

COMPASS

— DAILY DEVOTIONAL —



**FOR
AUGUST
2024**

**NOT
FOR
SALE!**

Temiloluwa Ola

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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- AUGUST 2024 -

COMPASS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



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Practical thoughts for a productive day

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Introduction

What a joy to have come to the Month of August. In the name of Jesus, you will run in full strength this new month and operate in full glory.

But the path of the just (righteous) is like the light of dawn, That shines brighter and brighter until [it reaches its full strength and glory in] the perfect day. Prov. 4:18 AMP

Did you see it?
Full strength.
Full glory.

One of the reasons why you have the Compass Devotional is to stir your passion for the Word of God. Without the word, we cannot operate in full strength.

No matter what the year has been like for you, I pray for you that this shall be the month of new things. Your strength is renewed for vision.

God bless you.

temilOluwa Ola

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



YOU CAN STILL BIRTH GREAT THINGS, EVEN NOW

Text: Isaiah 66:8 KJV

...for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

When my mum realised in February 1986 that she had taken in, she found it hard to tell her husband. Why? They had both settled that two children were enough. And like most people would say, "God had blessed them with a boy and a girl". It seems like the perfect full-stop moment and the traditional "hang my boot" and retire into parenting kind of arrangement. They were done but God was not.

Mum said she heard the name of her third baby in the place of prayer- "Temiloluwa". That was how she knew she was pregnant. Today, that third baby that was not planned for, but the Lord brought has dedicated his life to the service of the One who sent him; partnering with the Lord to touch and change lives and establishing the Kingdom of the Lord.

I still tease my dad with the fact that I was the boy that was not planned for. They had good reasons- economic, parental and many more!

Listen! This may sound weird and unreasonable, but I want to say to as many as believe that this is the time to give birth (some literally to children) but for many, it will be the birth of a vision.

There was a Pharaoh that arose in the land of Egypt with a strange decree:

So, Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river and every daughter you shall save alive." Exodus 1:22 NKJV

What a decree! He turned the entire nation of Egypt into an army. He legitimized violence against the Israelites. Anyone could see a newborn that is a boy and throw the baby into the Nile to be eaten by crocodiles or drowned in the depths of the ocean.

But while it was safe to play it safe, a man of the House of Levi who married a woman of the tribe of Levi, who already had a boy and a girl and could have conveniently sang "Ebenezer" while they hung their boots, got pregnant again.

How were the nine months for Jochebed and Amram? What if it is a baby boy? They could not imagine him under the strong waves of the Nile. They refused to see the image of a boy eaten up by crocodiles.

They saw by faith. If faith starts it, faith will see us through it. If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, there is something that God can work with already in your hands.

So, the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him for

three months. Exodus 2:2 NKJV

Do not be led by the prevailing pressures all around you. I know it does not make economic sense yet but there are Moses businesses emerging right now. There are Moses institutions being birthed now. Do you know how tough it would be if Moses was not born?

Listen, "Moses" businesses and institutions are raised by the same policies and in the same environment that should have killed them. Businesses are dying but can you push a little more- what if you are one of God's designated Moses this season? What if you are the answer to the groanings of a nation?

There are "Moses Visions" rising right now in unusual places with unusual people. The only thing we all have in common is the priesthood. We are a tribe that births in tough times. We speak as led. We are ambassadors. We move as instructed. We have mastered the art of hiding the "baby boy" but we also know the place of letting go and trusting the Lord.

I speak strength to you in Rivers! You are not going under! The Lagoons of Lagos will not overwhelm you. It will carry you to the arms that will nurture you. I see the eyes of visioners being open to see the advantages of this time. There will be some that will return from places everyone else is running to carrying "Moses" seeds. A nation is being born. The small one will become a great nation. The little one will become a thousand.

The heat of the north will not consume you. The clouds of protection have gathered over you. Listen! Give God something to work with. You will see mountains moving. Will you be His priest?

Where are the Amrams?
Where are His Jochebeds?
Where are the bold eagle-eyed Miriams?

Moses' visions cannot be raised in isolation. They are raised in collaboration. No matter how much you hate the Pharaohs, you need to be calm and see God use them to raise your Moses. Even kings and queens shall be your nursing mothers. Selah.

Rise. Priests. Rise!

CONFESSION

I am not consumed by pressure. I arise to my destiny assignments. I am strengthened for more exploits.

DAY 02

IT IS STILL POSSIBLE

Text: Job 14:7 NLT.

Even a tree has more hope! If it is cut down, it will sprout again and grow new branches.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Be honest with yourself.

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

Be honest with yourself.

You will see God's possibilities when you are loaded with God's Word. You will not join naysayers. You would know this year won't be like the previous years and that greater things will happen. Your faith will not be punctured. Stop pushing the possibilities to another year. God can do it now! He only needs your cooperation. Take your eyes off the storm and focus on God and His Word. You will come walking on the same issue that is trying to bury others.

There is no shame in Zion. You will not be put to shame. Do you know mercy is on your side? Do you know that favour is working for your good? Do you know His presence is with you? Why is your head down? Refuse to give up! Your truckload of testimonies is here!

What junk do you have to deal with?

Will you live like you are on retreat?

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

CONFESSION

I can achieve all things in Christ. Shame is far from me. God's possibilities are at work in me.

DAY
03

THERE IS AN ENTRY POINT TO EVERY VISION

Text: Hosea 13:13 AMP

The pains of childbirth come on him; But he is not a wise son, For it is not the time to delay [his chance at a new birth] as the womb opens [but he ignores the opportunity to change].

My mum had to resign from her work as a lecturer because her sight condition worsened. It was not an easy option for a family that relied on the salary of two to depend on that of one person.

At that same time, my dad started a church as he was led by the Lord. Mum manned the church office. Two mothers in the church would drop their babies with mum. She would do all she could to watch over the children.

There was a funny episode when she was changing the diapers of one of the babies. The other baby carried away the diaper. Getting it back became a struggle for a woman battling sight conditions. She was resilient.

That daycare service in care and love has become a school with quite some staff and properties. She had always loved children. Till date, despite her sight issues, she oversees the entire operations of the school. She even ventured into writing books for children recently. What a drive.

Beloved, one thing you should trust the Lord for is an entry point into that grand vision that you have received. No matter how big a house is, there is always a door into it.

Abraham had a great vision from the Lord – God would make a great nation out of him. His name would be great, and he will be a blessing.

There was a simple instruction that God gave Father Abram after Lot was separated from him: Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are.

Look from the place where you are. Where you are right now is a great starting point. There is an entry point into that great vision. God will never leave us without a witness.

For mum, to birth a school, God brought her way two babies. They became more than two and she had to employ a nanny. When the children became school age, one of them wrote a letter (obviously through the parents) saying he did not want to leave mum's care and requesting she starts a school. The rest is history.

A couple wanted to start a restaurant. While praying for resources to start, the Lord told them to look up.

Right on their wardrobes were wedding gifts of many years- plates, spoons, and pots. Their eyes opened. They moved their dining table to the rented place. They had foodstuff in their kitchen to start with. They had a cooker. That was their entry point.

Look from the place where you are. Can you see anything? You can not possess a land that you are struggling to see.

I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendants as a permanent possession. Genesis 13:15 NLT

If you cannot see, there is nothing to possess. Ask the Lord to show you the land. Ask the Lord to bless you with eyes that see. Beloved, there is an entry point.

You can be in front of a door and yet struggle to see it:

And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door. Genesis 19:11 KJV

There are times you see the doors, but it comes with adversity. That is why you must be resilient.

For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

1 Corinthians 16:9 KJV

With patience, resilience, and vision, you will find your entry point. Never despise that door. It can look insignificant, but it can be a game changer.

I pray for you this day that you will see that entry point into that great vision. May you not despise it when you see it.

Never forget: Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase.

Job 8:7 KJV

Enjoy Grace

CONFESSION

I receive divine insights about my vision and destiny assignments. I am blessed with the eyes that see. I grow in discerning destiny-defining moments.

DAY 04

DO NOT WAIT FOR PERFECT SETTINGS

Text: Matthew 2:14 NIV

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt.

The Lord asked us to start a new work in another city. It was another season of making decisions. For a while, we kept waiting to have everything ready so we could begin all that we had in mind. One day, the Lord said to me, “Do not delay again. Maximise what you have”.

While still looking for a permanent space for church work, we decided to maximise what we have. We welcomed families in our home. We had conversations and shared meals. It remains a great joy seeing lives, marriages, and homes getting blessed. The testimonies became such a huge blessing. We knew the Lord had sent us to reach out, disciple, and strengthen the saints. We became more fulfilled.

Listen beloved, God will never leave you without a witness. There is always something at this level and this season that can be used by the Lord to bless lives and turn things around. Do not despise what you have while crying for what you need.

When you stand in front of the Red Sea and Pharaoh is hunting you down, if you will stop crying and seek the face of the Lord, you will hear the Lord “Go Forward”. You will see that the rod in your hands is useful. Stop murmuring. You are either complaining or praying. Pray so you can see.

Do not despise your sling, stone, and shepherd’s pouch. It may not be as great as Saul’s armour but believe me, it is enough to bring down the giant. God will never leave you without a witness.

If all you see right now is five loaves of bread and two fishes, do not forget the effective yet unseen ingredient Called Thanksgiving. When you mingle Thanksgiving with the little in your hands, you will see the wonders

of the Lord. I know the salary is not enough to pay your bills but if you murmur, you just lost a miracle of multiplication.

Dear friend, do not look at the season and the clouds. If you keep your gaze on it, you will not move in faith. Faith is trusting God regardless of evidences but much more regardless of consequences.

This is the word of the Lord to you:

He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap. Ecclesiastes 11:4 NKJV

Stop analysing the season. Ask the Lord to shed light on what you have. Let Him show you what to do with it:

In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that, Or whether both alike will be good. Ecclesiastes 11:6 NKJV

Pray for light this season because light is sweet:

Truly the light is sweet... Ecclesiastes 11:7 NKJV

You will not be stranded. Return with testimonies.

CONFESSION

I am not slack in following the prompts from God. My faith is alive. I move and act by faith in the Lord.

DAY 05

THE POWER OF TIMELY SEEDS

Text: Exodus 36:5 NIV

and said to Moses, "The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the LORD commanded to be done."

A dear brother in the faith shared about how the Lord asked him to send a ridiculously small amount to our father in the faith. He felt it was too small. He summoned up strength and obeyed the Lord. He got a call from our spiritual father who was surprised that he sent him a seed in Covid. He prayed for him and blessed him that he would never be stranded. Today, he said he cannot count the number of times that word of blessing has worked in his favour.

What makes a seed potent?

First, it is instructed. When the Lord instructs you to sow a seed, do not hesitate. He is the Lord of the Harvest. Even in unusual times, make sure you obey the Lord. Do not just sow emotionally. Sow as commanded.

There was a time when we were building, and we needed five thousand naira to make up the funds for a supplier. I had that amount and I wanted to add it so we could meet up. The Lord asked me, "Is it your project? Did I instruct you to give it. If you give it, then you can take over the project". I repented and asked him for a supply. The money came as a seed from someone else in about an hour. Do not just be emotional. Follow instructions.

Second, it is timely. Once the Lord instructs to give, obey immediately. Hesitation reduces the value of the seed. Esau came after Isaac had eaten the venison that Jacob prepared. It was already late. The value of a seed sown in season cannot be underestimated.

Third, do it cheerfully and in thanksgiving. Some instructions to give can be tough but God loves a cheerful giver.

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." 2 Corinthians 9:7 NLT

Sometimes, we hesitate because we want to wait for the "right time" to do a big thing. Listen, a seed sown as instructed at the right time is the big seed.

If a man is thirsty and you give him a cup of water, he would really be grateful. When a man is not thirsty anymore, if you bring a gallon of water, the impact is not the same. There is power in prompt obedience.

Stop hesitating.

Stop analyzing.

Start obeying.

There are no small seeds, there are only small hearts. Have a large heart. Have an obedient heart. Obey the prompts of the Lord.

CONFESSION

I am given to the Lord. My resources are for the Lord and His kingdom. From today on, I obey promptly in giving as the Lord commands.

DAY 06

WHEN GOD ASKS YOU TO GIVE

Text: Proverbs 11:25 NIV

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

I was speaking with a dear brother a while back and we touched on the subject of giving. He said to me, “Pastor, do you know what God just taught me about giving?”

He said, “God said to me- ‘Anytime I ask you to sow a seed, I am not the one in need, you are the one in need’”. It was too profound for me but it is true.

When you give, you are not helping God. God is not hungry.

“Do I need your young bull or goats from your fields as if I were hungry? Every animal in the field and forest belongs to me, the Creator. I know every movement of the birds in the sky, and every animal of the field is in my thoughts. The entire world and everything it contains is mine. If I were hungry, do you think I would tell you? For all that I have created, the fullness of the earth is mine. Am I fed by your sacrifices? Of course not!” Psalms 50:9-13 TPT

When God asked for the last meal of the Widow of Zarephath, she was the one who was in need- she would not have survived the famine without that seed leaving her hands. Her seed made the way for supplies.

There is no mature Christian who is not a mature giver. If you still slack in giving, your growth is in doubt. Aside from prayer and fasting, giving is one of the key things a believer must excel in.

“You do well and excel in every respect—

in unstoppable faith, in powerful preaching, in revelation knowledge, in your passionate devotion, and in sharing the love we have shown to you. So make sure that you also excel in grace-filled generosity.” 2 Corinthians 8:7 TPT

You must excel in giving. Generosity is a key curriculum on this journey. Your giving gives an accurate prescription of your heart. Where your treasure is will be exactly where your heart is.

Are you a giver?

You are not helping God. You are the one in need.

CONFESSION

I cultivate the act of giving. I do not hold back from giving to God. I enter into the realm of abundance.

DAY 07

OBEDIENCE THAT BLESSES OTHERS

Text: Exodus 19:5 NKJV

Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.

I still remember where I was- I was on a public bus somewhere in Ijebu-Ode in Ogun State, Southwest Nigeria. I was heading to Ajah in Lagos State. I got a message from an online friend who had regularly given feedback on my Facebook notes, "Pastor Temi, where are you now, and what is happening? The Lord asked me to send you a seed. I do not know why".

I got a credit alert of five thousand naira. It was the first time someone was sending me a seed after I told the Lord that I would obey his call and go full-time. As simple as it was, it meant a lot to me. It was an assurance in my spirit that the Lord who called me would take care of me. It was more than the amount. It was an obedience that blessed me.

First, let me assure someone who is pretty scared of going all the way to obey the call of God- He will surely take care of His own. God is still the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

If we have faith that men would pay us because we are employees, why do we then think that God would do less? It is a privilege to work for the Lord and serve him with your life.

Second, whenever you have a prompt from the Lord, do not hesitate. Obey promptly. Your obedience is always not just about you. It will always be a part of a string of kingdom moves. For instance, the Moriah experience was not just about Abraham and Isaac, it was also about God the Father and Jesus Christ, His son.

Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to

seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ. Galatians 3:16 NKJV

There are moves of obedience that are generational. Who knows whether that soul you would disciple would be the one to lead nations to Christ? Never underrate one move of obedience.

God will use your heart and act of obedience to bless other people. I still always thank the Lord for the obedience of my "online friend". Every year that I remember the journey of the call, I say a prayer for that act of obedience.

Let your obedience bless your world. Use your gift and obedience to bless the nations.

If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. Romans 12:8 NLT

Whatever God has placed in your heart and hands, let your obedience become a channel of blessing. Serve your generation with your gift, calling and acts of obedience to divine prompts.

CONFESSION

I learn to obey God. My heart is prompt in obeying God. I do not live a life of disobedience.

WHAT ARE YOU PASSING ON?

Text: Jeremiah 35:6 ESV

But they answered, "We will drink no wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, 'You shall not drink wine, neither you nor your sons forever.

My first time away from home was when I got admitted to a State University in my mid-teenage years. One day, I fell ill. Unfortunately, I was the only one around in my flat. As my temperature rose, I got scared. It was late in the night. But I remembered how my Mum never permitted sickness under her nose.

There was a time she returned from a conference, and we all were not feeling fine. She walked into our room and announced to sickness to pack its load. We were all on our feet that evening.

As memory was refreshed, I began to say under my breath, "Lord that my mother calls on, heal me". Miraculously, my temperature began to drop. I slept off and woke up better the next day. I still travelled though for a medical check-up. That night however left an imprint on my soul.

Dear parents, I want to ask you- What treasures are you keeping in the heart of your seeds? What handle do they have for stormy days? When you are not there, do they have an understanding of the Lord to cry out to Him? Can they withstand the devil and his fiery darts because they have an example in you?

Abraham had a great testimony from the Lord:

For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him." Genesis 18:19 NKJV

Abraham was a trainer. He has 318 trained servants who were born in his house.

Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house and went in pursuit as far as Dan. Genesis 14:14 NKJV

One of their training modules must have been on how to call upon God when Abraham was not there or at least, they observed Abraham and saw that prayer was indeed very important.

And he said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham. Genesis 24:12 KJV

He had a handle on prayer. Do your children see you pray? Do you teach them to pray? Can they pray?

Another example is Joseph in Egypt. Joseph in the middle of pressure was able to withstand that temptation. He was far from home, but home was still reflecting in his conduct and decisions. He still had a grip on faith and a pure walk in a very tempting environment. He stood out and the environment succumbed to him.

What are you wiring into your seed?

You are writing an unwritten program with your life decisions. Your seed is already responding to it.

Show the next generation the way so they will not derail. Pay the price it takes to ensure they do not stray. Leave handles so life will not become difficult. Leave keys so they can access instructions that preserve. Leave wisdom so their decisions do not eventually leave you in worries and pain.

CONFESSION

I raise godly seeds. My offspring will serve the Lord. My children will discover their purpose in Christ.



THE POWER OF POSITIVE EXAMPLES

Text: Hebrews 6:12 NKJV

that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

A few weeks before the birth of Olive, we went to the clinic for routine ante-natal care. While the nurse was attending to Irewamiri, a pregnant woman from the Northern part of our nation came to ask the nurse some questions. The nurse attended to her and asked if she had come to the hospital with her baby's things.

When she left, the nurse mentioned that she was already in labour and about seven centimetres gone. We were shocked. She was speaking normally, and no one would have guessed that she was in labour.

To make the picture more vivid, as we left the clinic, we saw her talking with some other women normally. We were amazed.

That day, Irewamiri settled it mentally that delivery does not have to be hard. The picture we saw helped. It happened just like that. We were playing while she carried on her normal morning routine, as the labour progressed. She was seven centimetres gone by the time we got to the hospital. We saw a picture.

Some of my dear ones told me after a joint trip to another ministry that, "Pastor, we have seen what you have been trying to explain to us for months. You don't have to explain again". Pictures are powerful.

This is the reason why God loves to give us references in our walk of faith with Him. When Abraham was struggling with doubt, God brought him out and asked him to see the stars. He then said to Father Abram:

"Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!" Genesis 15:5 NLT

He gave Mary a picture that would help her faith. Mary had questions. For instance, she wanted to know how a virgin would give birth.

She got an answer: The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. Luke 1:35 NLT

She also got a faith-stirring picture: What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. Luke 1:36 NLT

Your faith is helped when you have a picture and reference of it. Abraham had a picture that Isaac would "resurrect". He told the servants that they both would return.

concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. Hebrews 11:19 NKJV

If you are surrounded by what looks like impossibility right now, ask the Lord to lead you to a picture of possibility. Be warned- if the Lord has called you to a journey of the impossible, do not go seek the opinion of those who have not done it before. Do not allow anyone who does not know where you are going to tell you how to get there.

Get a picture of faith. Your journey becomes faster.

CONFESSION

I do not live my life based on negative examples. I deliver myself from every mindset of limitations. I am full of faith and hope.



WATCH YOUR WORDS IN TOUGH TIMES

Text: Joel 3:10 KJV

Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

We had to camp teenage students sometimes back. It was seven weeks of a lot of sacrifices- time, sleep and even meals. At a point, we had to take all the foodstuff we left at home to the camp.

I got a report that one of the teens showed ingratitude. While trying to correct him, I said, "Even we are going back to an empty kitchen". The moment I said it, I knew that I got all the demons of lack excited and activated.

I ran to the church office and began to meditate and confess scriptures on the fullness, abundance and provisions of God till I got clarity in my spirit that it was settled. The next day, someone gave our family a gift of food supply. It was the sign I needed. No more empty kitchen.

There are no jokes in the spirit. Angels and demons only know words. They do not know jokes. Careless thoughts and careless words are what the devil needs to ride on to operate in your space.

Words spoken in anger are still words. You call it a mistake, but the realm of the spirit calls it tools.

Life and death are in the power of the tongue- if your jokes speak life, you enjoy life. If your jokes speak otherwise, it manifests also. If you speak death in anger, you cannot say "I was angry when I said it". Words are doors.

Do not jokingly say, "I don't want to marry early". You have spoken words that will

set things in motion.

There was a night when someone at home wanted to step out. Once he opened the door, a rat ran into the house. He did not intend it, but the rat is already in. How? A door was opened.

There are things you did not intend but you left the door of the spirit open by words.

That night, we all stopped all we were doing. We did not rest till we got the rat out of hiding and out of our space.

If you have spoken careless words, the Word of God must be your friend. Go there. Dig out the Word of Life and begin to declare it.

Why the Word of God? Words are spiritual. If your careless words were not mere words, mere motivation cannot change it also. Speak the word of life not just some motivational quotes.

In tough times, and at all times, watch your words.

CONFESSION

I do not endanger my conscience. I keep my conscience alive. My heart is safeguarded.



WHAT DO YOU SAY IN HARD TIMES?

Text: Psalm 16:8 AMP

I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

As a young boy, I had the opportunity to see a diligent medical doctor go about his work almost every weekend.

One of the days I cannot forget was a woman in the pain of labour who began to rain curses on her husband. She was not finding the process of labour easy. The matron shut her up and asked her to focus on delivery.

I want to tell you today that you must watch the things you say when you are going through tough times.

When Ziklag was destroyed and their wives and children were captured, the men of David were talking about stoning David while David sought the face of the Lord for a word and direction.

Crisis is like a mirror- it will always show what you are made up of. If you are full of bitterness, it will show and if you are full of the blessing, it will show also.

The man who gets a word from the Lord and receives direction will always be the master of the one who is led simply by emotions and lacks a sense of direction in the middle of a crisis.

Do not let the pain of the process produce words that you will later regret. Trials come to reveal what we are made up of.

There is the pain of labour and there is the joy of delivery. If you refuse to endure the pain of labour, you will not have the

joy of delivery.

If you allow pain to rule your heart in crisis, you can end up destroying opportunities that are meant to help you.

I pray for you- Your vision will not die. Ideas and insights that you carry will see the light of day. You will see with your eyes what you have conceived in your heart.

Do not let hard times make you throw in the towel. Push. Pray. Act. Wait. Plan. Execute. Produce

CONFESS I O N

I speak light into my dark moments. I am strengthened from Zion. I am helped by the Lord.

DAY 12

THERE IS MORE TO BE GRATEFUL FOR

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 AMP

in every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful and continually give thanks to God; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

The car needed quite some repairs. It had been giving different signs. I requested the mechanic to send the amount needed to fix the car. When I got the price, I was just laughing. The devil wanted to suggest ingratitude to me. I smiled again and began to make a mental list of the things that I was grateful for.

When I thought of it deeply, the things that were working in my life and for me were way more than what seemed not to be working. I concluded that there was more to be grateful for.

The devil wants to isolate a single item that seems not to work in a man's life and turn it around to the summary or totality of his life. That is exactly how he plants the seed of ingratitude.

He has no power to uproot the good things that the Lord has done but he operates by putting your attention on the one thing that he has added by his suggestion. If you focus on it, you will be derailed. It is just a phase. When the harvest is ready, his attempts will become irrelevant.

If he tells you that you are now 32 and you are not yet married. That is not the summary of your life.

You have a great sense of purpose. Be grateful for it.

You have a company that stands with you. Be grateful for it.

You can think of marriage because you are sane, and you are alive. Be grateful for it.

You have a job that pays. Be grateful for it.

Your list of gratitude would place the devil where he belongs. He wants you to sit at the table of the unfortunate eating from the plates of worries. You reject his offer. It is nonsense.

Your joy should not be tampered with.

You have been married for a while and you

are trusting for the fruit of the womb- your testimony will shock your world.

Hold on to joy! Insist that you will be grateful. Let no one join you in a pity party. I know it is tougher when you see others who married years after you with their own babies. Refuse to be bitter. You rejoice with them. Let your heart be glad.

You just lost your job! See that as a part-time job. Get on your full-time job of soul-winning. The devil will see it as an affront to his kingdom. He will see you do more wreck than the time you had a job. Let him regret that he came to your zone.

There is more to be grateful for.

Remember the prophecy of Habakkuk:

Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labour of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls— Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills. Habakkuk 3:17-19 NKJV

Engage praise.

Engage gratitude.

It is settled.

CONFESSION

I have a sense of gratitude. I am not an ingrate. I give thanks to God in all situations.

DAY 13

NEVER JOKE WITH THE PRESENCE

Text: Exodus 33:15 NIV

Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here."

Danielle woke up in the middle of the night. She wanted to have some beverage. I was working in the library. Right after she had a cup of beverage, she came to me and lay on the floor right beside the table. I said to her, "Go to the room and sleep". Her answer was, "Daddy, I want to stay with you".

The greatest desire of a child of God must be to stay with the father. The presence of God is our most valuable asset. It must never be taken for granted.

It was the secret of Joseph.

As a slave in Potiphar's house:

The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

As a prisoner in Egypt:

The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper. Genesis 39:23 NKJV

I love the way that Stephen summarised it:

"And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt. But God was with him and delivered him out of all his troubles and gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house. Acts 7:9-10 NKJV

Did you see the things that the presence did for Joseph and can also do for you?

First, because God was with him, he was delivered from all his troubles. As long as you cultivate and honour his presence, deliverance is sure.

Second, the presence granted him wisdom and favour where and when it mattered the most. That was his game-changer.

The testimony of Joseph was encoded in the

names of sons:

He called one Manasseh because the Lord has made him forget all the toil and troubles that he went through.

He called the other Ephraim because the Lord has caused him to be fruitful in the midst of affliction.

What a testimony! Never joke with the presence of the Lord.

How about Moses? It was the delight of Moses. He would never joke with the presence of the Lord:

And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. Exodus 33:14-15 NKJV

Samuel would always sleep close to the ark of the covenant. That was a major part of his daily routine. He became a national Prophet, a raiser of kings, and a blessing to many.

David knew the potency of the presence. He learnt that packaging and pretending that nothing has happened when a man has fallen was simply a waste of time. He saw how essential the presence of God is.

Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Psalms 51:11 NKJV

If there is anything you must desire, it is the presence of God. A believer who lacks the habit of cultivating the presence of the Lord will live a life full of guesswork, missteps, and unnecessary toil.

Do not joke with the presence of the Lord!

CONFESSION

I do not trivialize the presence of God. I am conscious of God's presence. I am enveloped by the presence of God everywhere I go.

DAY 14

THE BLESSING OF KNOWING YOUR TEACHERS EARLY

Text: 1 Samuel 3:8 NIV

A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy.

When I was heading for National Service in Akwa-Ibom State, I got connected to a family friend whom I had not seen in years. I told him I would call once I got to Akwa-Ibom. When I landed in Akwa-Ibom, I boarded a taxi to camp. I called him from the taxi.

Guess what! He was on the same flight as me. He just left the airport also and was going to pass in front of the Orientation Camp. He said to me, "They would have charged you well. I would have dropped you off in camp". It pained me.

First, pray that the Lord make you connect to those who know where you are going in life and destiny early enough. If you connect with them later than expected, you will have paid avoidable prices in life.

Some homes are struggling today simply because the man and the woman have no trainer. They keep struggling through communication and bonding because there is no one to show them how. Many are giving up on God-ordained unions (that is, they started in God's will) because the journey has become harder. They lack teachers.

Second, it is possible to be in the same space as your teacher and trainer and not recognise them. We sat in the airport. We boarded the same flight. I had his contact, but I did not recognise him. Lord may I not hang around my God-ordained relationships and lack recognition.

I hung around my trainer for almost ten years without the sensitivity of the depth of our relationship. It is still one of the greatest lessons of my life today. If God plants you around the called and the graced who can train you, discern them well. If Elisha did not discern Elijah well, he could have told Elijah that his cloth fell and would have helped him pick it up without realising it was a calling to something higher.

When God wants to help a man, he introduces his teachers in life to him. God introduced Paul to Ananias. God brought Timothy to

Paul. God connected Apollos to Aquila and Priscilla. Relationship is a divine currency.

One of the signs of divine help is the blessing of teachers. Teachers help you gain clarity. Teachers show you examples and walk you through classwork. They are there to correct you. Many take on the assignments of life without the blessing of teachers. Without examples, assignments become difficult.

Could it be that you are struggling with that ministry work because you lack trainers? Do you have an example provider for your marriage? How will you groom a bride when you have not seen the example? Don't you think your business will take new leaps to great heights when you have a trainer? Think about it!

The Prophet Isaiah had a prophetic insight into this:

"...yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner anymore, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left". Isaiah 30:20-21 KJV

One prayer you should pray at the beginning of new things- a new school, new business, fresh call to Ministry, a new job, a new home, or whatever it is, is "Lord show me my teachers early. Lord, help me connect with them at the right time. May I not have paid heavy prices before I connect with them".

Enjoy Grace.

CONFESSION

I connect with my teachers with the help of the Holy Spirit. I am blessed with God-ordained teachers.

THE BLESSING OF INTRODUCERS

Text: Deuteronomy 34:9 NLT

Now Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him...

About ten years ago, I was just getting into the city of Lagos when my phone rang. A dear father in the faith was calling. "Pastor Temi, I am in so and so place. I just finished speaking there. The pastor told me about their youth conference. I told him I had the perfect person to minister. I am calling you to inform you that you will get a call from them. When you are done in Lagos, you will be kind enough to come over to bless us also in Oyo. God bless you, dear".

I was in awe. Could someone believe so much in God's calling upon my life? And if you ever knew how our relationship began. It blossomed greatly and added so much value to my life and ministry.

Listen beloved, one of the key people you need in life are those I will call "introducers". They can recognise your assignment and are bold enough to make a call on it by introducing you to people, places, and opportunities.

Joseph had an "introducer" in the cupbearer. He was the voice the Lord used in the palace to mention the name of Joseph. He may have forgotten Joseph for two full years but the day he remembered was a great day for Joseph. It began a great turnaround. May the Lord bless you with introductions.

Finally, the king's chief cupbearer spoke up. "Today I have been reminded of my failure," he told Pharaoh. "Some time ago, you were angry with the chief baker and me, and you imprisoned us in the palace of the captain of the guard. One night the chief baker and I each had a dream, and each dream had its own meaning. There was a young Hebrew man with us in the prison who was a slave of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he told us what each of our dreams meant. And everything happened just as he had predicted. I was restored to my position as cupbearer, and the chief baker was executed and impaled on a pole." Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and he was quickly brought from the prison. After he shaved and changed his clothes, he went in and stood before Pharaoh. Genesis 41:9-14 NLT

Pharaoh sent for him because someone close to Pharaoh introduced Joseph. I pray for you today: May your name and the name of your business be mentioned in the right places.

Jesus did not commence ministry until the announcement made by his forerunner, John the Baptist. John had a measure of influence in the land. He was used by God to announce Jesus as the lamb of God that is taking away the sins of the world. After that announcement, even some of the disciples of John followed Jesus Christ. He had an introducer.

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, "Look! There is the Lamb of God!" When John's two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus. John 1:29, 35-37 NLT

Barnabas was a great blessing to the ministry of Apostle Paul. When the Apostles in Jerusalem refused to accept that he was indeed a changed man, Barnabas took the risk of bringing and breaking Saul into that circle. He was eventually accepted. Everyone needs a Barnabas.

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer! Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to Saul. He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus. Acts of the Apostles 9:26-27 NLT

When persecution hit Jerusalem, Paul left for Tarsus and there was nothing recorded about him anymore. But when Barnabas was sent to Antioch, he saw that someone would be of great help in that land. He left Antioch and went to Tarsus to look for Paul. He brought Paul to Antioch, and we can say the rest is history. That was the base for the missionary work that Paul eventually pioneered.

Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. (It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.) Acts of the Apostles 11:25-26 NLT

You need men who believe in you and your gifts, callings, and assignments. God's method to bless you will be men. If you despise men, you will remain stranded in life.

Do not despise men.

CONFESSION

I am blessed with the gift of my 'introducers'. I am blessed with the gift of men. I am not stranded in life.

DAY
16

RELATIONSHIPS CAN DRAIN YOU IF YOU DO NOT DO THIS

Text: Hebrews 3:13 NIV

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

I sat with my long-standing associate, and we made a list of all the places and meetings we would normally attend. I asked him, "Which place added the greatest value to us in your estimation, and which would you recommend that we go to more in the new year?" He did not hesitate to mention two places. It was the same place that Irewamiri and I had noted also in our family conversation.

By the time we had a ministry staff meeting and we asked the same question, all the answers were the same. We made up our minds to intensify efforts in those places. We were the better for it individually and corporately.

First, do you sit as a person, a family, or an organization to ask questions and run appraisals? Do you know that your life would be better if you simply asked important questions? It is important to know the people and places that add the most value to you.

Second, you cannot be sentimental about matters of destiny. If you have a friend or place you visit and there is a communication breakdown between yourself and your spouse, why don't you try to give such a person or place some gap and measure the outcome first?

Think about the Sower. What would you do once you spot the good land? Simple! You will give it more time, sow more seeds there, and you will see your outcome multiply. Your character is strengthened, and you grow better.

I told a dear brother who added so much value to my life in the past two years that I have just one relationship goal: "To get closer to him and invest in building a stronger relationship." What a goal. You can do the same.

You are helped when you know where to go. When Abram derailed in famine and eventually left Egypt, the scriptures said that he went from place to place until he got to the place where he had first built an altar.

From the Negev, he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on

the name of the Lord. Genesis 13:3-4 NIV

From that day, there was a shift in Father Abraham's journey: Strife died; love walk became solid. He commanded the attention of kings. He was not in any way tied to material things. He was enlarged in every way. Why? He found the place that added the greatest value to him – the altar.

Do a line test: Make a list of your friends, family members, conferences, meetings, and WhatsApp groups (this has to be there) that you are a part of.

Begin to ask yourself:

Who is the most priceless?

Which one added the greatest value to me?

Which ones can I do without, and which ones made me better?

Where should I pour my effort this season?

Keep dropping off names and places until you are left with three you know are the strongest. Invest in those three and see how your life will be simplified and productivity will be amplified.

Relationships are a blessing, but they can also be a drain pipe when you have too many to service. You become exhausted. You do not even know how to define the relationships. Everyone is your friend. You have like six pastors, and you have to be in their meetings. You need to be disciplined. Ask the tough questions. You will be the better for it.

Find your altar- of friendship and destiny relationships. Invest in it. Give your hundred percent to the good land and see your harvest multiply. Grace.

CONFESSIO N

I connect to what adds value to my life. I disconnect from what drains values from my life. I am blessed with destiny friendship and valuable associations.

“DADDY, IS THIS YOUR SPONGE?”

Text: Romans 12:11 KJV

Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.

Olive walked up to me in the living room and said, “Daddy, your sponge is in your bathroom”. She held on to a sponge that looked just like mine. I told her it was not mine. “Daddy, who is the owner?” was the next question. I responded that I was not sure.

I told her to return it to their bathroom since we did not know who owned it. By the time I got to my bathroom, the sponge was right there beside mine. She had taken it to my bathroom instead. Now there was a challenge- I did not know which one was mine. Irewamiri even tried to help but we were confused.

Since we were confused and unsure of which sponge was mine and we did not know we owned the other one, we decided to discard the two while I got a new sponge to use.

I told Irewamiri “This is what God meant when he said, ‘Because you were neither hot nor cold, I will spew you out of my mouth’. We took a deep sigh.

In destiny, beware of mixtures that dilute, corrupt, and make your identity as a Christian doubtful. If we have to be asking whether indeed you are a believer, there is already a problem.

Surprisingly, believers are struggling hard to appear worldly, talk worldly and act worldly. When the instrument that should set the standard is faulty, there is already a problem.

Dear sisters, your cleavage is meant for the man you have cleaved to and not a cinema for the ones who have no marital covenant with you in any way. Stop trying to explain away the mixture, go to the altar and get sanctified.

Beware of mixtures that destroy. When the Israelites were attacked by Balak and Balaam, the divination did not stand because there was no mixture. But the moment, the daughters of land began to creep into the camp of the Israelites, the nation imploded. Sin weakens you. Mixtures weaken your defence.

Hear what God said again:

‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold (invigorating, refreshing) nor hot (healing, therapeutic); I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm (spiritually useless) and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth [rejecting you with disgust]. Revelation 3:15 – 16 AMP

Did you see what lukewarmness is? Spiritual uselessness.

May we remain useful.

CONFESSION

I do not give room for mixture. I am fervent in the spirit. I am zealous for God.

BEDWETTING TALES

Text: Malachi 3:3 NIV

He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness.

I had some very interesting bed-wetting tales as a young boy. What shall we say to the dreams that tell me I am already in the restroom or that I had run off the football pitch to a bush so I can now ease myself? I only woke up to realise that the restroom was still my bed. Did it happen to you too?

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

From a young age, the flesh tends to cover up our wrongs and put up an appearance. We change clothes so the signs of our mess will not be on us. We keep it away until the stench breaks out. There is rarely any child that wakes up seeing a wet bed and announces, "Dad or Mum, I am sorry the tap opened by itself again". The nature of man would hide and cover up things.

Adam and Eve messed up and covered up quickly with fig leaves. Even when confronted, it is easier to blame everything else except the real culprit.

Cain can kill Abel in the field and go on with life as though nothing has happened except that the blood of Abel would simply not keep quiet in the ground.

David would rather kill Uriah than admit that a whole king committed adultery with the wife of his subject.

Ananias and Sapphira would defend each other's lies until death did them apart.

Cover-up is not cheaper than confession. You only take a loan and incur a debt that you can never pay. And you have been warned that your sin will always find you out.

Pride will always make you do more to cover up the last evil. David committed murder to cover adultery. It takes a lie to cover up another lie.

Wait a minute! You have even been confronted by friends who love you, but you have denied it vehemently. You tell yourself that you would rather die than admit your shortcomings.

Think- What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world by skillfully covering up his sins and then losing his soul to pride?

When you are queried on the path of wrongdoing, it is because mercy is speaking. If you are left to yourself, it could be proof that judgement is about to speak.

May the right people not abandon you to your folly. People now say things like, "Just leave him or her. He does not like the truth". You now have sycophants rather than friends.

You are on the stage of folly dancing to the drumbeats of lies and pride. Beware! The price of the dance is too heavy- it is your soul. You are becoming hardened. You are getting comfortable in your mess. It has become a pattern.

How do you break the pattern? Blessed is the man who opens up. Open up! Come out clean. Peace of mind is priceless.

Who do I open up to? Talk to God and to men who can hold you accountable. Open your wound to those who will treat it and not those who will simply talk about it.

Stop covering the stench. Bring out the dirty laundry. Let the launderer's soap clean up the mess. Let the chaff be separated from the wheat. Let the dross fall off the silver.

CONFESSION

I do not cover my sins. I am open to the workings of God in me. I surrender to the Lord my master. I am God's masterpiece.

DAY 19

TAKE LITTLE OPPORTUNITIES SERIOUSLY

Text: Luke 16:10 NLT

If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities.

During my service year, I was a student at the Insight Christian Leadership School. It was a full month of training school. We had a daily roster for leading prayer and giving exhortation.

Coincidentally, the day I gave the exhortation of 10 minutes was the day of the General Pastors Meeting for the ministry. All pastors from various branches were around at the headquarters. I shared as I was led but did not know a greater assignment was coming.

The following Sunday when I stepped into the second service, one of the tutors in school and the Resident Pastor of the church walked up to me to inform me that I would share the same exhortation in service that morning. I froze. I asked God for help. It changed my story in my service year.

It is still true that faithfulness and seriousness with little things qualify you for greater things. If you take little things for granted, no one will be confident to commit greater things to your hands.

Jesus showed us through clear teachings and parables that; faithfulness with little things is a major qualifier for greater things. No one will grant you authority at a higher level when you fail with serving at a lower level.

He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much, and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? Luke 16:10, 12 NKJV

What qualified David for greater opportunity? It was faithfulness in taking care of his father's sheep. The skill he showed and the heart with which he did something as simple as leading animals and caring for them attracted God to David. Of all things- how can managing and

caring for animals be a criterion for kingship?

It was not about the animals really- it was the faithfulness of his heart, the integrity of his heart and the skillfulness of his hands. God saw the raw material of a kingly attitude and knew David would serve well.

He also chose David His servant and took him from the sheepfolds; From following the ewes that had young He brought him, To shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance. So, he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands. Psalms 78:70-72 NKJV

How do you treat physical tasks? Are you serious about how you take care of your room, kitchen, or your clothes? How do you relate with others? God's spotlight can be on you.

Saul was serious about life. He was zealous but very detailed. When he became an Apostle, he did not lose his seriousness. He fired on with the same zeal.

Are you serious with life?

Do you take things with levity?

Are you careless with words?

Are you careless in conduct?

God and Men are watching!

Do not use your hands and conduct to shut yourself out of greater opportunities and divine rewards.

CONFESS I O N

I am not an opportunity waster. I am committed to the destiny assignments God has given to me. I will not disappoint my generation.

DAY 20

THREE CRITICAL THINGS- DIRECTION, CONSISTENCY, COMPETENCE

Text: Daniel 5:11 NKJV

There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the Spirit of the Holy God. And in the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him...

I was in a conversation with a couple thinking of relocating and we had such a fruitful conversation. I saw the energy with which they spoke about their dream but then I simply said to them, "Going is not a bad idea. At least be sure you have direction and not just emotion"

Then I added, "A lot of people know what they want to do but they do not stay committed to it". After finding direction, make sure you are consistent.

One of the reasons why people get frustrated in life is looking at the green grass of another while neglecting the fertile ground God has given them.

When I chose to answer the call to Eruwa, I settled it that if that is what I would do for the rest of my life, I would do it with joy! Settle direction!

But then, settle consistency. Be patient to get to the top of the mountain that God has called you to. At the top of that mountain, it becomes easy to connect with those at the top of other mountains. You both know the price it takes to get there.

The problem will begin when you climb a mountain halfway and then you begin to admire another mountain. You will have to get down and begin again. That is why a lot of people remain in the company of the average. They are not consistent. You cannot stay diligently on an assignment for five years and not produce impact. If you don't, something is not right.

In life, you are not a tourist. Focus and grit are needed. Do not lounge when you are meant to launch. Do not be brooding when you are meant to be breeding. You are a producer and not a mere consumer.

Finally, one thing consistency does for you is that it raises your level of competence. You keep improving. You will know that you are not who you used to be. Something has changed. You moved!

Was it not the Proverbs that said, "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings and not mean men".

Find the business. Direction.

Choose Diligence. Consistency.

Kings will applaud you. Competence.

Settle this early.

CONFESSION

I settle my direction in life by the leading of the spirit. I am consistent in my journeys. I grow in competence and ability.

DAY 21

UNSEEN TRAINING

Text: Luke 1:80 NKJV

So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

I was commending Irewamiri for her ability to multitask especially in some of the seasons of hectic ministry schedules. Irewamiri can get a meal ready with amazing speed yet still has her hands and eyes on other things. She dazes me.

She then said to me that her teenage and young adult life prepared her for the season. She got used to managing and taking care of many people from some of the experiences of her early years—especially hosting guests on Sunday afternoons! We had a good laugh.

The physical things and activities around us will be used to prepare us for divine assignments and commitments. If you are not faithful to the seen, you will not be faithful to the unseen.

Let's see one scriptural instance:

David was to become the King of Israel according to the divine plan but he had to be faithful with shepherding. God saw his faithfulness with shepherding and heaven concluded that he would lead God's people the right way.

“God also chose his beloved one, David. He promoted him from caring for sheep and made him his prophetic servant. God prepared David and took this gentle shepherd-king and presented him before the people as the one who would love and care for them with integrity, a pure heart, and the anointing to lead Israel, his holy inheritance.”
Psalms 78:70-72 TPT

If you like, keep grumbling over assignments that you feel underrate “the anointing”, you will remain on the list of the “unusable” and “unsendable” when it comes to kingdom assignments.

Simple menial tasks can become the audition of great kingdom exploits. Take each season of your life with the seriousness of destiny consciousness.

If you are a student, be a diligent one.

If you are a worker, show commitment.

Everyone that Jesus called showed commitment to simple physical tasks.

Jesus did not call the lazy! Spirituality must not be a disguise for laziness and mediocrity.

CONFESS I O N

I am diligent in my season of training. I gather capacity in my season of training. I am committed to my destiny-oriented tasks.

DAY 22

PERSONAL DECISIONS; GENERATIONAL IMPACT

Text: Psalm 22:30 ESV

A seed shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord unto the next generation.

There was a day I walked into the office of a professor in my university days. When I introduced myself, he remembered my grandfather who was his supervisor in his postgraduate days. Well! That door was left open for me because of the impact of my grandfather on the life of a man.

One thing you must understand is this – Your decisions can be personal but the impact is always generational.

In the negative, there is a great man who makes this so real. His name is Gideon. Gideon was called from hiding to lead the nation of Israel to freedom from the marauding Midianites.

After the victory, there was a little summary of His family life:

He had seventy sons born to him, for he had many wives. He also had a concubine in Shechem, who gave birth to a son, whom he named Abimelech. Judges 8:30-31 NLT

After his death, Abimelech, the product of his fling killed his half-brothers in one day. Only one escaped.

“He went to his father’s home at Ophrah, and there, on one stone, they killed all seventy of his half-brothers, the sons of Gideon. But the youngest brother, Jotham, escaped and hid.”
Judges 9:5 NLT

Do not let your quest for pleasure become the reason why generations after you will stay in pain. Some pains today are a product of the unguided lifestyle of fathers who should have been

more responsible.

On the flip side, there are decisions made by fathers that has delivered sons from misery. Jonathan’s decision to love David despite the hatred of Saul, his own Father left a door open for Mephibosheth.

One day David asked, “Is anyone in Saul’s family still alive—anyone to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”

2 Samuel 9:1 NLT

Weigh your actions today.

What will it leave for the next generation- Pain or Progress?

CONFESSION

*I think generationally. I act generationally.
I am a blessing to my generation and generations after.*

DAY 23

MOOD SWING IS NOT A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Text: Romans 14:17 NKJV

For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

As I got on the pulpit to teach, the Lord said to me, "Tell a married woman here that mood swing is not a fruit of the Spirit". I did as I was instructed.

One of the things that will be a major hindrance to divine moves in your life will be what is popularly called mood swing. It is possible to be a believer and be a victim of mood swing.

Meanwhile, the prophet Isaiah said that if you will draw from the wells of salvation, you will need a fetcher called joy. Without joy, you will stay at the wells and still remain thirsty. Why? What is needed to draw is not available.

Mood swing will hinder divine moves to favour you! Nehemiah was before the King after he heard about the state of Jerusalem and the King said to him, "Nehemiah, you always look bright and joyful. The look on your face today shows something is wrong". Nehemiah explained his ordeal and got the favour of the King.

But if people are already used to seeing you moody. Even when you have a genuine reason to be sad, they no longer know the difference because you are always moody. You lose the support of men that God would have given you. People will just leave you till you 'come around'.

You must live above circumstantial joy. If you do not, there are dimensions of divine workings that will not happen in your life's journey. Joseph lived above the situation of the prison, the prison could not hold him down. Paul and Silas lived above the chains and the pains of the prison, the chains lost its grip on men who stayed as

worshippers.

You are not sad because things are bad. Things are bad because you are sad. A merry heart will throw a continuous feast says the book of Proverbs.

Now your spouse is used to your mood. Your colleagues do not care again. The day you need them to genuinely care, you have lost their attention.

A consistent mood swing is a sign that there is demonic activity going on around you- cut it now. Stop their party and dance. Stand up and rebuke the devil. Tell your soul to bless the Lord. Tell your Spirit to leap in joy!

Get your fetcher.

The Well has water.

Refuse to be battered.

Drink! Till you are satisfied.

Get drunk on the Holy Ghost. A sip is not enough. Go into the deep end. It is not just a bath. This is immersion. Come out soaked in His Presence. Let the grip of hell slip off your soul because you are anointed with the oil of joy!

CONFESSION

My joy is not dictated by circumstances. I am full of joy. I rejoice in all situations.

DAY 24

SHE WALKED AWAY AS I READ

Text: Job 14:14 KJV

If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

Danielle requested that I read to her that evening. I obliged even though I was almost sleeping off. That is part of Daddy duties. As I began to read, she got distracted. At a point, she walked away to play a bit while I was reading.

I did not stop reading but she was already distracted. I finished reading a portion. Moments later, she came back asking that I read again. I told her “No”. She got sad. I told her that, “Even when you were distracted initially, I did not stop reading”.

There is a way you can ask God for a thing in prayer and not wait for God to do it the way He has ordained. It is possible to ask for a thing and get distracted before the answer comes.

Abraham and Sarah were trusting God for the fruit of the womb. God already promised them a seed. At a point, they got distracted. Sarah spoke with Abraham. Abraham slept with Hagar. They got a baby. He was named Ishmael. However, it was not God that provided that answer, it was their flesh.

Haste and impatience are some of the greatest hindrances of divine direction. Saul as king suffered the haste syndrome. It was part of the factors that made him lose the throne. He was moved by situations and not by the Spirit. Even when he had clear instructions, he still does whatever he wants.

Always remind yourself that God is not finished yet!

“But God’s not finished. He’s waiting around to be gracious to you. He’s gathering strength to show mercy to you. God takes the time to do everything right—everything. Those who wait around for him are the lucky ones”
Isaiah 30:18 MSG

One of the things that lead to haste is pressure. You must reject things that pressure a man to make destiny shaping decisions in a hurry.

Do not be pressured into marrying someone that the Lord has not given you a leading about.

It happened to one of the great women who lived. She did not wait to hear God about her marital choice. She fainted on her wedding day. She could not even stay the night with her new spouse. She had an unease in her spirit. That decision remains the bad leg of her amazing ministry.

Wait on God. Do not be in a hurry!

CONFESSION

I do not give room for pressure. Impatience will not hinder God’s workings in my life. I wait upon the Lord. My time of change will come.

DAY 25

YOU NEED A FRIEND LIKE OLIVE

Text: 1 Samuel 18:1 NIV

After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.

I had just returned from a trip. I was tired but I also wanted to spend time with the kids. We were all watching TV as some great music was being played.

At a point, Irewamiri and the girls began to dance while I reclined on the couch. Whenever a song comes on board, Olive screams "Daddy, Stand Up!"

The toughest part is she would not stop until she saw me on my feet dancing and bending down.

It struck me at that moment that we all need people in our lives who are pushful enough and would not stop until they see us on our feet.

The friends of the man who had palsy were pushful friends. They carried their sick friend to Jesus. Do you have friends who have you on their prayer list? Do your friends even have a prayer list?

When there were barriers, they would not stop. They got the man to the roof. They broke through the roof and lowered him before Jesus. They did not stop till they got him on his feet.

Lord, bless me with friends who will not give up on me. Make me such a friend also. They came bearing their sick friend but they returned home with so much joy. I can imagine the gist as they went back to base.

We need friends who push us to the place of worship when we do not feel

like it. You must have friends who point you to Holy Ghost and not to the bottle! They point you to the bride of Christ (the church) and not to the strange laps of another woman.

You need friends who would not let you slip in your grief into sin. Judah did not get that kind of friendship from Hirah the Addulamite. He ended up sleeping with Tamar his daughter-in-law.

If your friends allow you to indulge in things that can destroy you, you do not have friends! You have fans. If you are in a company that only massages your ego, you need to change your address.

Can I be your friend and scream your name and no matter what situation you are in, can I say to you, "Stand Up".

CONFESSION

I am blessed with pro-destiny friends. I build quality friendships and relationships.

DAY
26

ONE RELATIONSHIP TO GUARD JEALOUSLY

Text: John 16:13 NLT

*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.*

I was on the road having sweet fellowship in prayers and meditation. It was already late in the evening. I drove into a very narrow street. As I was almost getting out, a car attempted to drive in.

I flashed at him since I believed the ideal thing to do was to give room so I could pass. I was closer to the exit. He did not bulge. When he eventually did, he shouted at me as I passed, "You better go and get glasses"

I did not respond at all. I simply smiled and drove off. He was a tool trying to distract me from the fellowship I was having with the Holy Spirit.

The relationship of the believer with the Holy Spirit is a very powerful one. It must be guarded with all jealousy.

When Jesus would introduce the Holy Spirit to us, he did it with a loud voice (John 7:37). How many places did Jesus cry out with a loud voice? He did at the tomb of Lazarus when he called the dead forth and he did on the cross when he was redeeming man.

This shows how important the Holy Spirit is to the believer. Jesus was literally saying we need to ensure we do not joke with the Holy Spirit.

The birth of Jesus was facilitated by the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, there would be no conception. The Baptism of Jesus was witnessed by the Holy Spirit. Jesus was led into the wilderness

to be tempted by the devil. Afterwards, he returned in the power of the Spirit to commence public ministry.

And Jesus did ministry by the leading of the Spirit of God. And when Jesus died, it was the Holy Spirit that raised Him from the dead (Rom. 8:11).

Beloved, your relationship and fellowship with the Holy Spirit must be jealously guarded. Do not allow offence to take a grip on you. Do not allow pride to erode the relationship you share. Listen to the Holy Spirit as you make decisions.

If you have an appointment with the President and someone decides to look for your trouble on the way by insulting you, you will likely not respond knowing you have greater appointments to keep.

In the same way, you have a greater appointment to keep with the Holy Spirit. Refuse little things the opportunity to sink a huge ship!

Guard the relationship jealously.

CONFESSION

*I cultivate my relationship with the Holy Ghost.
Offence and sin will not come in-between us.
I jealously guard my fellowship with the Holy Spirit.*

DAY 27

"HERE", "THERE" or "HERE AND THERE": A LESSON ON ASSIGNMENTS AND FOCUS!

Text: Isaiah 28:12 NLT

God has told his people, "Here is a place of rest; let the weary rest here. This is a place of quiet rest." But they would not listen.

While sinking borehole on the church site, I held onto my breath. Why? I knew that whether the drillers got water or not, we would have to pay. I prayed under my breath.

The survey pointed us to a location but waiting for the outburst of the first flow of water from the land came with some huge suspense. To get water, you had to be focused. They did not drill here and there. They stayed until they got a flow.

There is a dimension of focus needed in life's assignments also. There are three things you must take note of.

First, there is "Here". That is the place where you currently are.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan."
I Kings 17:2-3 NKJV

Sometimes, "Here" is a mindset that you have built over time. It is a place of comfort and convenience for you. You are so used to it that it is hard to bid it farewell.

Second, there is "There". That is the place where you are meant to be. "There" is the place of supply. "There" is the place where God has instructed. It may be an unfamiliar place but do not be moved by news, sentiments or needs. Be moved by instructions.

"And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." I Kings 17:4 NKJV

Third, there is "Here and There". That is a dimension that you must reject will all that is within you. It is the posture of a distracted and confused person.

"While your servant was busy here and there, he was gone." Then the king of Israel said to him, "So shall your judgment be; you yourself have decided it."
I Kings 20:40 NKJV

People who are "here and there" always lose what God has committed to them—it could be a vision, their marriage, ministry or even a business. Distraction kills whatever it is able to latch onto. You must reject distraction.

In the name of Jesus, you will be where God wants you to be per time. You will move with the accuracy of the Spirit. Your life will be lived with precision. Every trace of "here and there" is removed in your journey. Amen.

CONFESSION

I am not confused. I am not distracted. I am focused on my life's assignments. I will not labour in vain.

DAY 28

THERE ARE BIGGER SHOES

Text: John 1:51 NKJV

Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."

Olive brought me one of my footwear in the morning. She does that often. But this time around, I did not need them so I asked her to return them to the shoe rack. Well! She decided to wear them. She began to move around in my shoes with a wide grin on her face relishing the moment.

There are bigger shoes to step into. God does not want us to play small. We must still operate in child-like faith as we press into greater things.

The generation that took the Promised Land was not the generation that left Egypt. That generation that left Egypt had fighting men who learnt to fight even divine moves and instructions. They all perished in the wilderness. Their mindset made it so!

A different generation with childlike faith who did not ask whether walking around Jericho was a proven military strategy took the land for the Lord and the nation of Israel.

But as much as we need child-like faith, we must not stay in child-like maturity. We must grow. The big shoes we will step into will fit when we do not joke with growth.

We must listen to our Joshua and admire our Caleb. Out of a generation that failed, they are custodians of principles that do not fail. If you feel smarter than your Joshua and your Caleb, you will have no template to learn from.

Even though Joshua had not crossed Jordan before, he knew what God did with the Red Sea. Joshua may not have confronted Jericho before but he knew what God did with the Amalekites.

We must not be that generation that is big on dreams and pursuit but lean on growth, following, patience and learning. We must not be that generation that talks faith but despises wisdom.

Aim for big shoes but grow into them also.

Dream big but learn big also.

Talk with faith and learn with patience.

Walk in faith but be in step with wisdom.

Big shoes are waiting but it is for those who do not despise wisdom.

CONFESSION

I come out of small-mindedness. I take giant steps of faith. I am strong and I will do exploits.

IN CRISIS, DO NOT PLAY SMALL

Text: Ecclesiastes 11:4 NLT

Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest.

Just as declared by the government, we shut down church building. There were a lot of things in the pipeline that also needed reinvention. One of them was the proposed training on ministry. We already had a few people show interest.

We moved the classes to social media. We realised there was at least one advantage- students now had a lot of free time. I taught this small group daily for six weeks.

That little seed became a School of Ministry that has trained over 500 people from different parts of the world. It is up to four years already.

If you focus on what you can do in the middle of a crisis and you do not let the wind distract you, you will birth something bigger than your initial plans.

First, do not fall into the trap of giving excuses by blaming the wind. The wind will come and go but you must make up your mind whether you would have gained ground or lost ground.

Second, the wind exposes what is already there. The primary role of a shepherd is to feed, tend, guide and lead the sheep. Stick to simple things in times of crisis. Focus on the primary role. Do not wait for some big solution.

If you cannot reach all 30, be faithful with the 5 you can reach. The five can be the connection to the 300. God multiplies our efforts always.

Third, do not play small. Once a working system has been created, be willing to multiply it. Sometimes, we think playing small is humility. No! It is not. Do not stay in that "safety mode". Plant the seed in the ground. Cultivate more. Expand the frontiers.

For a long time, I thought playing small was humility. The devil must not deceive you. That seed you have is a great tree. Let it leave your hand.

Jesus never played small in crisis. In the storm, he came walking on water. Peter caught the flame and did the same. Crises are meant to take us to new heights and not bury our plans, pursuits and prospects.

Remember the reason why you are blessed is to be a blessing. God has given you a seed, you have an assignment to plant it, nurture it and see it multiply.

You will birth great things.

CONFESSIO N

I live above crises. I am focused in times of difficulty. I expand my frontiers. The works of my hands are blessed.

DAY
30

THE BEAUTY OF A SPOUSE WHO HEARS THE LORD

Text: John 10:27 KJV

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

We were in a meeting when I sensed that the Lord would have us sow a seed. It was quite a tough one for me. I sent a message to Irewamiri about what I perceive in my spirit. She responded that the Lord was just speaking to her about the same thing. There was no argument. It was easier to obey God.

It was not the first time. There was a time I shared excitedly with her about why God would have us make a particular decision—one that could have caused a rift between us. She said, “God told me the reason long before now. That is why I could agree with you easily when you mentioned it”.

There is nothing as sweet as a home where the Lord is heard and obeyed. There is peace, joy, and progress. Paul mentioned the beauty of lives like that to the Philippian church.

If you’ve gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care—then do me a favour: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don’t push your way to the front; don’t sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don’t be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. 2:1-4 MSG

In such a home, it is quite easy to agree with one another. You can make decisions easily. Sometimes in the middle of conflicts, you can hear the Lord clearly and you retrace your steps. A couple who truly hears and heed the Lord cannot sustain malice for a day. Their heart cannot take it.

In such marriages, love flows freely. They are patient with one another. They have

only kind words to share. There is no envy or selfishness. Anger has no room. They keep no record of wrongs. Why would such a marriage fail? It cannot!

In such marriages, friendship is deep. There are marriages where friendship has walked out. They are married but no longer friends. They cannot speak heart to heart. They are not playful with one another. The marriage looks like an office. When was the last time you laughed heartily? The kind of laughter that needs no control. The sound of laughter has left some marriages. I pray for restoration.

In such marriages, they help each other get ahead. They are not in a competition. They do not take advantage of one another. They are not rivals. They are willing to lend a helping hand.

Look through your union. Do you like what you see? Could things be better? The place to start is obeying your own instructions from the Lord unconditionally. The problem starts when you wait for the other party to do their own part before you do yours. Focus on your obedience. You will not be judged for what others did or refused to do. You will be judged for what you did or refused to do.

May the bond in your home be restored.

CONFESSION

My family is in tune with the voice of God. My marriage is guided by instructions from God. My home belongs to God and godly purposes.



“SAME TO YOU”- COMMUNICATION IN MARRIAGE

Text: Romans 12:10 NIV

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

In our early days as a married couple, every time Irewamiri sneezed, I would respond sarcastically with “Same to you”. I had no idea she was not impressed with my games. One day, I still remember vividly where we were. As she sneezed and I said the same thing, she exploded with angry words, “Don’t you know how to say, ‘Bless you’, ‘Sorry dear’ or any other kind words? What is ‘same to you’?”

I froze and began to explain that I was just joking with her. She asked why I would be joking with such conditions. I responded it was my way of showing care and lighting her up. She told me it does not work for her. I changed my ways from that day.

Communication is one of the major issues in marriage. Both parties are likely communicating from their background. There are times when the backgrounds are opposite. That can lead the marriage to trouble.

Two parties raised from a background where street words are used in communication will both know that the curse words being used are just for fun. They will banter and move on. How do you handle communication with caution?

First, build the skill of listening. Listening to your spouse is powerful. To listen well, give your spouse full attention. Drop your phone when he or she is speaking with you. Make sure you are not listening passively. Do not listen while preparing your response. Listen to understand and not just to be understood. Make sure you practice listening. Ask questions to clarify so you can understand. Do not assume you know what your partner has said.

Second, judge what they have said by their intent and not just the words. There are times when the words will not come out the right way, but you have a solid foundation of trust that their intent was never to hurt you with words spoken. Let their intent of love and care outweigh whatever they have said that seems offensive. You can again ask questions

to clarify before you react in anger. Avoid the word “Always” as much as you can. It causes matters to escalate easily. For example, “That is what you always do”. Focus on the issue. Do not attack the person.

Third, you are Christian. Listen to the Holy Spirit. It helps you a big deal. There are pills that He can give you to help your marriage. One of them is the “Chill Pill”. He will tell you to hold your peace when you would have reacted. He can guide you through a disagreement. Another pill is the “Humble Pie Pill”. You must be humble enough to apologise when you are wrong and at times when the Spirit of the Lord instructs you to even when you think you were right.

Finally, let your desire in any issue be oneness and not rightness. Do not communicate with the intent of being right or winning an argument. Communicate with the intent of being one and winning your spouse. Never sacrifice oneness for being right. When issues being discussed are getting heated, call a time-out. Simply say, “Darling, I love you more than this issue. Let’s come back to it at another time. It is getting hot in here. Kindly give me a hug”. It works all the time. Eventually, the matters are resolved lovingly.

Agreement is key in life but much more in marriage.

Can two walk together, except they be agreed? Amos 3:3 KJV

When your marriage is getting cold, the code to winning is drawing close. Never leave your partner. Fight for the warmth of your home.

CONFESSION

I am intentional about building communication in my marriage. I communicate life and essence. I affirm positive declarations about my spouse.



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TOWN PLANNING ROAD, OLUYOLE,
IBADAN, OYO STATE.

ERUWA:

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BEHIND AWOJOBI CLINIC,
ERUWA, OYO STATE.

Sundays
9AM

Tuesdays
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