

COMPASS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR
**MARCH
2025**

Temiloluwa Ola

**NOT
FOR
SALE!**

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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- MARCH 2025 -

COMPASS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



Temiloluwa Ola

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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Introduction

Beloved,

Welcome to the Month of March!

No matter what has happened this year, put on the Garment of Gratitude.

There are two things that you should keep far away from you this season:

First is Ingratitude. Ingratitude is a terrible thing. It darkens the heart.

Romans 1:21 NKJV

[21] because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Second is Murmuring. No matter what, do not murmur.

1 Corinthians 10:10 KJV

[10] Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

No matter what, let the voice of thanksgiving fill your mouth. It is the key for the season.

Jeremiah 30:19 NKJV

Then out of them shall proceed thanksgiving And the voice of those who make merry; I will multiply them, and they shall not diminish; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.

For everyday this month, find a reason to be grateful. As you read the compass, encompass yourself with thanksgiving. You will see the wonders of the Lord.

With Love,

temiOluwa Ola, Eruwa

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



WHEN YOUR FAITH IS UNDER ATTACK...

Text: Romans 4:20 KJV

He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God.

On the 4th of January, 1990, my mum was certified dead on a surgical table just before the procedure started.

Dad said he just kept hearing heavy thuds outside like the doctors were trying to resuscitate someone. In the middle of the crisis, she was rushed to another hospital, where she was certified dead by the Medical Director.

Before the final information came, the devil already said to him twice, "Your wife is dead." He said just one statement came out of his mouth, "I did not come here with a dead wife, and I am not going back with a dead wife." He said that twice. He repeated it again when a doctor walked into the surgery room with white wrapping cloths. He began to praise God and continued to praise God. That was the only thing he knew to do. He refused to cave under pressure.

In the middle of the crisis, there was a young boy who was really scared of receiving treatment. He went to pacify the young boy till the boy got the injection.

After seven hours of waiting, Mum gave a first sign of life (movement of her hand) by 4 pm, and she regained full consciousness two hours later.

First, invest in building your faith. Remember, the just shall live by faith. Faith is for living. Build your faith. One day, even if you do not need it for yourself, you will need it to stand in the gap for someone (your spouse, your siblings, your parents or a dear friend). Build your faith!

Some believers are like King Saul: King Saul made his first mistake by bowing to internal and external pressure. Hear his words:

Samuel said, "What on earth are you doing?" Saul answered, "When I saw I was losing my army from under me, and that you hadn't come when you said you would, and that the Philistines were poised at Micmash, I said, 'The Philistines are about to come down on me in Gilgal, and I haven't yet come before God asking for his help.' So, I took things into my own hands, and sacrificed the burnt offering." (1 Samuel 13:11-12 MSG)

Pressure will build when things are not happening at your envisaged time. There is a difference between being unmarried at 25 and being unmarried at 35 or 40. There is a difference.

When you have not gotten a job six months after graduation, we can tell you to be patient, but six years after graduation, the pressure becomes real. You will begin to doubt yourself.

King Saul said, "I took things into my own hands." As much as God wants us to build a sense of personal responsibility, it must not be outside the confines of what His Word permits.

Do you know what Prophet Samuel told King Saul? "You have done a foolish thing," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. (1 Samuel 13:13 NIV)

Please, no matter how long you have waited, do not do any foolish thing. The pain of regrets is far heavier than the pain of waiting for God's appointed time.

Let me show you where Saul's weakness came from: Then Saul built an altar to the Lord. This was the first altar that he built to the Lord. (1 Samuel 14:35 NKJV)

King Saul had no altar. His fellowship with God was poor. His daily devotion was literally non-existent. His first altar was built after he had made many mistakes.

Second, do not forget- when the devil drops thoughts (seeds) of doubt or discouragement in your heart, do not nurse the devil's babies for him. Do not water his seed. Give him no space. Judge such strange thoughts immediately. Do not let it stay. Respond with faith. Faith is the shield that stops the fiery darts of the enemy from poisoning our hearts.

Finally, find opportunities to be a blessing to others in your waiting season. Abraham was waiting for a baby, yet he found the right heart and attitude to be hospitable to total strangers. In his waiting, he got his miracle.

A bad attitude is the devil's prison warden that keeps men in open prisons. Naaman's bad attitude toward Elisha's instruction would have kept him a leper forever, but things turned out when he listened to the counsel of his servant.

When your faith is stretched, do not forget these four things:

1. Speak from fellowship and not frustration
 2. Shut the devil down by not nursing his babies. Rather, give thanks to God.
 3. Find opportunities to be a blessing to others.
 4. Do not fall into the trap of bad attitude.
- You will testify!

CONFESSION

My faith is strengthened in God. I reject the Devil's voice over my life. I speak God's word to every situation.



HOW TO BUILD A HABIT OF PRAYER

Text: Ephesians 6:18 NIV

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

While growing up, we had a neighbour who loved dogs. Their dogs became the neighbourhood dogs- it was everyone's pet. We had Jack, and we had Jill.

Jack had an amazing pattern. A few minutes to 4 pm every weekday, Jack would come to our door and wait- that was the hour my mum would leave for the church to what is called the "Upper Room."

Jack would be right there. As we drove to church, Jack would race after the car, following us to church. It became Jack's pattern.

Anything that will become a pattern for you must be repeated again and again. Patterns are powerful. Positive patterns help our spiritual growth. One of the patterns you must develop is the Hour of Prayer.

First, you should have a company that encourages you to pray. Like faithful Jack, keep friendship with those who pray. Lifestyle can be contagious. If you will contact anything at all, let it be a positive one- prayer is life-changing.

Second, you should have a time of prayer. My mum would go to pray at 4 p.m. every day. She also woke up at 4 a.m. to have quiet time. We renamed the chiming of the clock at 4 a.m. as "Stand up fast hour."

Third, make sure that time is honoured. To do this, ensure it is time you are free

from distractions and other demands of life. This is why I encourage the Jesus pattern of waking up "long before dawn" (Mark 1:35). You have less distraction at those hours. Please deal with that phone and social media distraction!

Make it a regular pattern. Push yourself till you master that timing. Let your body clock adjust to the hour of prayer. It should be a sweet time for you, indeed.

Let us close with this simple scripture:

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

Acts 3:1 NKJV

- Peter and John – a company of prayer.
- Together – a commitment to the company. Do not keep friendships with all talk and no action friends.
- Temple- A place of prayer.
- At The Hour of Prayer- a fixed time.

That is how you build a pattern and consistent habit of prayer.

It is that simple!

CONFESSION

I am consistent in the place of prayer. I make sacrifices to sustain a consistent prayer life.



BUILD TRENCHES AROUND YOUR ALTAR

Text: Romans 12:12 NKJV

Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer.

When we were kids, we had quite some poultry farmers around us. One of the things I noticed that they did was that they protected their cages. How they did it was simple but effective.

They would never place the base of the cage on the bare floor. They would place it in a tin filled with oil or water. This was to protect the cage from the invasion of soldier ants that were harmful to the chicken.

One of the things Elijah did on Mount Carmel after repairing the altar was to dig trenches and fill them with water.

“and with the stones, he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.”

1 Kings 18:32 KJV

I meditated upon this fact when I noticed that trenches were used in warfare and enemies also dug trenches around cities as a way to capture the city.

It means that if you don't dig trenches around your altar, the enemy will do it for you to capture your altar.

For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,”
Luke 19:43 KJV

When you notice that you cannot pray effectively as you should or you are becoming overwhelmed, you need to wake up and check whether the enemy

is trying to capture your altar. When the enemy succeeds in digging trenches, the aftermath is not palatable.

“And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee, and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.”

Luke 19:44 KJV

They ensure you lack the resources to build or rebuild an altar. What do you use? Stones. They will not leave you with stones at all.

They ensure prayerlessness becomes generational. Fathers do not pray. Mothers will not pray, and children will despise prayer.

The worst of it all is that they ensure spiritual sensitivity dies. Such men do not know the time of their visitation. Divine things will keep passing them by. Even things you have can slip off your hands. Why? You are sleeping in the Spirit.

Are you alert?

Are there enemy trenches around you? Are they keeping you from fellowship? Are they keeping you from communion? Do you still have the passion and fire you used to have or you are now drained? Do you know when God beckons or you are too busy to notice?

CONFESSION

My altar is aflame. I have the spirit of grace and supplication.

DAY 04

DO NOT JOKE WITH THE MORNING

Text: Mark 1:35 NIV

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

A dear mentor told me a long time ago that he loves hotel rooms where there is a little notepad or jotter by the bedside alongside a pen. When he saw I was curious, he said to me, "The last thing you should do before going to bed is to take note of what you want to do the next day."

I understood a little bit more. As I wondered whether that was on the mind of those who put the notepad and pen, he added these words, "Writing your goal for the next day is very important because you cannot sleep with a vision and not wake up with a mission."

It has become a major part of me. I have maintained a daily pattern for many years of sleeping with a vision. Truly, days I sleep without a vision always result in waking up without a sense of purpose.

There is something in the scriptures referred to as the Wings of the Morning. Morning is the time for the flight. If your morning season is stolen, the day is already altered.

If I take the wings of the morning...
Psalms 139:9 NKJV

The morning is the womb of the day. If seeds are not planted in the womb, there will be no harvest when needed.

"...from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth"
Psalms 110:3 NKJV

God did not joke with the morning, as we saw in the book of Genesis, right at creation. It was always a reference to evening and morning was the first, second, third, and till the final of day. It seems to me that if you sleep in the evening with a vision, you will wake up in the morning with a mission.

From the life of Moses, we saw that those who will stand before kings must be early risers. God told Moses to rise early to speak with Pharaoh. You cannot stand before kings if you are a morning waster.

Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water, and you shall stand by the river's bank to meet him; Exodus 7:15 NKJV

That was not the only time:

And the Lord said to Moses, "Rise early in the

morning and stand before Pharaoh as he comes out to the water.
Exodus 8:20 NKJV

In summary, you cannot deal with kings if you are a time waster.

In addition, you cannot be effective in the priesthood calling of a believer if you get distracted. You must know how to use the morning. The altar must be kept burning in the morning.

And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out. And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order on it;
Leviticus 6:12 NKJV

Jesus capped it all by showing us that we must be early risers. We must rise early to seek the Lord.

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place, and there He prayed.
Mark 1:35 NKJV

Jesus woke up before his disciples. If you will lead well, you cannot joke with the morning seasons of life.

Jesus woke up before any form of distractions. By the time his disciples came and told him that people were seeking him, he already knew what he wanted to do with his day.

When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."
Mark 1:37-38 NKJV

Rise early to face the day.
Rise early and plant a seed in the womb of the morning.
Rise early and ride on the wings of the morning.
May your day count. May your life produce results.

CONFESSION

I do not joke with the morning. I command my morning. I am an early riser.

DAY 05

CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?

Text: Proverbs 21:5 NLT

Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

The thoughts in my head were not as smooth as the Lekki-Epe Expressway in Lagos. The romance between the tyres of the car and the road inside Victoria Island explained the moment I was about to have- a face-to-face time out with my brother-in-law (to be) and his spouse.

The best question of that night (in my honest opinion) was “How does your typical day look like?”. When a young man in “full-time” ministry wants to marry your sister, you need to be sure he is not one of the lazy ones out there. I reeled out my daily schedule. Guess I passed! (Because I have my wife now).

(Pause: Describe your typical day. Are you proud of it?)

Greatness is not known by daydreaming but by day-to-day planning and execution. Greatness begins with something as simple as a well-planned day. If you joke with your day, you are already toying with the future.

Do you know that even God took an appraisal of each day? From the first day to the sixth day, He continually examined the day and concluded on his performance for each day. He would say, “It was good”. What is the definition of a good day? A productive day.

Jesus, our Lord, attacked His day pretty early. As a matter of fact, his day starts long before dawn with a walk away to a solitary place to pray. If he left the house, he must have taken a walk. He then prayed. It looked like a combination of physical and spiritual fitness. Are you fit for the day, or are you always just dragging along?

A day that you wake up without a plan is dead on arrival. The root of success is hidden in your daily routine. You cannot say you are self-employed or you are a Pastor, and you are still lounging at 10 am, strolling with a towel around your waist, and maintaining communion with your phone. Except your business is Social Networking, you have no business spending almost the whole day on social media. Even those who make a living from it are not tied to it. A day that is a social

success is already a business failure.

Greatness and irresponsibility must remain two parallel lines. Greatness and laziness cannot mix. To be great, you must be an example of diligence, commitment, and excellence. Preach it with words and conduct. Be indispensable at work because of quality delivery. Be so effective at work that you do not have to lie when you need to take time off.

If you are working from home, make sure it is work indeed. Take rest, but do not become a sleeping giant.

Diligence is a line drawer- it divides men into two- those who will stand before kings and those who will romance smallness! Which company will you be?

By the time you blink your eyes, diligence will have drawn the line- some people will realize that they have lost optimal performance and space among the best because things are shifting, and people will not emerge at the same level.

A crisis will always throw some people up while it will bury others. We do not make waves but with diligence and a sense of timing (and some guts), we sure can ride the waves.

Are you planning to be great? Begin with planning your day.

Remember the Psalms:

So, teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
Psalms 90:12 NKJV

CONFESSION

I am diligent in my calling, career and purpose. I am productive every day.

DAY 06

RUN FROM OFFENCES

Text: Matthew 11:6 NKJV

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

After an amazing meeting, we had the opportunity of a heart-to-heart conversation with my Spiritual Father. We were there for over an hour. I knew it was an opportunity to learn.

That was the night he said to me, "Do you know the Yoruba word for 'Offense'? It is 'Ikose' which means stumbling. The consequence of stumbling is falling. Make sure you run away from offences".

He then told us, "If you stumble once, it can be a mistake but if you keep stumbling again and again, it has become a pattern. I am surprised at those who get offended every time. Can you imagine you are stumbling at all times? That would be unwise". We took the lesson and it has helped us for years.

Offence is a terrible thing. Hidden somewhere in the book of Isaiah are the stages of offence. Have a look:

Many of them will stumble; they will fall and be broken, they will be snared and captured."
Isaiah 8:15 NIV

Stumbling (Ikose, Offence)

Fall

Broken

Snared

Captured

When you are offended but refuse to heal, you will be captured. The end is not always good.

One way offence shows up is when a close friend inflicts a deep wound on you. It happened to a man called Ahithophel. How did this happen?

David slept with Bathsheba and killed Uriah. David eventually reconciled his ways with God but there was someone who was deeply offended.

- Ahithophel was David's counsellor.

Ahithophel was the king's counsellor.
1 Chronicles 27:33a NIV

- He partnered with Absalom when Absalom conspired to remove David from the throne.

While Absalom was offering sacrifices, he also sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, to come from Giloh, his hometown. And so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom's following kept on increasing.
2 Samuel 15:12 NIV

- He counselled Absalom to sleep with His father's concubine on the roof of the palace in the sight of all the nation.

Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give us your advice. What should we do?" Ahithophel answered, "Sleep with your father's concubines whom he left to take care of the palace. Then all Israel will hear that you have made yourself obnoxious to your father, and the hands of

everyone with you will be more resolute." So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and he slept with his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.
2 Samuel 16:20-22 NIV

- Why did Ahithophel give that counsel? That was the exact spot where David slept with Bathsheba?

One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite."
2 Samuel 11:2-3 NIV

- Bathsheba was the daughter of Eliam who happens to be the son of David slept with Bathsheba's granddaughter.

Eliam son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,
2 Samuel 23:34 NIV

Even when God forgave David, Ahithophel could not. He wanted to see David hurt so badly and put to shame that he joined Absalom. Beware of support that has a poisonous agenda in it. Absalom was just a weapon in Ahithophel's hands.

- Ahithophel committed suicide when Absalom did not take one of his counsels which could have led to the murder of David.

Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The advice of Hushai the Arkite is better than that of Ahithophel." For the Lord had determined to frustrate the good advice of Ahithophel in order to bring disaster on Absalom.
2 Samuel 17:14 NIV

When Ahithophel saw that his advice had not been followed, he saddled his donkey and set out for his house in his hometown. He put his house in order and then hanged himself. So, he died and was buried in his father's tomb.
2 Samuel 17:23 NIV

Are you on the same kind of journey as Ahithophel? Did you see how offence destroyed a great man? He stumbled. He fell. He was broken. He was snared. Death captured him at last.

Deal with the offence today. It is a dangerous slope.

CONFESSION

I do not dwell in offence. Unforgiveness is not my nature.

INSIST ON JOY!

Text: Habakkuk 3:18 NLT

...yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!

When the work of ministry began, I had the privilege of having a team of three people who showed commitment to the work. At one point, they got into different seasons of life, and two of them were the first to leave. They moved on to other matters in life.

Some weeks later, the only person left also gave me notice of relocation to the city. I was even the one who dropped him off at the park. Now I was alone.

That night, it rained heavily. The weather was quite cool in the morning. I decided to take a walk to the office. I sang with joy. I was doing all I could to lift my spirit. When I opened the church office door, the song ceased. The entire church was flooded.

Several thoughts ran through my mind. The highest of them was an arrow from the devil, "No one wants to stay with you. You are alone. See what a mess the office is now. There is no one to help you". I was almost soaking it in and sitting down with self-pity. I refused the devil. I refused self-pity. I would not allow the enemy to manipulate the situation. I did what David did:

And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

1 Samuel 30:6 KJV

I continued to worship. I called for help. We cleaned the mess, and I continued my work for the day. Nothing would stop me!

The devil knows when to attack or when to manipulate situations to make it look like everything has collapsed. If you do not know the devil's game, you can become the devil's game. Do not play his silly games with him. Resist the pressure with the force of joy.

Joy is a force that greatness travels with. Paul moved with joy. He said to the Elders at Ephesus:

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. Acts 20:24 KJV

When you run out of joy, the race has finished. You may push for a little while, but you will soon lose steam and the momentum will be over. It will be like pulling a running fan from the power source. It will seem to run for a bit but then it will come to a halt.

There is a reason David called it the joy of salvation and not the joy of the situation. Situations cannot and must not steal your joy. You have the joy of salvation no matter the situation.

Greatness and great men know that joy is a fuel that keeps vision running. Joy is the fuel we burn so we can fly. It is our "spiritual jet fuel". That is why you cannot press on when you are depressed. Your body is heavier than your spirit. It seems so hard to face the day. Every oppression that has kept you in sorrow and caused things to slow down and possibly die around you is over today.

Insist on joy.

CONFESS I O N

Situations do not regulate my joy. I am full of joy. I am joyful!

DAY 08

DO NOT OVER-COMPENSATE YOURSELF WITH REST

Text: 1 Peter 4:7 NKJV

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore, be serious and watchful in your prayers.

There was a time when I needed to pull back and rest a bit. My body was already showing the signs of 'I need you to slow down a bit and catch a rest,' so I decided to take a rest.

I made a discovery—the rest of a day or two suddenly dulled my spirit. I noticed I was not as sharp as I should be. Initially, I justified that I needed to just rest a bit more. It did not work. The rest looked like I was 'arrested.'

I switched immediately. I began to pray at designated times and regular intervals. That was the revival I needed. It was like a 'spiritual drip' (IV fluid).

It is a dangerous thing to rest at the wrong time or to rest beyond what is adequate. The thought that you need to rest more may be the opening that the devil is looking at.

The young prophet was resting when the old prophet caught up with him. Things you have no business with can become a trap when you choose the wrong time to rest. Things are coming after you that must not find you sitting.

He went after the man of God and found him sitting under an oak tree. The old prophet asked him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?" "Yes," he answered.

1 Kings 13:14 GW

David was pulled back from war at the time when the kings battled because he had raised men who could do the work, and at least, it was not a crime to rest. That was

the beginning of his troubles. He got caught in 'live pornography'. He fed on the live feed of nudity. He began to act on what he had fed on. He fell into great shame.

Did you see that posture of Samson? He was finding rest in the wrong bosom. He laid his head on Delilah's lap. He needed sleep. But he slept in the wrong place.

Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, called for a man, and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him.

Judges 16:19 NKJV

You must not slack for yourself. And it is important to tell those who hold you accountable not to slack for you also. You must say to those who hold you accountable what the woman of Shunem said to her rider:

"Slacken not the pace for me."

Then she saddled a donkey, and said to her servant, "Drive, and go forward; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you."

II Kings 4:24 NKJV

In what area are you overcompensating yourself? Do you know previous experiences of lack or inadequacy can lead to greed when opportunities come? You can become so materialistic. Watch it. It is a trap.

CONFESSION

I am alert to destiny responsibilities. I will not find rest in a wrong spot.

DAY 09

WHEN YOUR PASTOR “HURTS” YOU

Text: Ephesians 4:27 AMP

And do not give the devil an opportunity [to lead you into sin by holding a grudge, or nurturing anger, or harboring resentment, or cultivating bitterness].

I started out in ministry without a strong fathering relationship. However, by divine mercies, I got into a learning relationship with my grandfather in the faith. He would answer my questions and give me as much audience as possible. I would also attend monthly ministers' meetings, during which ministers were mentored and trained. At different times, he told me, "I will visit you soon." We rejoiced and hoped for that day.

As my culture was, I would listen to his teachings and follow his itinerary. He was preaching somewhere some years back and said, "I do not even know your pastor..." That was all the devil needed to fire an arrow of offence into my heart. The devil told me, "You that he knows, has he come to you? After all the years of following, has he visited you? Are you not closer by geography than where he is now?" The devil added, "Stop deceiving yourself. Who are you that he would visit you? Stop going to all those meetings. You can grow by yourself."

The questions were almost turning my heart into shreds... I struggled. But I prayed. I prayed more for my beloved father in those days. I prayed that the Lord would grant him more open doors and prosper the works of the ministry under his watch. I refused the devil the chance to make me focus on myself. I battled the spirit of offence to a standstill.

The following month, I was in the monthly meeting. Baba preached from his heart and spoke as though someone had told him everything I was going through. He said, "Do not let the devil lie to you that you are small because I have not visited you. Who am I? I cannot lift a fly. It is God who lifts." I began to cry where I was.

Just before he closed the meeting, he paused. He mentioned my name, and I raised my hands. He said, "Son, I owe you and I am coming to you." For me, that moment was more than a visit. It was God healing my wounded heart with the balm of His love.

Listen, the devil will always plant offence in the same place where the seed of your destiny should blossom. There will always be a strong attack around the area that you are meant to blossom. How do you overcome that attack of the devil?

First, do not let the thoughts he is firing into your soul settle in. Those are his poisoned arrows. Do not gossip with the devil. He enjoys it. As he is dropping his dirty bags at your doorstep, tell him to take it back. You do this by speaking and not by thinking

alone. You do not battle thoughts with thoughts. You battle thoughts with words. Keep saying it as long as the thoughts keep coming.

Also, appoint yourself as an intercessor over your pastor. Remember that he is also human. Start praying for him. Bless the work of his hands and all that is connected with him. That is what is called a counterattack. Counter the devil's attack by blessing the one he wants you to hate. Any relationship that the devil attacks must have some destiny significance.

Furthermore, refuse to gossip about your pastor. Do not allow the devil to recruit you as a gossip. You may think you are discussing the hurt, not realizing that you are helping the devil spread his venom. You would have become an accidentally borrowed vessel.

In addition, do not fall into the trap of withdrawal. Some people will stop attending meetings. Some will stop serving the Lord. Some stop going to church outright. I am sure you do not like seeing the devil win.

Finally, you will see God turn the father's heart to the son and that of the son to the father. In the end, there will be a unique heart connection. It will be so strong. The pull of destiny will become stronger. That is where you will also find healing. The devil knows that curses flow where there is strife and offence. Do not allow him to succeed.

Do you know the last word of the Old Testament is "curse" that flows out of a strained relationship?

"And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

Malachi 4:6 NKJV

Break the cursed poison arrow by walking in love.

CONFESSION

My heart is resistant to the arrows of offence. I guard my heart diligently.

DAY 10

THE PAINS OF A FATHER

Text: Exodus 20:12 NIV

"Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land and the LORD your God is giving you."

The elderly man looked at me and said, "What kind of son does that? I made up my mind that I would have nothing to do with him. He is a useless son. All the things he has done with his money are already depreciating. Even when I was sick, I refused to touch anything that belonged to him".

He told them that they should not even use anything that belonged to his son to carry him if they did not want to see him die. Those were the words of a hurting father. He had been disappointed by his son. I could see the hurt in his eyes.

There are hurting parents. They have expectations of their wards but they see otherwise. It has left a wound on them. We have examples in the scriptures too:

Noah cursed his grandson because his son saw his nakedness and refused to cover it but rather went to broadcast it.

And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.

Genesis 9:20-22 NKJV

When Noah woke up, he placed a curse on Canaan, the son of Ham.

Then he said: "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren." Genesis 9:25 NKJV

There was another father who was terribly pained by the act of his first son. He laid a curse on him.

"Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power. Unstable as water, you shall not excel; Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it— He went up to my couch.

Genesis 49:3-4 NKJV

The father kept quiet for years until he exploded with a curse

And it happened, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine; and Israel heard about it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:

Genesis 35:22 NKJV

Jacob kept quiet for many years. He spoke up eventually and placed a curse on Reuben.

Beloved ones, honour for your parents is a must. It is a terrible thing for your parents to be sighing in worries and pain over you.

A dear one made a call in a meeting for those who had issues with their parents, especially one that ended in a physical altercation that caused the parents to cry and say negative words. I was surprised at the number that responded.

Curses have a free flow when fathers are hurting. Do you know the last word in the Old Testament? "Curse". Why is that so? There are hurting fathers.

And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

Malachi 4:6 NKJV

Make sure you are at peace with everyone, especially your parents! It is not a pleasant situation to be in. May you not labour under a curse. Amen.

CONFESSION

I honour my parents. I do not cause grief to them.

DAY 11

THE VOICE OF CAUTION AND CORRECTION

Text: Proverbs 9:9 NIV

Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.

Things went really bad in a particular home. The woman of the house decided to pack out. The man of the house reached out to their teacher and pastor. When the pastor called, the wife said to him, “Sir, I cannot believe he called you. Anytime I mentioned that I would tell you about his actions, he would always respond that he does not care and does not fear anyone. Now, that I have left, I cannot believe he can call you. Sir, I cannot go back to such a man”. The pastor knew there was nothing he could do for a man who was not willing to be held accountable by the voice of caution and correction. Accusations and counter-accusations began to fly about infidelity, abuse of trust, and other matters.

One of the things that will help you overcome temptations is the presence of at least a voice of caution and correction. The higher you go, the more cautious you must be. The more money you earn, the more accountable you must become. Be pastored by a pastor who is not worshipping your wealth. Let it be a “Pastor Timothy” who can command the rich, warn the gifted, and rebuke the talented.

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.
I Timothy 6:17 NKJV

You may not know how much of a sinner you can be until certain privileges come- money, power, position, and influence can intoxicate you. Deal with it.

By the time David messed up irredeemably, two critical relationships were absent in his life. There would have been a great voice of caution in his life.

The first was the voice of Jonathan. Jonathan was a friend like a brother. He was not in competition with David. He knew David had a great destiny. It was certain he would not have allowed his friend to go down the slope. Maybe he would have been around David at such a sensitive time. He would have warned him rather than urge him on. Even if he was

not there, maybe David would have found a confidant to talk about his mess. David may not have killed Uriah.

Do you have a friend who can be a voice of caution or you are surrounded only by flatterers?

The second was the voice of Prophet Samuel. That is the voice of a Pastor, a Father, or a trainer. Do you have a pastor who can ask you tough questions? Do you have a father who can command you out of a “blind spot” that can lead to a disaster? Do you have the voice of a teacher who can tell you not to make a stupid decision? It takes humility to submit but in the long run, it pays greatly.

Did you know that David stayed in a dark phase for a while? How did God help him? He sent another voice of caution and correction into his life called Nathan.

Someone is reading this that you can trace the depreciation in your life to the absence of voices of caution. Will you be humble enough to repent? Get back into a local church. Submit to training.

If you have outgrown the voices of caution and correction in your life because of the status that you have attained, you will need to repent quickly. The devil is setting you up for a fall. He will eat you up alive. He wants to get drunk in the delight of your fall.

There is a prayer I love to pray: May the critical voices in your life not be quiet when it is most essential.

Do you have a voice of caution and correction?

CONFESSIO N

I am blessed with fathers and teachers. I embrace godly counsel.

DAY 12

SPEAK! DO NOT STAY SILENT

Text: Proverbs 6:25 NKJV

Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, nor let her allure you with her eyelids.

When I told him that, “When next lustful thoughts cross your mind, simply say ‘No! I will not do that in Jesus’ name’”. He was shocked and asked, “Is that all?” I said ‘Yes, that is all.’ I then recommended a teaching on the Lordship of Christ since he asked for more. (You can download it at www.ngcc.church/messages).

Some days later, he was all smiling. He said to me, “It is working. I did not know it was that simple.” I smiled, seeing the smile of a believer freed from the stronghold of lust. I then said to him, “Say No. Do not stop saying No. No matter the number of times such lustful, strange suggestions come. Keep saying No.”

You do not battle thoughts with thoughts; you battle thoughts with words. The devil and his agents are rebuked by words. Why? They do not know your thoughts. The devil is not all-knowing. Demons obey you when you speak.

Did you notice that there was no time in the temptation that Jesus kept quiet? He had a response for the devil from the Word. At a point, he rebuked the devil and told him to stay off.

In our training by the teacher called “Grace,” we are taught to speak and not stay silent:

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age. Titus 2:11-12 NIV

It teaches us to SAY “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions. It then teaches us to also live self-controlled, upright and godly lives. Your training begins with you learning to say No!

Jesus rebuked the devil by saying, “It is written.” The Word of God was originally

spoken so it could be written and written so it could be spoken. You turn what has been written into a weapon when you speak.

So, the next time you feel that lustful urge, do not just start thinking that you do not want to do it. Voice it out and say “No.” Let the demon hear that you are not taking its strange suggestion. Try it, and do not stop even when it seems victory has been won. Say “No” at every chance and every thought.

When you practise speaking, the first thing you will notice is a change of atmosphere around you. It is the proof that you were not the one just thinking of sinning. There was a strange operation going on around you. Do not allow that atmosphere to persist. Change it by speaking.

Jesus spoke no words all the way to the cross so that he could bear our sins and shame. Why? Just one word and the grip of sin would be broken. But he got that victory, so you can then speak and be free from every stronghold of sin.

This may look simple, but this is a major key to victory. When the devil says, “Look at that girl again,” “Click that link,” or “Get angry,” or “Steal some money,” just say “NO!” You will be surprised at what will begin to happen in your life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are free from the grip of sin!

CONFESSIO N

I am not a slave to sin. I speak against lustful thoughts. My mind is daily renewed.

DAY 13

YOU ARE A “DEAD MAN”

Text: Galatians 5:24 AMP

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature together with its passions and appetites.

While teaching a class of young converts someday, I walked up to the first person and pinched him. He responded as he felt it. I went to another person who now knew what I wanted to do and pretended like he would not respond, but he did.

Then I asked them, “What if I pinched a dead man? Would he respond?”. They all had an obvious answer. The dead man does not respond to any form of touch. What happens when we are dead to sin? We stop responding to its touch and its call. No matter how much or how loud or how hard you call a dead man, he does not have the capacity or wiring to respond to you any longer.

In Christ, we become dead to sin.

By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?
(Romans 6:2 NIV)

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
(Romans 6:11 NIV)

But you have an assignment and a responsibility. You carry a certificate by the blood of Jesus that says you are dead to sin. You now have to live according to that reality. What do you do?

Do not let sin reign in your body again. Give that ambassador of the devil no room at all.

Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.
(Romans 6:12 NIV)

You ensure this by not giving any part of your body as an instrument for sin to use.

Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.
(Romans 6:13 NIV)

Do you remember that right after the salvation

of the Jews from Egypt, Pharaoh still came after them? The devil will come after you because he never wants a sinner to be delivered.

He prefers that you pray in tongues but still curse with the same mouth. He won't stop you from singing godly songs, but he will still ensure that those strange sounds and songs that “turn you on” are still “no big deal” in your playlist. He wants to keep a foot in your space. You must deny him his working tools in your life.

You must insist that no part of your body will be an instrument of unrighteousness. It is your insistence that makes this work. As the devil throws his suggestion, remember that a dead man does not respond.

If a “dead man” is driving in traffic, no matter what happens, no vulgar words can come from provocative moments.

If a “dead man” is seduced by evil, he cannot respond.

If a “dead man” is insulted, he is not even aware of it. A “dead man” knows no pride or lust.

Why? You are dead to sin but alive to Christ. The life you live now only responds to things and signals from your Lord and Saviour.

Lay your life on the altar as a “living sacrifice.” Every sacrifice dies, but this sacrifice is dead yet living. Why? Dead to sin but alive in Christ!

Say it: “_____, you are dead to sin. You are alive in Christ. You respond to signals from your Lord Jesus Christ. You are under the reign of righteousness. Sin is an enemy. Sin is poison. It must be treated as such”.

Live in that reality. That is your safe space.

CONFESSIO N

I am dead to sin. I am alive in Christ. I live daily as a living sacrifice to God.

DAY 14

I PLAY FOR SO AND SO CHURCH

Text: 2 PETER 3:18 NKJV

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

I was really excited to see a young man whom I had known for years again. It was a mini-reunion, albeit by the roadside. I knew him as a committed member of a local church back in the day. I then asked him, "What church are you now?" His answer was, "I play for so and so church." I was surprised. He tried to explain that the church he played for was not his church, but that is where he attends now for financial reasons.

When I dug deeper, his life was a mess. It was not money that he needed first. That was the lie of the devil, to steal his soul. What he needed first was the conviction that comes from spiritual growth. He needed the capacity to attract a better life. He needed a home.

Listen clearly, please – Anywhere your skill is valued more than your spirit is not a spiritual home; it is an abattoir! Anywhere your talent is exalted above your training is not a platform but a graveyard.

There is a difference between sons and servants. When a son forgets what home looks like or means or what fatherhood is like, he is satisfied with sharing bread with hired servants. He will be at home, but all he is eyeing will be the "bread of servants."

First, do not let the devil seduce you at any point. Settle it that your spirit is priceless. Settle it so that you will never starve spiritually. You need a strong spirit to manifest in destiny. Even Jesus became strong in spirit. Go where your spirit is fed, nurtured, and groomed for destiny.

And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Luke 2:40 NKJV

Second, do not let problems and the needs of life seduce you. In the training of your spirit, there will be legitimate needs that will arise, but you must still lean on and trust the Lord.

I had a young man with a calling to the ministry. I did not doubt in my heart that a brilliant young man who had great potential decided to serve the Lord in Eruwa. I would do all in my power to ensure that he had what he needed. One day, he came to my office and dropped hints of his need. I told him, "I have the money to give you, but I would not. I would not be helping your journey. Go and build your faith

and trust in God". Today, he is the better for it. His capacity is enlarged. His conviction is solid. He is not where he used to be financially. It was a tough choice. It was painful to see him go through it, but it was better for his future.

In training our spirit, we converted hunger to fasting until God manifested. We converted the lack of transport fare to prayer walking and returned home with a miracle. There is greater joy when you witness the Father's miraculous intervention.

Do not allow the immediate pleasures of life to rob you of the ultimate plan of God for you in life and destiny.

Third, do not let increases and results seduce your spirit also. There is a way that will always seem right but please check well before you sign away your destiny and birthright. Some voices have become lost today that should have been sound bars for the kingdom. They have been drowned in hustling.

When the process seems hard, endure hardness like a good soldier of Christ. When the harvest seems late, never doubt that there is a seed in the ground. When the race seems tough, do not change lanes and cross lines. You are running for a prize and not just running to be a part. There is a pattern that will help your spirit; do not despise it!

Take with me your share of hardship [passing through the difficulties which you are called to endure], like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 2:3 AMP

Now listen; when your spirit is trained and your convictions are deep, you will not crumble when the breakthrough comes. Why? That height you covet will only be sustained by depths that men may not see. Digging foundations is never a waste. Be patient.

Any theology that removes the Christian suffering will leave you as a baby in the creche. You will never learn to stretch!

CONFESSION

I am not a spiritual vagabond. I submit to training. I grow in grace and service.



ASSESS AND CHANGE COMPANY IF NEED BE

Text: Numbers 22:9 NKJV

Then God came to Balaam and said, "Who are these men with you?"

As teenagers, my friends and I had a routine we kept on the first day of every year. We would all get in a car and drive around different homes in town. The journey started in a home where there was always roasted local chicken and ended with a family that would normally throw a light party every first day of the year.

In between, we visited about five other places where we would get a wine gift, munch on homemade snacks, consume biscuits, take in some generous soda, and exchange pleasantries with some of our friends and their families. It was always a robust day.

But something happened to me one of those years. I began to ask questions. I had begun to invest in reading at the closing of the previous year. Something switched within me. When they called me to go on our routine, I was holed up in my dad's home office reading and plotting the graph of my personal growth that year. I told them I would not be able to go. They also stopped the routine about a year later.

The company you keep has an impact on you. Relationships are never neutral. They have a profound impact on you. There are things you say or do today that you picked from relationships. Whether we know it or not, relationships are not neutral.

Most things you do personally as a believer are first learnt corporately. We learn private praying by joining group prayer meetings. My prayer life was influenced heavily by prayerful colleagues in my university days. I got fired up. Your love for the study of God's Word can be stoked by Bible Study meetings in your local church or teachings from the church. Relationships are not neutral.

For instance, Peter had a profound impact on other disciples. After the death of Jesus, he

decided to return to his fishing business. His decision influenced most of them.

About seven of them were together after the death of Jesus. Peter called out to them and told them his intentions:

"Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together."

John 21:2 NKJV

Guess what, they all followed him:

"Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing."

John 21:3 NKJV

Make sure you are not distracted in your down moments. You are likely to return to the fishing boat. The fishing boat is where Jesus called Peter out of. Whatever you know is what you return to. Some return to drugs, some to sexual sins, and others to gambling. Be careful of what beckons to you.

Hear the words of Paul, the Apostle:

"Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for "bad company corrupts good character.""

1 Corinthians 15:33 NLT

Assess your company!
Break camp if need be.
Change your company.
As simple as ABC!

CONFESSION

I break free from a bad company. I am blessed with godly friends. I live for Christ.

DAY 16

NEVER ALLOW STRANGE INTERPRETATIONS

Text: Hebrews 10:7 NKJV

Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.'

A young woman once called me and mentioned that someone asked her to reach out to me. She had a dream three times that she was picking snails. She was told that it meant she would be poor.

I told her to do something simple: go to a restaurant, order a meal and request a snail instead of the regular protein. She could tell me the price later. She got the memo. Snails are not cheap.

The danger of wrong conclusions is that it will lead to wrong suggestions that will propel wrong actions. Once Sarah concluded wrongly that it seemed as though God was punishing her by withholding her from getting pregnant, she told Father Abram to sleep with Hagar as a way to get answers.

There are two roles the devil wants to play in your life: the role of the supplier of information and the role of interpreter of information.

The devil wants to supply information. He knows that kings rule by information. Nations pay a lot for espionage. They want information. The devil wants to tell you that:

You are not beautiful.

You are not loved.

No one will marry someone like you.

You will die young.

You will remain small.

Never allow him to supply information.

However, when he notices that you have succeeded in denying him the role of supplier, he wants to play the role of interpreter. He can use someone close to you like he used Sarah to bring that suggestion to Father Abram.

Someone close to you like Peter who genuinely loves you can misinterpret your season. Beclouded with their emotions, they play the devil's advocate. You should know when a loving role has become strange and

say, "Get thee behind me, Satan".

What Sarah got wrong, Rebecca did well. When the babies jostled in her womb, she went to the Lord to get the interpretation of her season.

But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If all is well, why am I like this?" So, she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her: "Two nations are in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger." Genesis 25:22 – 23 NKJV

If the devil succeeds in supplying and interpreting that data to you, be it a dream, a situation, a health report, or an account balance, he will succeed in controlling, manipulating, and intimidating you using the weapon of fear.

One wrong interpretation can become a generational mess. You will birth things that will spiral out of control.

Deny the devil's information. Deny him the role of interpreter. Spend time in the Word to find the definition of your season. Spend time in prayer to receive clarity.

A lazy believer will become a willing tool of the devil. A believer who lacks sensitivity can be used by the devil to achieve his purpose. Do not let it happen.

CONFESSION

I reject the devil's interpretation of my seasons. I hold on to what God says concerning me.

DAY 17

BREAK THE CYCLE OF OFFENCE

Text: Romans 12:18 NKJV

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

It was an interesting season in our lives. Challenges with those we loved began to mount pressure on our marriage. We both had the best interest at heart but it just seemed not to come out the right way. In the middle of it, we spoke unintended but hurting words to one another. I remember leaving home that day and saying to Irewamiri, "I am getting afraid of you." She also sent me a voice note later stating how choked she was with me. It was not a sweet episode.

Thank God for the voice of counsel. Later that week, my dear mother-in-the-faith scolded and corrected me. She said, "You are a child of God. Some things must never come out of your mouth. Never say you are afraid of your wife again. Where is fear coming from? Is that fear from the Lord?"

As I soaked it in, I ranted a bit that it was all happening at a season I had dedicated to seeking the Lord through prayer and fasting. My mother-in-the-faith smiled and said, "Let me tell you how the cycle of offence works." She hit my attention immediately.

Beloved, there is such a thing as the cycle of offence. This is how it works:

When a matter hurts the wife, the husband comes to apologize, but she is still reluctant and angry about the situation. After the husband has pressed for a while and she is not responding properly, he decides to let her be. By the time she comes around for a resolution, the husband is already offended about how he apologized, and she treats him coldly. He then begins to respond coldly to his wife. The devil has succeeded in weaponizing your emotions to pull down your marriage.

If you ever have the chance to ask your spouse what goes on in their mind whenever they get a cold treatment, you will agree with the prophet who said that the heart of man

is desperately wicked, and who can know it?

The only way to break this cycle is to fight for the warmth of your home. Why are you still cold when you know that it is the resolution of the issue that you desire? Why do you still want him or her to feel a bit of how bad you felt when they treated you that way? Whenever any of you show signs of reconciliation, the other party should take hold of it as fast as possible. Do not let it linger. If it stays too long, the devil will take his role as the director of that movie. You will not like the end of it.

For instance, when you are cold, you look for things to keep you warm. In the same vein, when you are cold towards your spouse, it is not the time to withdraw from them. If you do, the cold will get colder, killing and freezing your union. You do not want that. When the atmosphere is cold, it is the proper time to draw close and get some warmth. "Cold atmospheres" is a "weather for two." That is the way to survive it. You can never be warm alone.

"Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone?"
Ecclesiastes 4:11 NKJV

Stop taking your time. Time will not heal you. Obedience does. Time can make the wounds fester. Obedience submits the wound to the one who can heal and make you whole. If it is peace and resolution you want, what are you doing riding the bicycle of offence? Get down from your high horse. Close the gap. Do not let the cold kill your union.

CONFESSION

I do not permit coldness in my home. My emotions are not manipulated by the enemy. I live an offence-free life.

DAY 18

IT TAKES COMMITMENT AND NEVER CONVENIENCE

Text: Acts 3:1 NLT

Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service.

In the early days of GSM phones, the network was quite terrible and not yet widespread in Eruwa, but it was the season that 'youthful Temi' had just fallen in love. The network issues would never deter me from communication.

I would place my phone on one of the high louvre blades and connect an earpiece to it. I could remain there for four hours, maximizing the "extra cool" package (only millennials will understand this). It was not convenient, but I knew I wanted to speak with the one I love. The price I had to pay was nothing compared to the joy of speaking to a lover.

My spiritual father would always say to us, "It is a rare thing for prayer to come to you. It will not feel like it. But in scriptures, you will see that you have to go to prayer." He uses this to teach us the difference between convenience and commitment.

You must give yourself to prayer. It was the secret of the early disciples. It must also be ours in this generation.
Acts 6:4 KJV

[4] But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

You must learn the art of converting waiting seasons to times of waiting on the Lord. While Peter waited for food to be ready, he decided to spend some time praying. A hungry, believing man should not be an angry man but a praying man. Convert the hunger to prayer.
Acts 10:9-10 NIV

[9] About noon the following day as they

were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. [10] He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.

Pray while in transit.

Pray while waiting for a meal.

Pray while on break at work.

Pray while sitting at the departure lounge.

Pray while waiting for the meeting to start.

It was that time of prayer that opened up ministry to the Gentiles. What if Peter had been overwhelmed with his hunger and turned it to anger? What if Peter had been scrolling through social media just to keep himself engaged? What if he had chosen the convenient instead of pushing for communion?

You pray when you do not feel like it. A solid prayer life cannot be built on feelings. It is a commitment. Pay the price.

CONFESSIO N

I am committed to the life of prayer. My prayer altar is aflame.

DAY 19

MASTER THIS IF YOU WILL AMOUNT TO ANYTHING IN LIFE...

Text: Proverbs 23:2 GNT

If you have a big appetite, restrain yourself.

One of the things I wouldn't say I liked while growing up was the annual twenty-one days fast. As a pastor's child, it was our annual convention month. We were encouraged to fast. Well! It is not as though there would be cooked food anyway. It was always tough, so I came up with a "strategic fasting plan." As a teenager, the food was more important than anything else.

My first option was our neighbour's house. They always had some loaves of bread to snack on in their kitchen. While playing there, I would have eaten at least a full meal of bread with butter.

My second option was the ever-available and reliable ally- "Garri". I would pour some in my pocket and then stroll from the house. I made sure I pulled the last grain from my pocket.

When we get to church in the evening, you must find a way to appear like you also fasted, but you knew you did not.

First, anyone who would amount to anything in life must be able to master his appetite. Daniel mastered his appetite in Babylon. He would not just consume the king's delicacies- it was real food at the start, promotions and gifts were shared with others while he stayed content, and he turned down a great part of the Kingdom. If you will go far, dethrone 'King Stomach'. Let the weight of your destiny mean more to you than the pangs of that temporal hunger.

It was food that became the trap for the young prophet. The day he attained

national prominence was also the day he was buried. Why? He went back to eat. Discipline your appetite. Brother, Sister, do not lose guard because you see food!

Second, God always trains individuals for their future. I did not know then that I would enter ministry. Now, I must dedicate time to fasting and prayer. Do not allow your emotions to hinder your spiritual development; fight that limitation.

Third, do not deceive yourself. If you stay in self-deception, the future will unravel your folly. The day of reckoning will always come, and your readiness will be revealed.

The day the disciples had to cast out a demon from a boy, they struggled with it and ended up asking Jesus the Lord why they struggled. His response was simple- "This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Build your spiritual muscles before the day you will need them. Why? If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.

May you pass your tests! May I pass mine also!

CONFESSION

My appetite is tamed. My appetite will not be my undoing. I develop spiritual capacity.

ATOM

Anuoluwapo
Temiloluwa Ola Ministry

GROOMS NIGHT

HEART TO HEART MEN'S MEETING

with Pastor Temi Ola

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DAY 20

STOP DISRUPTING DIVINE PROCESS WITH HUMAN IMPATIENCE

Text: Hebrews 6:15 NLT

Then Abraham waited patiently, and he received what God had promised.

When my second daughter was a little younger, she would, at times, wake up at night and request to take a meal or just water. Offentimes than not, she would retire into our bed. If you ask her to go to their room, she would disagree. What we get to do most of the time is to carry her right after she has slept off. Once she is asleep, we know there will be no resistance. We pick her up and drop her in her bedroom.

One of the things that you must learn as a believer is the art of trusting God totally. If you are still in the season of struggling and arguing with God because you think you are smarter, it is because your flesh is still awake. When the flesh is put to sleep, and your spirit is alert to God, obedience is never a struggle.

When Abraham was still vibrant and had all it took to impregnate a woman, he saw the option of sleeping with Hagar as one that made sense. After a while, he even began to negotiate with God that Ishmael should carry the blessing that was meant for the seed the Lord had promised.

Do you know when the miracle took place? When both Sarah and Abraham had gotten to the point of deadness, and they could not argue again:

And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

Romans 4:19 KJV

The beginning of the divine is always at

the end of the human. Sometimes, God wants you to come to the end of yourself so He can step in, but it is always better if you begin to trust Him early enough.

When did the miracle of Abraham and Sarah happen? When they had gotten tired of trying:

So, she laughed silently to herself and said, "How could a worn-out woman like me enjoy such pleasure, especially when my master—my husband—is also so old?"

Genesis 18:12 NLT

How did God bring the woman out of man? After he had been put to deep sleep.

The reason why the miracle you desire so desperately is being delayed may be because you keep interrupting divine processes with human impatience. You are trying all you can to make it work by yourself. Be at peace. Tell your soul to rest in the promises of God. Stop being agitated. If the Lord has promised, the Lord will do it.

Stop struggling to make it happen.

Your miracle is here!

Is it clear?

CONFESSION

I trust divine process. I am not disruptive. I hold on to God's promises for my life.

DAY 21

DO NOT UNDERRATE LAUGHTER!

Text: Job 39:22 AMP

He laughs at fear and is not dismayed; And [in battle] he does not turn back from the sword.

My Mum taught me this spiritual lesson with her life: Mum lost her sight many years ago. In the early days of losing her sight, she wanted to sit down in her office. It was a chair with two arms. She felt the arm of the chair to get the right spot, but unfortunately, she forgot to touch the second arm. As she attempted to sit, she sat in an empty space. She fell to the floor.

In her account, as she fell, the devil began to remind her of how hopeless her situation now was. She responded by laughing until she burst into praying in the Spirit. A pastor working in the ministry office heard the fall and ran to the door but turned back when he had the laughter and prayers, saying, “Mummy is just praying.”

That laughter in the fall and at the devil produced light and strength to navigate that season. Today, that light has birthed an institution that is thriving.

No other book would be apposite to tell us about laughter other than the Book of Job.

You shall laugh at destruction and famine, and you shall not be afraid of the beasts of the earth.
Job 5:22 NKJV

One way to kill fear is laughter. Destruction and famine may be staring at you right in the face, but your response must be laughter. There is nothing that you laugh at that can succeed in intimidating you again.

Why do we find it hard to laugh at tough times? We are not loaded with understanding about the ways of the Lord. When we do not know the Lord and His ways, we enter into the realm of murmuring.

He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.

Psalms 103:7 KJV

You will never hear Moses murmur. He knew the ways of the Lord. If you murmur in the wilderness season of life, you will prolong your stay there. Laughter opens up your Spirit to light and instructions. Murmuring shuts you down.

But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

1 Corinthians 10:5 KJV

The wilderness intends to overthrow you. Your assignment is to remind yourself of who the Lord is and what The Lord has said. Arm yourself with the Word before the wilderness season comes.

If your heart is not full of the Word and there is space for the devil to dump his thoughts, you will never be able to laugh at tough times. You will fall into the realm of pity.

Do what you see God doing, and you will get divine results.

He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.
Psalm 2:4 KJV

When last did you laugh at the devil? When last did you laugh at challenges? Laugh! Get back on your feet. You were born to confuse hell and all its demons. Laugh!

CONFESSION

I engage the mystery of laughter. I do not murmur. My trust is in God.

DAY
22

THERE IS NO GROWTH WITHOUT A ROUTINE

Text: Habakkuk 2:1 KJV

I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.

Some time ago, we were getting the girls set one morning when Danielle said, "It has been a while since we had devotion in this house. Daddy, why?" I did not know how to respond. I simply said, "We will resume family devotion tomorrow."

The truth was, we had gotten so soaked in activities that made us abandon our routine. We no longer joke with our family devotion. Irewamiri and I were praying personally, but we were not involving the children.

First, any form of growth must involve some routine. If it grows, routine is involved. For instance, a farmer has a routine for his plants. A man running a poultry has a routine for his birds. Growth and routine go hand in hand. If you are committing to any form of growth this season, you must know that it is a commitment to routine.

Routines are like rhythms; once it is broken, the disorder is birthed. Respect those who have kept the routine of family devotion for years- your parents and grandparents. The generation that claims to be more knowledgeable is the one that is also more disorderly- in words, thoughts, and even our actions. We struggle to have personal devotion, and we struggle to hold family devotion, too.

Second, there is no recovery that does not involve routine. Medicine helps us clearly with this. Have you seen the way intravenous fluids (popularly called drip) work? It drops constantly and at a specific time. It keeps a rhythm. If it is rushed (no matter how much it is needed), what is meant for help can turn into another issue.

If you have been struggling with your spiritual growth, put yourself on a simple routine. Use the "drip" format. You can pray for ten minutes every three hours (including the night). It

awakens your spirit.

Do not break your patterns or routine for growth. In medicine, drugs are taken with specific patterns. When you break patterns, you make recovery tougher.

Have you placed yourself on a regiment? What will you do periodically to enhance the state of your spirit? Do not stay in weakness. Get into the Word and Prayer. It will revitalize your soul.

Do not grumble when your parents or grandparents take time during devotion. That tradition has saved lives, raised giants, sustained marriages, and birthed answers to prayers. I still remember the scriptures we read morning and night at the "family altar."

Do you still have a personal altar?

Do you have a family altar?

Remember, there is no growth without routine.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:42 KJV

What will you be steadfast with?

What must be continuous in your life?

CONFESSION

I am committed to spiritual growth. I grow in strength and grace.

DAY 23

APPRECIATE SILENT LABOURS

Text: Hebrews 11:33 NLT

By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions...

One of the fathers in the faith who helped in the spread of the gospel all across our nation especially among young people as a Travelling Secretary of an Evangelistic Organization was honoured by one of the ministries in the land. He was already in his 70s when this happened. When I saw the update, tears dropped from my eyes. When I watched the event, I was even more emotional. Why? I knew this beloved father and his heart for the work of the gospel.

On the occasion of his birthday some years ago, we tried all we could to celebrate him quietly in our little way. Even though he was thousands of miles away, we got a brother in the faith to kindly reach out to him and give our gifts of love. The sense of gratitude that this beloved father showed was humbling. And yes! The brother we reached out to enjoyed private interaction and received fatherly blessings also.

Some men are silent labourers. They may not be in the limelight, but their labours made a lot of difference in our land. There was a time when he still hit the road preaching the gospel of Christ right after losing his son. Some men are just totally sold out.

As a young and growing church, we showed appreciation to a dear steward. She would often be the only person who would arrive to clean the church, sometimes spending hours on the task. She never complained and always maintained a positive attitude, approaching her work with joy. God sees those who labour quietly.

There was a special meeting where prophetic words were coming for those who were labouring in the kitchen with their ear plugged into the meeting. God does not forget.

Hebrews 6:10 NKJV

[10] For God is not unjust to forget your work and labour of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Just like God does not forget, you must make up your mind to also not forget the silent labours of men in your life.

Think deeply- who are those who laboured over you that you seem to have forgotten today? We have a little rule- we must never forget those who contributed their efforts in the days of our small beginning. There are people enjoying opportunities today because of the silent labours of people they will never get to meet. They are only enjoying the harvest.

There are men that I rarely say "No" to. They played unique and silent roles in my journey. No matter how you part ways, do all you can to only remember their sacrifices and not their shortcomings.

Never forget silent labour!

Appreciate silent labourers too.

CONFESS I O N

I am generous towards co-labourers in the faith. I bless them with my resources.

DAY 24

APPRECIATE THE HELP OF GOD

Text: Psalm 46:1 NKJV

God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

I rewamiri and I were having a conversation. She just mentioned how we had nothing in our living room when we got married. Our seats were improvised- we used to sit on those yellow twenty-five-litre jerry cans.

I still remember our first set of upholstery. After settling into our first home, God instructed us to give it up as a seed. We moved to a new house and once again had no upholstery. After a year, a family from Lagos gifted us living room furniture. We were grateful and thankful, appreciating God's help.

Beloved, you must learn to appreciate the help of God. If you remove the help of the Lord from your life and affairs, what will be left? What do we have that we did not receive?

In the days of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar took a walk and appraised the city. He told himself that he did it by his own hands.
Daniel 4:29-30 NIV

[29] Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, [30] he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"

He said he built it by his own mighty power and the glory of His Majesty. While he was still speaking, he got his judgement:
Daniel 4:31-32 NIV

[31] Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. [32] You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes."

"Until you acknowledge the Most High..." Did you see that? Have you learnt to acknowledge the Most High? Do you think you did it in your own might?

When was his sanity restored? When he learnt to look up to heaven and acknowledge the help of God.
Daniel 4:34 NLT

"After this time had passed, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven. My sanity returned, and I praised and worshipped the Most High and honoured the one who lives forever. His rule is everlasting, and his kingdom is eternal."

David knew what Nebuchadnezzar did not understand. David knew that he was only being helped and could only be helped by God.
Psalms 121:1-2 NKJV

[1] I will lift up my eyes to the hills— From whence comes my help? [2] My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Solomon also knew the same thing:
Psalms 127:1 NKJV

[1] Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

Look around you. When last did you appreciate how far God has brought you? When last did you thank God for His hand in your life?

CONFESSION

I am grateful for divine help. I appreciate God for coming through for me. I am helped at all times.

DAY 25

APPRECIATE SINCERITY

Text: Matthew 5:37 NKJV

But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Some years ago, we were to host a leadership conference. Aside from myself, we had plans to host about seven other speakers (I am not sure I will do that again). About a week before the meeting, it became clear that it would be dishonourable to bring speakers without the required financial pool to take care of at least their logistics.

I sent an email to all our speakers. I told them all about the season we were in as a ministry and sincerely talked to them about our financial state. I then added that it would not hurt me in any way if any of them decided not to come. I also added that it would never redefine or affect the respect I had for each of them.

None of the speakers pulled back. They all came. We did what we could with what we had. They all said they were coming as friends of the work. I was indeed grateful. I was humbled by their love, and I still appreciate all of them to date.

Beloved, appreciate sincerity wherever you see it. Sincerity is way better than packaging. I have been to meetings where I was poorly treated. I have met pastors who would say, "We would send you something sir" and they never did. I have met some who made other promises that they never kept. I know the pressure of performance, but I can tell you about the freedom of sincerity.

Sincerity frees you from pressure. Listen beloved, sincerity must flow from humility. I know it is sometimes really hard to tell the truth about your season, but it is a very important step. It grows your confidence. It helps your goodwill and strengthens your relationship with others.

If you are in ministry, make sure you are

sincere and appreciate sincerity. Where sincerity is absent, corruption takes over.
2 Corinthians 2:17 KJV

For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

You must serve the Lord with sincerity. God does not need you to package for Him. Do all things in the fear of the Lord.
Joshua 24:14a KJV

Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth...

Let good conscience, simplicity and sincerity guide you on the journey of life. Do not try to fake it till you make it. Give your best at every level you are.
2 Corinthians 1:12 KJV

For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

Once sincerity is there, humility and truth are never far. Be sincere. People can smell hypocrisy from afar. Be simple. Be truthful. Be sincere.

CONFESSION

I embrace sincerity in my relationships with people. I serve God with sincerity of heart.

DAY
26

THE POWERLESS ELECTRIC CABLE

Text: 1 Peter 2:9 NIV

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

We were heading to the airport in a city in the South-South when Irewamiri pointed out an interesting scene- there were clothes spread out to dry on an electric cable. These were high-capacity power cables. When I saw it, I said to her, "Definitely, there is no life or power in that cable. If there is power in that cable, they would dare not treat it that way".

A man who operates in the plan and purpose of God for his life cannot be treated anyhow. Ridicule sets in when a man is displaced.

One of the things that redemption impacts is our mindset. Low thinking will lead to low living. We must not be born again and beggarly in life. He has made us a kingdom of priests and kings. Priests have a stand before God. Kings have a stand before men.

You must know your place. The generation that is taken into captivity is the generation that lacks knowledge.

Therefore, my people have gone into captivity Because they have no knowledge; Their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.

Isaiah 5:13 NKJV

A man can be in honour and lack awareness of it.

A man who is in honour yet does not understand, is like the beasts that perish. Psalms 49:20 NKJV

The day an electric cable comes alive with current flowing through it, it would cease to be used for spreading cloths.

The day a believer wakes up to his identity in Christ, the devil will stop messing up with his life and in his affairs.

Wake up to it. You are not a victim. Wake up to it. You are not a beggar. Wake up to it. You are not a slave. Wake up to it.

CONFESSION

I am a (wo)man of honour. I am not a beggar. I am royalty. I refuse to live a casual life.

DAY 27

SCORPION ON THE WINDOW

Text: Psalm 144:1 NLT

Praise the LORD, who is my rock. He trains my hands for war and gives my fingers skill for battle.

I was away from home for a season when Irewamiri's shared a testimony of divine protection. She had opened the window of the house for some breeze to come in. She later went to close the windows.

Some moments later, she went to open the windows again and realised that when she was closing the window, she had crushed a huge scorpion that was trying to climb into our bedroom. And to make matters worse, it was carrying eggs.

She had locked the window without knowing she won a battle that we did not even see nor envisaged could ever be there.

One of the things you must grateful for in life are the battles that were settled without you being aware that they existed. It is only when God gives opportunity to see some things that we were delivered from that we get to appreciate how faithful He is. Oftentimes, thanksgiving is in retrospect.

Battles are a function of human existence. As long as men are on earth, there will be battles to fight.

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.
1 John 5:4 NKJV

The proof that there are battles is that the Word calls us overcomers. Paul also said:

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
Romans 8:37 NKJV

In life, even though there are battles, you must carry the mentality of a victor. Refuse the mindset of a victim at all costs.

Have the mindset of a conqueror. Why? A solid weapon in the hands of anyone with the mindset of a victim is already a setback.

Have the mindset of a conqueror because as a man thinks in his heart so he is. In this kingdom, you do not receive according to what is available, you obtain according to what you see. If the sight of your mind is poor, your reception will also be poor and you cannot appropriate what the Lord has blessed you with.

It can look like a tough season but have the mindset of a conqueror. Be bold. Do not entertain fear.

CONFESS I O N

I am not intimidated by battles. I fight on the Lord's side. I am more than a conqueror.

DAY
28

THE TASTY GOAT MEAT AND THE “NO” OF THE HOLY GHOST

Text: Hebrews 12:16 NLT

Make sure that no one is immoral or godless like Esau, who traded his birthright as the firstborn son for a single meal.

We had a plate of rice with some nicely peppered goat meat. I wanted some more goat meat so I told Irewamiri. I convinced her to give me one more especially since I would be away from home for a while. She raised her eyebrow but could not resist my persuasive skills.

As she left the dining table to pick the meat for me, the Holy Spirit said, “Be disciplined. No more meat”. As she was bringing the meat, I told her I would not eat anymore. She said I could have it but I told her the Holy Spirit has restricted me.

There is no area of your life that the Holy Spirit cannot shine the light on. You can only decide to resist him. Any area that you allow the Holy Spirit to shine His light on and you become willing to work on becomes an area of strength for you.

There may be areas of your life where you may think you are smarter than the Holy Ghost. Any area of your life that you do not yield to the prompt of the Holy Spirit will become a fertile ground for indiscipline.

Self-control does not mean that self is in control; it means the “self” is under the control of the Spirit of the Lord. The flesh would war against the Spirit because it does not want the spirit to take the lead.

Think about Esau- it was his refusal to say no to the temptation of food that led to the loss of his birthright.

Think about Daniel - he ended up ten times better but the first test he had to pass was the test of food.

Self-control is needed for a smooth ride in life. Can you imagine a car without brakes? Such is a life that lacks self-control- it will lead to a wreck.

When the Lord says “no” to you, know that it is for your good. Do not try to force your way through. Discipline is the pathway to greatness. Do not settle for less. Do not settle for the options of the flesh. Even when it is not pleasant, agree that it is your training.

Everyone remains ordinary until training is involved. If you are untrained, you will remain ordinary. If you fail your training, you will be unreliable.

The temptation of the first Adam had food involved. The temptation of the last Adam, Christ, began with turning stones into bread. The first Adam fell. The last Adam stood. Watch out, do not fall because of food!

CONFESSION

*I am not a loose cannon. I have self-control.
I am helped by the Holy Ghost.*

DAY
29

WHOEVER YOU RECOMMEND GETS THE JOB

Text: Acts 6:3 NKJV

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

Someone reached out to me about a vacancy in a company. They needed supervisors to handle their investments around my location. They had their requirements but they needed people of character also. The people they got earlier messed up a lot of things. He said to me, "Pastor, after the required qualifications, whoever you recommend gets the job".

Do not just have the academic degree. Invest also in great character. There are openings for people who can be trusted everywhere. Trust opens doors.

People are hired for what they have but they get fired for who they are. You employ a driver because he can drive. You fire him because he steals and short-changes the company. He has capacity but lacks character.

Build capacity. It opens doors. Build character. It will keep the doors open. Men of character are becoming scarce. Someone jokingly said that "Even a thief needs a trusted person to keep his stolen money".

Nations are also known for their quality. If they say Swiss-Made, you begin to think of quality but if they mention some other countries, you think of a less alternative to quality.

The other lesson is this: There are relationships in your life that are door openers. One of such is pastoral relationships. When pastors recommend people or a business, it is never taken with levity.

I have businesses that have gotten a lot of other opportunities because there

was a pastor who used their product or recommended them. It became a game-changer for them. Do not take your pastors for granted.

There are business people who give their pastors their products. Someone into artwork gave his pastor one lovely piece. His pastor's office attracts people. He got quite some referrals.

Do not take your church for granted. Make products that will serve the community but never despise the recommendation of your church members.

Be a solid example of character in all spheres of life. Never allow anyone to find a justification to tarnish the image of the church because of your conduct.

Do you know who you are? You are an ambassador:

We are ambassadors of the Anointed One who carry the message of Christ to the world, as though God were tenderly pleading with them directly through our lips. 2 Corinthians 5:20 TPT

Are you a great steward of your kingdom office?

CONFESSION

I am a (wo)man of strong character. I have honest reports. My recommendation for greater things in life will come.



THE WEIGHT OF WORDS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE (1)

Text: Colossians 4:6 NIV

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

About two years into our marriage, we were on the way to church on a Sunday morning. I called Irewamiri and handed over to her all I had on me that morning. I said to her, "Darling, this is all I have on me aside from our offering for today. Please let's use this token to buy some things after service today. We can manage that for a while".

I have not forgotten her response for the past eight years. It still rings in my head. It is an assurance I can never forget. She said to me, "You are a blessed man." I was shocked. "Me, that I thought I was broke". I had joy in my heart all that day because my wife told me I was a blessed man.

God showed up. Just as we were done making purchases with our token. I got a message, "Pastor, did you see the token I sent to you?". That token was a gift of a hundred thousand naira.

What a blessed husband of a blessed wife!

Listen beloved, she had an option of calling me according to the situation. She could have even remained silent and heaved a deep sigh of concern that would have turned into a heavy load on my own heart, but her words of assurance melted away every concern that had built in my heart.

There are people who throw words around mindlessly. There are those whose words have added to the financial pressure upon the man. Truth be told, some men are already heaving with sighs as they return home again to limited resources. Those with cars are crying behind the wheel. Some are crying quietly with bowed heads on public buses. They still come home to words that kill the little ounce of strength left.

The home that is meant to nurse them back to

strength keeps pointing out the obvious- "You are not doing enough," "We are broke in this house," "Find out what your mates are doing," and others. He goes back out with a defeated mindset.

Those words you call "saying it as it is" become counterproductive. The "bitter truth" becomes a poison that slows down your spouse.

Do you have words of assurance?

Are you shaving His head or strengthening His heart?

Words must be used to comfort and strengthen.

I Thessalonians 4:18 NKJV

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Tell your spouse today that He is blessed as he goes out. Tell him he is blessed when he comes in.

Deuteronomy 28:6 NKJV

"Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

Do not let the situation change your speech. Insist that you will speak according to what the Lord has said and your desires.

And for everyone under financial pressure, I pray for you today- By the blessing of the Lord, every pressure is deflated now!

CONFESS I O N

My words comfort and strengthen my spouse. I am not rash in my speech.

DAY
31

THE WEIGHT OF WORDS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE (2)

Text: Songs of Solomon 4:1 NKJV

Behold, you are fair, my love! Behold, you are fair! You have dove's eyes behind your veil. Your hair is like a flock of goats, Going down from Mount Gilead.

A husband shared about how they were in a meeting, and while everyone else was saying sweet things to their wives, he was actually speaking out of bitterness and making his wife cry. He said, 'I did not know how to be a husband.'

By the time he shared his testimony, there had already been a significant shift. Some people told him, "Your wife glows now. It is different from the first time, truly. Her beauty is coming out now."

I have seen occasions of women who died because the enemy weaponized the words of their husbands. When the devil wants to attack a home, he only needs the man (husband and father) to access such a home.

The first place that Adam missed it was in omitting to protect the garden as the Lord God instructed him. The serpent found its way into and around the garden and eventually found its way into the woman's mind.

There are fathers who lock their physical gates every night. They invest a lot into physical security but have left their homes porous with careless thoughts and carelessly spoken words. You cannot sow poison and expect to reap life.

There are women who look older than their age because of the weight of words that their souls have borne. The shine is lost. The beauty is fading. The glow has disappeared. They look sickly. Why? The man who is meant to groom has brought a lot of gloom.

When was the last time you wrote a note of appreciation to your wife? You wrote many love notes before marriage, but your ink has run dry now. Your excuse is that you have no time. Must the flower you replanted into your garden wither under your watch?

Do you see something right in the middle of the qualities of the Proverbs 31 woman? Proverbs 31:28-29 TPT

[28] Her sons and daughters arise in one accord to extol her virtues, and her husband arises to speak of her in glowing terms. [29] "There are many valiant and noble ones, but you have ascended above them all!"

Her husband praises her.

Her husband speaks of her in glowing terms.

You want a Proverbs 31 woman, but you feel entitled yet deeply ungrateful. You are already deceived. All you see is her faults. Do you realize that the reason why you see faults is because someone is making or has made efforts?

Do you know appreciation will lead to 'appreciation'? Everything around you appreciates. Stop complaining about everything. Find reasons to be grateful.

If you come from a disorganised home, be grateful that you have children. Thank her for blessing you with active kids. Find a reason to appreciate her.

Dear husband and father, would you find something to be grateful for in the next thirty days? You will be surprised how powerful gratitude is.

Stop locking gates and doors while you poison your home with your mouth and your acts.

CONFESS I O N

I speak words that build. I speak words of appreciation to my household. My family life is radiant.



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