all spiritual gifts and you despise Spiritual offices because of the fakes you have encountered, you will shut yourself out of a certain dimension of God's redemptive plan for your life.

You will be a great Christian but there will be dimensions you will not enjoy. You will be content with normal life but supernatural dimensions will be closed in your life.

Why? How you perceive and receive Offices and Gifts come with its reward.

He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.
Matthew 10:41 NKJV

How then do I know the genuine and not get swindled by the fake? It is simple. Check the fruits and not just the gift. Jesus told us

clearly:

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Therefore by their fruits, you will know them." Matthew 7:15-18, 20 NKJV

What are the fruits to look out for?

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such, there is no law.
Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV

Is he walking in love?

Is he controlled by greed?

Is he trying to sleep with me?

No genuine servant of the Lord would display fruits that are not of the spirit. Do not be carried away by gifts. Check for fruits.

CONFESSION

I am not a victim of wrong prophecies and fake prophets. I am led by the Holy Spirit.

DAY 16

HOW COPYING CAN LEAD TO LESS

Text: 2 Corinthians 10:12 NKJV

For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among

Some time ago, we were in an appraisal meeting in the ministry-looking circumspectly at the vision and things that have driven it this far. We concluded that there were things we lost because we wanted to copy something else. We concluded that "We must be secure in our model".

One of the things you must pray for in life is the grace to be secure with the revelations (insight, ideas and concepts) that God has given you the privilege to host and implement.

Pressure can make you leave what has been working for you to copy what is working for someone else. At times, the motive is sincere but the loss, in the long run, is an adulterated version of what God gave to you.

Joshua learnt from Moses. Moses handed over to Joshua. Moses led the people to cross the Red Sea. Joshua led the people to cross the Jordan. Both did it in the instructed way. They waited for instructions.

There are times you will do exactly like another. Elisha parted the Jordan just like Elijah did with the cloak. However, there are times you will do it differently.

A discerning man would therefore spend time in fellowship with God per time to draw the method heaven has placed a seal on for the moment.

What opened up for Israel may bury Egypt. You must not be in a hurry to copy. It is good to be challenged by others but it is better to be led by the Lord.

Maybe the giving of Barnabas challenged Ananias and Sapphira but they got themselves into a mess by attempting to do the same at the level of Barnabas. Do not kill yourself while trying to copy someone else. You may end up less than God intended.

Remember, those who compare themselves to themselves are not wise. Press in for divine inspiration. Even if it makes no sense, stick to the plan heaven has sown in your mind.

If you copy without the revelation behind it, it can lead to disgrace- the sons of Sceva can explain better! They saw firsthand what happens to those who copy without a mandate from God.

Be secure!

CONFESS I O N

I do not fall into the trap of comparison and copying. I stay true to what God has given me. I do not bow to pressure.



WHEN RESTING BECOMES DANGEROUS

Text: Psalm 13:3 KJV

Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death.

There was a season when I thought I had worked a whole lot and I needed to take some rest. However, before I knew it, I was already moving from resting to indulgence. Devotion dropped. Sleeping increased. I was also getting lost in movies and social media. I kept saying, “I want to rest”.

Rest is great. Rest might be needed. However, you must know when rest is becoming a trap for your spiritual growth, awareness and sensitivity.

David might have fought many battles and needed some deserved rest but the rest became a trap for his soul. That rest became the landmine for greater troubles.

“Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath.”
2 Samuel 11:2 NLT

If your rest is leading you into trouble, you need to apply brakes and get into reset mode.

You must know when rest is enough. Rest must not become spiritual slumber. When Sisera, a military commander slept, he could be cheaply killed by a woman.

“But Jael, Heber’s wife, took a tent peg and seized a hammer in her hand, and went secretly to him and drove the peg into his temple, and it went through into the ground; for he was sound asleep and exhausted. So, he died.” Judges 4:21 NASB

Every sensitive spiritual soldier must know that the day after the battle is more sensitive than the day before the battle.

Peradventure one thing that is worse than resting at the wrong time is resting in the wrong place. Samson’s rest was in Delilah’s bosom. It came with costly consequences.

You can rest from activities but never rest from your sensitivity. You can rest from activities but never rest from awareness. You can rest from serving tables but never rest from the ministry of the word and prayer.

CONFESSIO N

I do not find rest in the wrong spot. I am strengthened by the power of God.

MATTRESS: HARD OR SOFT?

Text: Ephesians 5:21 KJV

...submitting to one another in the fear of God.

My wife has jokingly concluded that she will always ask “about to wed” lovers, “What type of mattress do you like?”

Why? For a really long time, she endured waking up each day on our tall bed and high (and hard) mattress. I did not know what she was going through until she voiced out her aches.

As a loving husband, we changed our bed and mattress to what she preferred- a low bed and a soft (but not high) mattress.

But another problem emerged- I awoke daily in pains. What will be our solution? Well, we now use a high mattress on a low bed!

Smiles. Simple but took us over a year.

Marriage is sustained on communication. Never assume that your spouse understands what you are thinking or feeling!

Homes run into trouble when you begin to react rather than talk! You did not marry the Holy Spirit. You married a person as human as you.

It will be so unkind to heap the work of the discerning of thoughts and intents on your spouse.

Talk! If the bed is hard, discuss it! If the sex is painful or unsatisfying, talk about it. If you feel neglected, talk!

Friends, issues left unaddressed or swept under the carpet have a 100 percent chance of resurrection.

There should always be that “low bed, high mattress” moment- that point of agreement

where both parties are satisfied.

There are quite some depressed spouses carrying unshared burdens. Communication can be learnt and improved upon. Express what you feel with love. Listen to one another.

Take a time-out for two. Do not fall into the trap of discussing with that lovely lady or man at work. Information sharing surely helps bonding.

You do not want to have your body with your spouse and your mind with your “bond”. That is a dangerous sport.

Marriage is about being naked and not ashamed- talk about it.

Man! “Be a Man” is not the best piece of advice in marriage communication; it is “open your mouth”. Talk! Do not form!

Woman! Submission is not “silent suffering”. It is rooted in love. If it hurts, talk! A loving man listens. Do not keep what will ruin you to heart.

Hope this helped you.

CONFESSION

I am selfless to my spouse. I honour my spouse. My marriage is blessed.

DAY 19

I STRUGGLED IN ANOTHER MAN'S HOUSE

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:1 GNT

For we know that when this tent we live in—our body here on earth—is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home he himself has made, which will last forever.

I was visiting with my sister and her family. At one point, there was a cut in the power supply. Some moments later, we had the sound that signified power had been restored. Interestingly, there was no supply in the house.

We saw there was power in the neighbourhood but there was none in the house. She requested that I help change the lines but I did not succeed. We tried all we could but to no avail.

Eventually, we called my brother-in-law and he gave directions on what to do and stayed on the phone till it was done. In a few minutes, power had been restored because we spoke to the one who knew what to do.

Beloved, know this now, you have a house that you also live in. The Word of God refers to it as a tent or a tabernacle. It is your body.

For we know that when this tent we live in—our body here on earth—is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home he himself has made, which will last forever.

2 Corinthians 5:1 GNT

I think it right, as long as I am in this tabernacle (tent, body), to stir you up by way of remembrance,
2 Peter 1:13 AMPC

Second, you must be clear that even though you live in that tent or tabernacle, once you give your life, that house has a new owner. It ceases to be yours. You stop doing whatever you like with your body. Why? The management has changed.

Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself,
1 Corinthians 6:19 NLT

Anything you try to do without the owner of

the house will be frustrating and very difficult. You will keep struggling with what can be easier.

Hear the words of Jeremiah to you as a believer:

I know, Lord, that our lives are not our own. We are not able to plan our own course.
Jeremiah 10:23 NLT

You must first ask the one who owns you about His plans for you. Why? Your life is not your own. If you try to manage it yourself, you can be frustrated.

The Psalmist knew this quite well also:

If you do what the Lord wants, he will make certain each step you take is sure. The Lord will hold your hand, and if you stumble, you still won't fall.

Psalms 37:23-24 CEV

The whole house was without power until we called the owner of the house. Your life will not be empowered until you call on the Lord. Since there was no power, we lacked light also. Without the Holy Spirit, a man's life will be in perpetual darkness. You will see the Word of God as a storybook without power. But when you have the Holy Spirit, you are not just empowered, you are enlightened. Grace begins to flow to all areas of your life.

If you try to manage this house yourself, it will crash. You will get into the wrong things. You will find reasons for sinning and you will keep saying the reason is "body no be wood". You will justify things. Tell your body that it is under new management. It cannot just do whatever it wants.

CONFESSION

My body is the temple of the Lord. I do not give room for impurities. I am under the management of the Holy Spirit.

DAY 20

SPICED VEGETABLES AND STRONG FRIENDS

Text: Proverbs 27:17 NLT

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

Asides from plantain, I love good vegetables. I mean the one spiced with assorted meat and fish. Wow! But the combination of the two (plantain and vegetable is magical).

On a visit, my wife and I were served this awesome plate of vegetable just as described above. Once my wife tasted it, she gave me a warning smile and said, "Darling! Do not eat a lot of the vegetable. It has quite some pepper".

She knew that too much pepper is a "ticket to the toilet" where the input and output have the same effect- peppering all through!

I disregarded it. I cannot miss the meal for anything. You knew how the story ended when we returned to base!

One of the things you must trust God for are people who warn you when you begin to compromise. It is unbelievable that Solomon had friends and advisers and he still drifted from God's plans and precepts.

When he married the daughter of Pharaoh or was thinking of her as a trophy for sealing great deals, did anyone warn him? From one slip, he ended up with an array of women. He followed his lust till he was lost in the worship of strange gods.

"Zabud son of Nathan was a priest and the king's friend and private advisor"
1 Kings 4:5 AMPC

David had a Nathan who did not keep quiet but Solomon had a Zabud that did not hold

him accountable when he was slipping into sin.

If you are doing wrong and your friends keep quiet about it, change your company. You have only surrounded yourself with grave diggers. They are not friends. They are mere fans. Friends confront in love. Fans admire you even in your mistakes.

A loving friend will warn you when you begin to consume what looks sweet but has grievous ends. Sin can taste sweet but its wages remain constant – death!

This season, have you gotten any friend who has challenged you to growth? Are they even close enough to notice that you no longer study and pray? Do they allow you to indulge or break that pattern with a friendly charge?

Have they noticed that you are now comfortable with the attention you get from the opposite sex that is not your spouse? Have they noticed that you are no longer aflame for God?

It is easy to fall when you are surrounded by men who hail you while you fail. Strong friendships are scarce. When you have one of such, be grateful!

CONFESSION

I am blessed with destiny relationships. I do not joke with godly friends.

BROKEN PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE BROKEN HOMES

Text: Romans 12:10 NLT

Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

It was a Sunday morning and Irewamiri and I had a bit of a disagreement. In a bit to both drive home our points passionately, we seem not to be getting one another. Since I knew that I had to get early to church, I went in to prepare.

After some minutes, I told her I was heading to church and that I had left the car behind for her to use while I strolled till I get a commercial bike.

About a hundred metres away from the house, the Holy Spirit said to me, "Go back and hug her. Tell her you are sorry and that you love her".

I returned home immediately. I met her at the dining area fixing breakfast for the children. I hugged her. I apologized. I told her that I love her.

If your ego is more important than the prompts of the Holy Spirit, you will destroy many things with your stubbornness. At times, that would include your marriage. Whatever two believers refer to as an irreconcilable difference is simply saying, "Our ego is more important than forgiveness" or at least one party is resisting the nudge of the spirit. Either way, ego is somewhere in the equation.

A broken husband and a broken wife can never have a broken home. When a home breaks, there is always an unbroken spouse. The sacrifice of God is a broken heart and not a broken marriage.

What does it mean to be a broken believer? It means to be fully yielded to the Word of the Lord and the instructions of the Holy Spirit even when you have your right to fight for. Obeying God is more important than your personal preference.

There are many homes that the Lord would have helped but self and its twin,

selfishness has kicked out selflessness.

Self is promoted when personal altars of devotion and fellowship are neglected. If you no longer study the word and pray, self will be getting fat. Your heart will be getting hardened. Little by little, the fence you are constructing to shut out the Holy Spirit and divine counsel will be completed. You should stop that construction work now. Abandon the site and demolish every imagination and thought that has exalted itself above the knowledge of God.

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:5 NIV

A broken man knows that it is about obeying Christ. A broken woman knows that it is first about holiness and not happiness. Whatever makes you holy has the joy of the Lord in it.

Are you a broken husband?

Are you a broken wife?

Your answer determines a lot- Will it be a broken home?

Someone has to stand up and do the same thing I did. Go and hug your spouse. Apologize. Confess your love. Kick out ego. Begin afresh.

CONFESSIO N

My home is a godly model. I do not raise a broken home.

DAY 22

IF A MAN DOES NOT DISAPPOINT...

Text: Romans 3:4 NKJV

Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar...

When my colleague during the National Youth Service Corps got to know towards the end of our stay in Akwa Ibom State that the Lord would have me focus on ministry full-time, he made a very profound statement that keeps ringing in my mind- "Pastor Temi, please do not call me when there are small needs in the ministry. Please notify me when there is a huge need. That is what I want to be a part of".

Every time he sees a need to date (an amazing twelve years down the line), he is always eager to be a part of it.

First, are you always true to your words? Do you have the integrity of words? Some people simply go around saying things to make people feel good but when reality hits, their words vanish like vapour and they are nowhere to be found. Be careful when you make vows and commitments.

There is a description that the Bible gives for the man who will ascend the hill of the Lord:

They always do what they promise, no matter how much it may cost.
Psalm 15:4 GNT

It is better if you keep quiet especially when you know it will be difficult for you to keep your word. Many have made promises that they cannot keep:

Think before you speak, and don't make any rash promises to God. He is in heaven and you are on earth, so don't say any more than you have to. So when you make a promise to God, keep it as quickly as possible. He has no use for a fool. Do what you promise to do. Better not to promise at all than to make a promise and not keep it.
Ecclesiastes 5:2, 4-5 GNT

Do not make "political statements". Be a man of your word. Let people know that you have the integrity of words. It is a good testimony.

Second, if a man can keep his word no matter how hard it is, how much more is the Lord God himself?

God honours His Word more than even his name. For the word of God will never fail.

(Luke 1:37 NLT). The Word of the Lord does not

return to Him void:

"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11 NKJV

Do not forget the powerful lines of this song:

You are Good, you are kind

You are more than these

I'm lost for words trying to describe you

Elohim, El-elyon, Aleselewi

Your Greatness is all I see

There is nothing you cannot do

There's no mountain you cannot move

If you have said it

Then you will do it

Cause You have a Track record

Of keeping Words

And you're not about

To stop doing it now...

God has a Track Record of Keeping His word. Go and verify!

CONFESSION

I trust in the Lord. I believe in His word for my life's journey. I enter into my promise.

DAY 23

“I WANT TO BECOME A DOCTOR”

Text: Proverbs 22:6 AMP

Train up a child in the way he should go [teaching him to seek God's wisdom and will for his abilities and talents], Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

In my younger days, if anyone asked about what I wanted to become, I had no hesitation in saying, “I wanted to become a Medical Doctor”. I grew up seeing our neighbour practise medicine in an inspiring way. His son, myself, and another childhood friend started observing medical procedures at very young ages- we were less than ten years.

I progressed into the sciences until my third term in Senior School Two when I ported to the Arts. The Doctor never said a word but his presence, drive, and results inspired a young boy. Today, I am not a Medical Doctor but his work ethic and visionary living are still an inspiration.

Let's begin with parents – Be careful who and what you expose your children to. There are devices to capture the heart of children (the next generation) heavily deployed right now. You must be very sensitive.

It had been like that from the days of Jesus:

Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood.” Mark 9:20-21 NKJV

You cannot keep watching and listening to things that do not edify while you tell them, “This is for adults”. If it is not healthy for your children, do not watch it at all. Fast some movies for the sake of their sanity.

Before you choose an event to attend, ask yourself if it will be healthy for your children.

Before you choose a restaurant to eat at, confirm if it will be a healthy space for the next generation. You are a trustee. Do not misbehave. Do not be in a hurry to turn them to adults.

Well! You need to remember that you are also a child of God. Most likely if it is not good or healthy for a child, it is not healthy for a child of God.

Friends, there is nothing that you are exposed to that is neutral. You are being influenced actively daily. You only have a choice to choose who and what gets access to your life.

Solomon warned us to guard our hearts with all diligence because it is the spring of the issues of life.

Amnon gave his ears to Jonadab and lost his mind. He raped his sister and was murdered by his brother. What a mess.

Who has your ears?

Do not partner with strange forces to raise your seed like a Christmas chicken for slaughter. Do not feed them with things that prepare them to become ready tools for depravity. Feed them for preservation, posterity, and godly purposes.

CONFESS I O N

My children will live for Christ. My seeds are preserved for Godly purposes.

DAY 24

WHAT I TOLD A POLICE OFFICER!

Text: Leviticus 6:12 NKJV

And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out...

In the early days of ministry, I was driving into town and I was already late for our evening service. I was stopped at a police checkpoint. When the policeman asked me to introduce myself and asked about what I do, I reasoned I would not be delayed if I said I am a lawyer. I introduced myself as a lawyer. The police officer was impressed definitely and asked me to go.

A few seconds after, the Holy Spirit asked me the same question again, "What do you do?" I knew I had messed up. I said, "I am a Pastor". He asked, "Why did you introduce yourself as a lawyer?" I repented but not without a silent conviction by the Holy Spirit telling me that "The call of God on my life was honourable"

Moses, a wanted man, who committed a capital offence and went into exile returned to Egypt, and the laws, and the gods of the land could not place a finger on him. He kept walking in and out of the presence of Pharaoh and spoke as an advocate for others in the same courtroom that should be asking for his head.

Did it ever cross Pharaoh's mind to pick him up, try him and sentence him? He did not even need all that process. Pharaoh was the law of the land.

Moses went back as a man on assignment who had met with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The calling was his defence. If he had returned as a military man with swords and all, he would have been eaten alive.

Beloved, never joke with the honour and preservation of being loved, chosen, and called by God. It is backed by dignity and not shame. It is backed by grace.

Do you know that Aaron the High Priest did not die until the priestly robe was removed from him?

And Moses stripped Aaron of his [priestly] garments and put them on Eleazar his son. And Aaron died there on the mountain top; Numbers 20:28 AMPC

This year, do not joke with priesthood! You are a priest of the Most High God. Do you know what

priesthood entails?

You must not joke with your God. Fear God. Priests do not joke with the one who called and appointed them. Do not take God for granted. Eli did. The consequence is better imagined.

You must not joke with the Altar. Fellowship must be consistent. It is a continuous affair. The altar must never be abandoned. The altar of a priest is never taken with levity.

You must not be found in profane things. To be saved, it was faith you needed. To remain usable and sendable as a priest, you need purity. Whoever calls on God will be saved but when it comes to vessels to use, God has a choice. He chooses.

Depart! Depart! Go out from there, touch no unclean thing; Go out from the midst of her, be clean, you who bear the vessels of the Lord.

Isaiah 52:11 NKJV

As a priest, there are things that you must never be caught doing. They are forbidden for you.

Priests do not wear nonsense. God prescribed priestly garments for dignity and honour (Exodus 28:2). You cannot be splashing private parts in people's faces and keep shouting "To God be all the glory". Choose whose side you are on.

Priests are not the ones to spit vulgar words. Your words must be graceful. You do not have to sound profane to be relevant. Choose your words wisely.

From now, take the compass of your life from your calling. It is dignifying. It has the covenant of protection therein. You are the redeemed of the Lord. Do not just say so. Act so. Talk so. Walk so. Dress so. Represent Jesus well!

CONFESSION

I do not joke with my Altar. My fellowship with God shall be consistent.



HOW WE GOT PEOPLE TO OUR WEDDING

Text: Psalm 119:105 NIV

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

We got married before Google Maps (or Global Positioning System) became a thing in Nigeria. I knew most people would travel through the lonely Ijebu-Ode, Epe to Ajah route for our wedding. Back then, it was difficult to describe that route. Some have testimonies of missing their way there.

With the help of my childhood friend, Ayodele, we made a road trip about two weeks to the wedding on that same route. We noted every landmark and every turn. We then composed a text message describing the way to everyone travelling that route. Anyone who called and asked for a description simply got a text from either of us and others we had shared with.

We received compliments after the wedding. Statements like, "Wow! the description was so detailed. We did not miss a turn till we got here". What a joy it was for us. Much more, we had rest from incessant phone calls.

Beloved, there are guides for you on the journey of life that you must not take for granted. It is your GPS to get you safely into God's ordained plans for you.

First, the Word of the Lord. Do not joke with studying and meditating on the Word. Do not shove your Bible aside and fall under the spell of "Let's face reality".

How can a young person live a clean life? By carefully reading the map of your Word. I'm single-minded in pursuit of you; don't let me miss the road signs you've posted.
Psalms 119:9-10 MSG

Second, the Spirit of the Lord. Do not take the Coach, the Teacher, and the Guide for granted. You will struggle and stumble without Him. He will lead you into prepared places and preserve you with instructions

from the plot and scheme of the evil one. He will comfort you. There are times he will convict you. You cannot do without Him.

God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go!
Romans 8:12-14 MSG

Third, do you have teachers and mentors? This year, do not joke with discipleship. Do not let stubbornness and arrogance with a spice of ignorance keep you in a cycle. If the year is new, then you should also be renewed. Listen to teachers. Learn from godly models.

You must have heard this prophecy again:

Though your beginning was small, yet your latter end would increase abundantly.
Job 8:7 NKJV

And you must have said a loud Amen! Great. If you would not build a castle in the wind, let me show you what to add to your "Amen":

"Just ask the previous generation. Pay attention to the experience of our ancestors. For we were born but yesterday and know nothing. Our days on earth are as fleeting as a shadow. But those who came before us will teach you. They will teach you the wisdom of old.

" Job 8:8-10 NLT

Go to teachers. Go and ask.

CONFESSION

I invest in my spiritual growth. I grow in the knowledge of the word of God.



SENSITIVITY AND OBEDIENCE CAN PREVENT LOSSES

Text: Ephesians 5:17 NLT

Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

About seven years ago, we had just finished our Sunday service. Those who were in charge of church finance had a normal place they would keep the tithes and offerings. As they placed it there on that day, I had a prompt within me to change where it was kept before I left the office.

I took the cash and placed it somewhere else. About an hour after we left the office, I sent a young man to help pick up something from the church office. He called to tell me that the entire church office had been ransacked. The first place that was turned upside down was where the money would have been. The burglar got nothing. God saw it in advance and prompted me to change where the money was. I feared the Lord that day.

Being sensitive to the Lord and obedience to His instructions can save you from crisis. Someone may be telling you about a business deal or an investment that looks pretty good by all human standards but you just sensed a nudge not to be a part of it. You will end up knowing the reason why the Lord told you not to invest in the business. Obey God even when it does not make sense.

After you have done all due diligence, please do not joke with your spiritual intelligence. A businessman once said that he had a government contract in the bag but he sensed to walk away at the last minute. It did not make sense. Months later, there was a military intervention and the people who began to execute the contract ran into huge trouble. He escaped.

A dear one brought a young woman once as the woman he intended to get married to. I sensed some things were just not clear. The young lady seems to keep a huge distance from the man after her visit. He discovered some seven months later that she delivered a child. He would have fathered a child that was not his.

God's gift to you as a believer is discernment by the Spirit of the Lord. If you are full of strength but lack discernment, you will fall into enemy traps. If you are full of drive but you do not listen to the Spirit of the Lord, you can have a life punctured with avoidable crisis.

We are in sensitive times. You must be a discerning believer. Do not be forced to make hurried decisions. Listen to the Spirit of the Lord. Follow prompts of wisdom. It can prevent losses in life. It can save you from trouble. Many are the affliction of the righteous but the Lord saves him from them all. Your life can be crisis-free. There is a GPS in the Spirit. Stop trying to find your way without the map. Time will be saved. Effort will be saved. Resources will be preserved. Your life will be protected.

CONFESSION

My spirit man is alert. I am discerning and obedient. I operate by spiritual intelligence.

DAY 27

HARD TIMES CAN BECOME SPRINGBOARDS

Text: Proverbs 24:11 NLT

If you falter in a time of trouble, how small is your strength!

In our secondary school days, we used a Mathematics textbook called the New General Mathematics. It was full of exercises. The unique thing was it had answers on the last pages of the book. The reason for the answers was to confirm if the solution was right or wrong after the student must have practised.

But we had a different reason for it- we would always check it out once the exercise was difficult. Then we try all we can to align the calculation to the solution. At one point, my friend's dad sealed that part of the book. They were forced to work it out. They became better mathematics students. For those of us who keep checking the back of the book for answers, we were average mathematics students.

To make it more interesting, our teacher always knows the student who skipped the process. Why? The teacher does not just grade the answers, he grades the process.

Get this straight: God is not just interested in results, He is interested in the process that got the results. Moses got a result when he struck the rock and water flowed. Men must have hailed him but God failed him. Why? He used the wrong method. What made it the wrong method? It was not according to the instruction of God.

You must also understand this- Men who skip the process will never become exceptional. One of the terrible things that can happen to a man is to enter a new season and realise that there are lessons, training and resources needed in the new season but should have been picked in a previous season. That is

why most people get stranded.

Do not cheat. It is better to fail honourably while you keep a good name than you succeed without a sense of value or integrity. King Solomon said that a good name is better than gold or silver.

There is a time for everything. Life responds to principles. If you keep breaking principles, you will be out of shape in destiny. A lot of character deficiencies that the church gets to address are always failures of life lessons not picked or learnt in a domestic family.

If you do not learn self-control as a single person, you are an apprentice adulterer. A fornicating single will become an adulterous married man or woman. Discipline is not learnt in a hurry. Do not jump through processes in life.

Go through the moments that humble you. Learn the lessons. Failure can be a springboard or a grave point. It depends on how you respond to it. If you respond well, it can launch you to a new level with greater accuracy and better insight. If you respond poorly, life has a way of making you repeat the classes you failed. Life will not promote you on trial. Work your sums. Do not cheat! Honour process!

CONFESS I O N

I endure during hard times. I honour process. I am strengthened by the Lord.

DAY
28

EXCITEMENT WITHOUT SENSITIVITY IS DANGEROUS

Text: Psalm 32:8 NLT

The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you."

I was on the wheels about ten years ago returning to Eruwa to catch up with a meeting. I must admit that I was moving faster than usual. As I was climbing uphill with some speed, I picked a prompt of the Spirit of the Lord. I heard that still small voice saying, "Son, slow down". I felt it was strange but I obeyed without hesitating. I decelerated.

As I climbed uphill and was about coming downhill, I ran into a herd of cattle at the other end. If I was on top speed, it would have been hard to apply the brakes. I would have most likely run into the herd or even if I made it into the layby away from the road, I would have headed into the bush. The still small voice of the Spirit of the Lord saved my life.

Beloved, speed without caution is dangerous. While praying for speed, remember the place of speed-breakers. Imagine your finest uncle gives you a fast-racing car as a birthday gift- the exact type you have always wanted. But he then announces to you that because you love speed, he asked the manufacturers that you would not be needing the brakes. Is that a gift or a death trap?

Speed without caution is a disaster. The desperation that does not listen to counsel may end up a disaster. Do not be so excited about getting married that you did not answer the questions of sincere speed-breakers in your life- your close associates, your parents, and your pastors.

Build your sense of awareness. The Holy Spirit is not just about speaking in tongues, there is such a powerful gift called discernment also. You can train your perception to a point that it helps in making sensitive and even simple decisions.

Jesus Christ knew how important the ministry of the Spirit is in the life of the believer. He said to the disciples:

There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. John 16:12-14 NLT

The life of the believer is sweeter when he listens to the prompts of the Spirit. Let me ask you- Are there times that the inner witness and the still small voice of the Spirit has saved you from trouble? Think about it and give thanks today.

CONFESSION

I follow the leading of the Holy Ghost. I enjoy divine guidance.

DAY 29

THE RIGHTEOUS MUST BE BOLD ABOUT THEIR VALUES

Text: Proverbs 28:1 NIV

The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

Two of my dear Protégés had their pre-wedding photoshoot. It was quite a lovely one but something rose in me when and where I saw them having a very intimate and seductive dance during the shoot.

I called them up and said, “What kind of dance is that?” They both said, “And our hearts did not agree with it. We just did it when the photographer requested we did”. I told them, “You should have resisted such a suggestion. It is your own wedding and your convictions and not that of the photographer”. They pulled down that part of their video shoot.

Friend, the righteous is as bold as a lion. Do not allow anyone to put you on the spot where they make you feel like you are “overdoing” things. The fact that it is popular does not mean it is right for you.

We are not called to tolerate sin. We are called to hate sin:

Love is to be sincere and active [the real thing—without guile and hypocrisy]. Hate what is evil [detest all ungodliness, do not tolerate wickedness]; hold on tightly to what is good.

Romans 12:9 AMP

You are not married until you are married. You cannot be sleeping in the same bed and room in courtship.

Cohabitation is not Christ-like. You cannot be rubbing private parts in a video shoot, it is not Christ-like. Hate what is evil.

There must never be a hint of sexual immorality among us:

But sexual immorality and all [moral] impurity [indecent, offensive behaviour] or greed must not even be hinted at among you, as is proper among saints [for as believers our way of life, whether in public or in private, reflects the validity of our faith]. Ephesians 5:3 AMP

An ambassador of Christ cannot and must never be an ambassador of lust. Let people call you names but it is better to stand with Christ.

When next anyone under the guise of a profession suggests immorality to you, do not be afraid. You are righteous. The righteous are as bold as a lion. Respond boldly. Take a stand for your faith and conviction in Christ.

CONFESSION

I will not compromise godliness. I am an ambassador for Christ. I am full of boldness.



DAY 30

DADDY'S SLAP AND THE BITTER PILLS

Text: Psalm 141:5 NIV

Let a righteous man strike me—that is a kindness; let him rebuke me—that is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it, for my prayer will still be against the deeds of evildoers.

We returned from the clinic with quite a huge quantity of drugs. One thing I hated was drugs—just the scent of them will make me vomit. Drugs must be used in sweet drinks (even that is by force) or hidden inside yam flour (amala).

As we sat at the table that evening, it was time to use the evening dose. I kept looking at the drugs and shaking as I lifted them and dropped them. I repeated that action as mum encouraged me. Dad was simply watching.

After some time-wasting exercise (spitting the drugs), I noticed a fatherly slap landed on my face. No one told me to swallow the drugs again. Dad knew it was for my good! (I guess I got fine before using the drugs).

Listen, men who are meant to help you to fulfil destiny are not called to massage your ego and play the “nice” game.

Imagine how Peter felt when Jesus said, “Get thee behind me, devil”. Just imagine that was your Pastor or Spiritual Father or Mentor. Or “I chose the 12 of you and one of you is a devil” (Bombshell. We leave this wicked leader. Is that it?)

If you are flattered rather than

fattered, you will burst as fast as you swell. If you love to hang just around those who massage your ego, your destiny is at stake.

Correction helps your destiny. If you have not been corrected for a while by the people you regard in your life, you may need to ask them for a review. This will help you confirm if they have not simply abandoned you to your patterns and decisions.

If you do not go through the comforting of the Rod and the Staff of the Shepherd, you will not get to sit at the table of delicacies that have been prepared before you!

Love Correction. Embrace Rebuke. The things that you need to be all God wants you to be could be “bitter pills”.

When next you have people who “slap you on the face” when you refuse to swallow the drugs that you need for health, say thank you! Do not walk away. You need such men!

CONFESSION

I am not easily offended. I do not despise correction. I am guided in the path of destiny



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