



COMPASS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

**FOR
JUNE 2025**

Temiloluwa Ola

**NOT
FOR
SALE!**

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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- JUNE 2025 -

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Practical thoughts for a productive day

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Introduction

Welcome to June!

This is the 6th month of the year. You have come a long way from January till now. No matter what 2025 has looked like, you are making significant progress.

Listen beloved, there is hope for you. Do not lose hope:

Ecclesiastes 9:4 CEV

As long as we are alive, we still have hope, just as a live dog is better off than a dead lion.

Now that you know that you have hope, I want you to know that hope makes not ashamed. You will never be put to shame because the expectation of the righteous will be met.

Now listen, the Lord will revive you in this month. You will have the strength to push and deliver on everything you have ever dreamt about.

Everyday, you grow in strength.

Everyday, you grow in might.

Your soul burst forth with unspeakable joy

Yes! You are a finisher.

With Love,

temilOluwa Ola

President

Anuoluwapo Temiloluwa Ola MinistryBe blessed.

Feedback

This devotional has really enhanced my development and growth in faith, I look forward to it everyday. It is spiritual tonic to me. Thank you so much for allowing God to use you.

- PST JEMIDE

I always look forward to reading the Compass devotional each morning, It has been fueling me on my journey of faith, there is always a word for me amidst the letters

- ADEDIWURA AFOLABI

This devotional has been the one of truth and practicality, dealing especially with the matters of the heart and Christian attitude.

I must say that every time I read the ATOM Daily Word it is always timely. Speaking to my current situation or to a matter I am involved in.

God bless the set man with more wisdom and Grace.

- ADEBIMPE ADENIRAN FUNMILAYO, LAGOS.

I am an eighteen year old girl who has been using the compass devotional for over six months now. I've been blessed immensely and the devotional has contributed greatly to my growth as a child of God.

May the oil upon the lives of all those making this a success never run dry.

Thank you so much.

- BOLUWATIFE

Thank you Pastor TemilOluwa for allowing the Lord to use you in a dynamic way in teaching His Word and Principles too.

You reminded me of Dr Monroe.

I have been greatly humbled and blessed by your teachings accompanied by personal experiences which you share generously to help us.

I could remember at some point when my relationship with my wife was quite critical, I dread reading the Compass Devotional because your words often come to change my mind or perspective on the matter.

I deeply appreciate your ministries and I'm greatly blessed by your balance approach to the scripture.

More Grace and Coverage in Jesus Mighty Name!

I've really been blessed by the daily devotion. I came across it through my friend **OMOLOLA**. It was the period of teaching "Stay in Joy no matter what".

I was elevated and encouraged because it was really a tough period for me I was battling with a whole lot in my home, Marriage and life. I was having suicide thoughts and depression. I felt my relationship with God weakening cos it was so thick around me until I read **stay in Joy no matter what**.

And it has helped me tremendously in shaping most of my decisions that has to do with destiny and all. Thank you sir and ma for being a great blessing tool.

The devotional has helped to deepened my faith, I have found encouragement, Growing in relationship with God and people.

God bless you.

Thank you for this and more always. We always look forward to God's word and instruction through your devotionals. This has kept us in shape and in check.

Please don't loose strength sir, you are blessing lives daily by the grace of God over your life sir.

God bless and Renew your strength greatly sir. We say thank you



THANKSGIVING BRIDGES THE GAP

Text: Philippians 4:6 NIV

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

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

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

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

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

What if I were not grateful?

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

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

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

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

They heard his voice. They got instructed and healed. They were impacted from afar. They were blessed from a distance.

But one of the lepers, when he discovered that he was healed, did something different:

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God,
Luke 17:15 NKJV

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

And what else happened?

"And fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan"
Luke 17:16 NKJV

He fell at the feet of Jesus. Ten of them started far off. Ten of them got healed. Only one made it to the feet of Jesus.
Only one got access.
Only one got close.
Only one bridged the gap.
What did he do? He gave thanks.
Thanksgiving bridged the gap. Thanksgiving brought him closer.

There are powerful relationships I have today because I returned to say "Thank You" for a teaching, a post online, or dropping a word of encouragement. They moved from being faces in the crowd to becoming a part of my family.
What will you be grateful for today?
Who do you have to say thank you to?
Will you be like the nine lepers who remained afar or the one who returned?

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

CONFESS I O N

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



DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH FUEL?

Text: Ecclesiastes 9:8 NKJV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

him. It came out because it was there.

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

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

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

Read what Paul told the church in Rome:

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

Do you have enough fuel or are you burning out?

CONFESSION

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



HARDER EFFORTS CAN'T REPLACE OBEDIENCE

Text: 1 Samuel 15:22 NIV

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

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

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

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

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

"He also paid about 7,500 pounds of silver to hire 100,000 experienced fighting men from Israel" 2 Chronicles 25:6 NLT

After such a huge investment, a word came from the Lord:

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

You do not win battles by personal struggles but by divine alignment. No matter how much you struggle without divine backing, it will end up as a loss.

Amaziah asked a question that we would all have asked:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Harder efforts cannot replace obedience!

CONFESS I O N

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



IN YOUR WALK OF FAITH, LEARN THIS EARLY

Text: 2 Corinthians 3:5 NKJV

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

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

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

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

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

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

On the journey of faith, I have learnt that

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DAY 05

HOW THINGS GET LOST (1)- LACK OF DISCRETION

Text: Proverbs 10:19 NLT

Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut.

I was in my first year at university. Back then, SIM cards were quite costly, and airtime recharge could only be done by buying cards. I eventually squeezed a SIM out of my pocket money and got a Samsung phone that only worked when an earpiece was attached from my childhood friend—my initiation into being a “big boy.”

However, this big boy would still need the community support of ‘big uncles and aunts’ to recharge his line. One day, I got a call from my Mum’s Aunt as I was entering the library. It was a miracle. She wanted to send me a thousand five-hundred-naira card. That was gold in the early 2000s.

Because she could not send it as a text, she called and asked me to write it down. After writing it down, she said I should call it back to her. I did. By the time I got to where I sat in the library so I could load this miracle, the network provider kept saying, “This card has been used”.

I called ‘Big Mummy’ back. She confirmed the digits. I tried and tried. The card was already used. It was then that it struck me, “Temi, you called out the numbers at the entrance of the OAU library”. I was not smart enough.

One of the ways people lose things spiritually is the lack of discretion. There is an inability to manage information. If things are to last with you, you must understand the wisdom of information management.

Information is a weapon of war. This is why nations have units that gather information called “Intelligence”. When intelligence is poor, warfare becomes hard. When intelligence is false, casualties can be

high. When you have superior intelligence, you can outsmart your adversaries. For example, Elisha had the supernatural ability to gather information that saved the nation in warfare. The enemies came after Elisha. Why? Information is key.

When Saul met Samuel, he told him two major things: the missing donkeys have been found, and you will be the King of Israel. When he returned and his uncle asked him about what Prophet Samuel said, what did Saul say?

I Samuel 10:15-16 NKJV

[15] And Saul’s uncle said, “Tell me, please, what Samuel said to you.” [16] So Saul said to his uncle, “He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found.” But about the matter of the kingdom, he did not tell him what Samuel had said.

Tell people ONLY what concerns them. Be discreet. When you sense a check in your heart, hold your tongue. Be careful in seasons when you are excited. You may say more than necessary. Many have lost connections and relationships because they talk about everything that happened in private. They lack discretion. It is not all private dealings that must be publicly shared. Be discreet.

CONFESSION

I am discreet in managing information. My tongue is under control. My tongue is spirit-led.



HOW THINGS GET LOST (2) – SLEEP

Text: Psalm 13:3 KJV

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

During my days at the university, I lost two phones. The first time was so dramatic. Somewhere along the way, I dozed off. I woke up just as the cab got to the campus gate. I got out of the cab and crossed over to the other side. As if my brain woke up, I remembered that I had a phone on me. It must have slipped into the cab. I tracked the cab. I found it, but there was no phone. The driver suspected the young man sitting beside me must have stolen it. Truly, sleep opened the door.

The second time happened right in the University Hostel. I was taking an afternoon nap. The only roommate around went out without waking me up or locking our door. By the time I woke up, my phone was nowhere to be found.

Truly, sleep is a blessing, and the Lord gives his beloved sleep. But sleep time is also the window that the enemy has learnt to utilise for his operations. Jesus warned about it clearly in the parable of the wheat and tares: Matthew 13:24-25 NKJV

[24] Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; [25] but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

Here, all the enemy did was to add things. He did not uproot the wheat. He only added tares.

A believer must stay awake and alert. A sleeping believer can be overcome by lust. Parents sleep while their children are young but wake up suddenly when they are teenagers. By then, what the enemy sowed had matured into full rebellion.

The music of these days is putting many believers to sleep. Strange entertainment has numbed our souls. Sensuality is normal before marriage. Nudity is normal now. While men

slept, the enemy sowed seeds.

Do you remember the two prostitutes during the days of Solomon? One slept on her baby, and the other slept so much that they exchanged her living baby for a dead one, and she was unaware till morning.

The operation of the enemy here was a strange exchange. Some people are carrying things that are not theirs. Some are feeding on dead things. Only light can expose what the enemy has done.

One of the ways to wake up sleepers is to pull the blinds so the bright light of day can shine on them. Hear Paul: Romans 13:11-14 MSG

[11-14] But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed. We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!

Wake up!

CONFESSION

I am awake to righteousness. I am alert in the spirit. My eyes of understanding are enlightened.

HOW THINGS GET LOST (3) – INSENSITIVE CELEBRATIONS

Text: 1 Peter 5:8 NKJV

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Some things must only happen to you once in a lifetime- you become wise after the first occurrence. That was my 2005 lesson.

My childhood friend had a lovely digital camera. We travelled with it when we resumed university. I had used it occasionally to capture moments. I had pictures of our visit to the deputy governor of the state, where our university was domiciled. It had some great memories.

But something happened: At his mum's 50th birthday, we also had the camera with us. At one point, we left the camera on his bed in his room, but we came back and could not find it again. We knew it was already stolen.

In our setting, when there are parties and celebrations, we flung our doors open, and there are always different types of people around at such times. We were not sensitive. After that day, I appointed myself as a security man during the celebrations. I would sit indoors while others enjoyed the fun outside. I became more sensitive.

If you have ever lost anything while partying, you will understand. Pickpockets leverage the excitement and crowd to inflict serious pain. You will start looking for your phone in the pocket of your "agbada," but it is gone.

People get carried away when they are celebrating:

We are decently dressed until it comes to our wedding day, and we get counsel from fashion enthusiasts who say, "It is just one day; enjoy it." We then lose our guards. We drop our standards. It is just a day. The enemy does not need a whole day to strike. He maximises every available opportunity.

The enemy is a snake. It does not need repeated bites to cause havoc. No! Just one

strike is enough.

A relative told a beloved one, "Your best man on your wedding day was a Spiritual gateman. He did not let anyone come near you. His mouth was moving all through the event. He was on fire, praying and covering you". The relative then mentioned how someone touched the stomach of a bride at another family function. The enemy does not need more than a tiny space to strike.

Many lost their guard and also lost precious treasures. You see believers who drop the standard and serve strange drinks for their parties. They claim it is for their friends. What a shame.

When did David strike the Amalekites? While they were celebrating.

1 Samuel 30:16-17 NKJV

[16] And when he had brought him down, there they were, spread out over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil which they had taken from the land of the Philistines and the land of Judah. [17] Then David attacked them from twilight until the evening of the next day. Not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men who rode on camels and fled.

During celebrations, you must raise the standard of sensitivity. Be like Sarah while you celebrate the weaning of Isaac, and be on the watch for the mean attitude and mockery of Ishmael. Be watchful!

CONFESSION

I am sober and watchful in the spirit. I am on guard. I stand on my watch.

DAY
08

HOW THINGS GET LOST (4) – CARELESSNESS

Text: Philippians 3:13-15

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.

I was in my teenage years. Mum called me that afternoon and gave me instructions to get pepper from the woman who supplies us. I approached my childhood friend and got his bicycle for the assignment. I rode to the woman who sells pepper. They blended it. The journey back home began. It was a smooth ride. I tied the blended pepper to the carrier of the bicycle. I tied it diligently.

I stopped over at my friend's house to return his bicycle. Again, I diligently untied the pepper and began the short walk from his house to mine. Do you know those four-litre paint plastic buckets with plastic handles? Yes! That was the container that I used.

As I got to our door, the saddest thing happened. The handle of the plastic gave way, and the container dropped. All the pepper spilt. Ah! My heart stopped beating for a minute. Why did I carry it by the handle? Why did I not carry the bucket like a baby? Why would this happen just at the last minute? I was not beaten, but the lesson never left me. To date, I carry things with caution and extra care.

You must show the same level of care and caution from the beginning to the end. If the devil succeeds in getting you to fall into the “in-between lapse,” you may lose more than you bargain for. The journey is not over until the assignment is done and you hear the words, “Well done. Good and faithful servant.”

There was the young prophet who ran an errand for the Lord. He delivered the work diligently. He followed the instructions in the heat of the assignment. However, somewhere on the way back, just some moments before the end of the journey, he decided to catch a nap under a tree.

“And went after the man of God, and found

him sitting under an oak. Then he said to him, “Are you the man of God who came from Judah?” And he said, “I am.” Then he said to him, “Come home with me and eat bread.”

I Kings 13:14-15 NKJV

Beloved, it is not done until it is done. It is not done until you hear well done. Everything went south from there. He went back with the deceiving old prophet. The consequences were dire. The pain did not just cut deep; it was fatal.

“When he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey stood by it. The lion also stood by the corpse.”

I Kings 13:24 NKJV

Carelessness with words has cost some valuable moments. Some have carelessly lost relationships because they were not thoughtful. Do not let carelessness pierce your armour. Do not let carelessness erode your values. Do not let carelessness lead you to utter words that give the devil working tools to wreck your life.

Do not spill the pepper. Carry it all diligently till the end. It is not over until you hear, Well done. Have you heard well done? If not, watch and pray! Do not be careless. Do not let it slip.

CONFESSION

I am not careless in my thoughts, actions and decisions. I stay on track in the journey of life.

DAY 09

HOW THINGS GET LOST (5) – UNRESTRAINED INQUISITIVENESS

Text: Genesis 34:1 NLT

One day, Dinah, the daughter of Jacob and Leah, went to visit some of the young women who lived in the area.

An investigative video by one of the popular media outlets came up on my YouTube feed. I love investigative journalism. I had a brief stint in Mass Communication. The investigation was about how teenage girls are seduced and abused digitally.

Knowing that I was also interested and called to young people, my antenna rose. As I clicked the video, the Holy Spirit stepped in and said, “Must you watch it?” Then, there was a warning on the screen that there was some explicit content. I ran away from it immediately.

Some may see the video and feel like Superman, but for me, it was not permitted. Curiosity kills the cat. I refused to be that cat.

To be inquisitive in this context means to be curious and pry, especially in matters that are not your personal concern or that you have no business with at all.

This is one of the ways that men sabotage, infringe or even lose their consecration on their journey with God in life and destiny.

This was how Samson began to break his consecration. It did not start with big things like Delilah. It started with small matters that seemed inconsequential.

Samson, by the Spirit of the Lord, has killed a young lion who roared at him. That should have been a great end to that journey, but something happened to Samson: Judges 14:8 NKJV

[8] After some time, when he returned to get her, he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion. And behold, a swarm of bees and

honey were in the carcass of the lion.

The problem of inquisitive Christians is the trap of “turning aside to see.” Let me ask you:

Must you see all matters trending about sexual misconduct? In a bid to analyse and educate the public, may you not return with a paralysed defense system. Your self-control level suddenly drops.

You have loaded your system with so many movies that have destroyed your sensitivity.

Do you know that once you turn aside to see certain things, you have left the way you are meant to walk?

Judges 14:8 GNT

A few days later, Samson went back to marry her. On the way, he left the road to look at the lion he had killed, and he was surprised to find a swarm of bees and some honey inside the dead body.

He left the road!

Why must curiosity drag you away from the way of righteousness? Why allow your desire to be entertained to stain your soul and derail you into things you had left?

Deal with that curiosity.

Deal with unrestrained inquisitiveness.

CONFESSION

I am in control of my curiosity. I will not fall into the ditch. I am led by the Holy Spirit.

DAY 10

HOW THINGS GET LOST (6) – WRONG INTERPRETATION

Text: Job 23:10 NKJV

But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.

At about 10.30 pm, I was lying down on the couch at home when an image flashed into my mind. I saw something that prompted me to say that there were adjustments and improvements to make to our facility. I made a mental note to give instructions about it in the morning.

The interpretation I gave was wrong. What the Lord was showing me was a burglary attempt. I thought it was a warning to reinforce. I did not know it was happening that same night. We lost some valuables, and it was a hard way to learn that wrong interpretation that led to losses. It is important to pause and ask, “Lord, what does this mean? What are you saying?”

If I had the right interpretation, we would have made moves that same night to prevent the event. Wrong interpretation can lead to loss.

Saul lost his place the moment he started operating in the realm of wrong interpretation. When he heard the songs of the women, he chose the wrong interpretation. When people were leaving, he said he felt compelled till he entered into disobedience.

Some homes and marriages have been lost because a party had a dream and allowed the devil to give an interpretation. There were loving relationships that went sour because of wrong interpretations.

One of the things that you should never allow is the devil reintroducing your spouse to you. The woman who has been kind all your life has now suddenly become a witch.

The role of interpretation is very key. If your interpreter tells it wrongly, the instruction and the intention are lost in the interpretation.

There are two roles the devil wants to play in your space- the role of the supplier of

information, and when that is not possible, he wants to be the interpreter of the information. Deny him the two roles.

One of the times you must be wary of wrong interpretation is when you are in a season of waiting. If you are caught between “prayers made” and “answered prayers,” do not allow the enemy to interpret the season to you.

When waiting for a child, do not fall into the mistake of Sarah:
Genesis 16:2 NKJV

So Sarai said to Abram, “See now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.

A wrong assumption will lead to a wrong interpretation. Wrong interpretation will lead to wrong suggestions. The wrong suggestion will lead to the wrong action.

What are you going through now?

Do not let the enemy give a wrong interpretation of your season. The price is too costly.

CONFESSION

*I discard wrong interpretations of my season.
I am in tune with the voice and the mind of
God towards me.*



HOW THINGS GET LOST (7) – WRONG TIMING

Text: 1 Chronicles 12:32 NKJV

of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...

That Sunday, I sat in the car outside the church hall. I saw her walk out of her evening fellowship meeting accompanied by one of the brothers in their fellowship. My heart skipped, and I was wondering if I was being too slow. Thoughts like, “What if someone else asks her out before me?” I wanted to go ahead and speak my mind that evening.

Then I had a restraint. The Holy Spirit said to hold on. I calmed down and drove home. I asked her out exactly a week later. After Irewamiri said “Yes,” I knew why the Holy Spirit had asked me to hold on- He was still making His own moves on my heart that I would have affected terribly.

The Holy Spirit used that week to put positive thoughts about me in her mind. If I had gone earlier, I would have received the proverbial six-inch nail called a “Huge Capital No”! What a mighty God we serve!

That same week, a dear brother said to me, “Pastor Temi, the same Lord who told you she is the one will tell you when to ask her out.”

It is an operation of wisdom to understand timing.
Ecclesiastes 8:5b-6 ICB

[5] A wise man knows how to do the right thing at the right time. [6] And there is a right time and a right way for everything. Yet people often have many troubles.

We miss out on a lot when we lack an understanding of the proper timing. Jerusalem, as a city, lost an encounter in history because it lacked awareness of timing.
Luke 19:41-44 NKJV

[41] Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, [42] saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. [43] For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround

you and close you in on every side, [44] and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

Some relationships should have ended in marriage, but the brother was too excited. If he had just waited for the Holy Spirit, he would not have lost that sister.

Some businesses suffered huge losses because they made a move at the wrong time.

If a farmer sows his seed at the wrong time, the consequences are dire.

Ask the Lord today for the wisdom to discern times and seasons. Those who master this become a wonder to many.

Miraculously, if you have lost certain things because of the foolishness of wrong timing, there is such a thing called “redeeming the times.” The only one who can do it is the Lord God. He prophesied through Joel:
Joel 2:25-26 KJV

[25] And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. [26] And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

May this be your testimony!

CONFESSION

I am not a victim of wrong timing. I discern my times of opportunity.

DAY 12

HOW THINGS GET LOST (8) – IGNORANCE OF PROTOCOL

Text: James 1:19 AMP

Understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters. Let everyone be quick to hear [be a careful, thoughtful listener], slow to speak [a speaker of carefully chosen words and], slow to anger [patient, reflective, forgiving].

A dear one shared with me how he lost the opportunity for deeper access to a prominent figure. The person gave him huge platforms twice at major events where he gained visibility. Interestingly, he even got an offer to serve at the federal level of governance, which he declined. It was that kind of opportunity that was rolling in.

One day, this prominent figure invited him for a meeting. That was where he made a mistake—he went along with a “friend.” The second mistake was allowing that friend into the space where he was to meet this benefactor.

His talkative friend took over the room. He broke all principles of decorum. He interjected in their conversations without invitation. The benefactor was quiet. He was also quiet. He knew most likely what was going through his mind: “If you can have someone like this really close to you, it says a lot about you.”

That was how he lost that opportunity for deeper access. They still relate, but that opportunity was lost.

Settle it quickly: Greatness has protocol.

A protocol is defined as a system of rules that explain the correct conduct and procedures to be followed in formal situations.

Joseph knew the protocol of engagement with Pharaoh. He did not wear prison clothes. He also shaved. He did not just say I am favoured; he also operated with wisdom. He was liked and respected because he dealt with wisdom: The Acts 7:10 ICB

Joseph had many troubles there, but God saved him from all those troubles. The king of Egypt liked Joseph and respected him because of the wisdom that God gave him. The king made him governor of Egypt. He put Joseph in charge of all the people in his palace.

Esther was also very wise. She had no deep relationship with the king, so she listened and took the counsel of someone who had been serving the king for years.

Esther 2:15 ICB

The time came for Esther to go to the king. She asked for only what Hegai suggested she should take. (Hegai was the king’s eunuch who was in charge of the women.) And everyone who saw Esther liked her.

It is wisdom to listen to the counsel of those who understand the protocol of the things and places you desire.

Solomon discussed protocols in Proverbs:

Do not boast.
Proverbs 25:6 TPT

Don’t boast in the presence of a king or promote yourself by taking a seat at the head table and pretending that you’re someone important.

Take note of the sitting order.
Proverbs 25:7 TPT

[7] For it is better for the king to say to you, “Come, you should sit at the head table,” than for him to say in front of everyone, “Please get up and move— you’re sitting in the place of the prince.”

Jesus taught about the same in Luke 14:7-11. It is better to be called to prominence than to be removed because someone more important arrived.

What other protocols of relationships do you know?

CONFESS I O N

I am royalty. I am not ignorant of the protocols of the palace. I understand the protocols of relationships.



HOW THINGS GET LOST (9) – SENSE OF ENTITLEMENT

Text: Deuteronomy 15:6 NKJV

For the LORD your God will bless you just as He promised you; you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow; you shall reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over you.

There was a young man who found favour with a wealthy man. He was an orphan. He came into contact with a billionaire. The billionaire committed himself to him. Anything he needed, the billionaire gave.

One day, the billionaire asked him, “Do you have a laptop?” He said he did not. The billionaire told him he was meant to have a laptop at his age and bought it for him. Apart from the laptop, the billionaire gave him money every month, aside from other things.

One day, something happened to the laptop. His friends told him to call the billionaire and tell him that the laptop was spoiled. They told him that since he bought it, what was the big deal about repairing it?

He called the man, and the billionaire asked what the matter was. He said, “My laptop is faulty, and I want you to repair it for me.” The billionaire still answered calmly and cut the call. That was the last time he heard from the billionaire. The billionaire stopped picking up his call. He also gave instructions that he should not be given access to him again. He saw an entitled young man.

Let me pray for you first: May you not be found in the company of fools. Many lose access because they are caught in the trap of foolishness and entitlement.

There are people who live like parasites. Once they see someone who shows a little interest in helping them, they

become a leech. They keep sucking until they are denied access. Listen, kill that sense of entitlement. Help is from the Lord, and it is also in the prerogative of men. If they choose to help, be grateful and not entitled. Some people have turned a man God used into a sponsor. God is your source. He only uses men.

A father in the faith also shared how he gave someone twenty thousand, and the person said, “You can give me more than this, sir.” The man of God told him to bring it. He collected it and gave it to someone else.

A foolish sense of entitlement can deny you access. One of the ways you safeguard favour is a good understanding.
Proverbs 13:15 NKJV

[15] Good understanding gains favour, but the way of the unfaithful is hard.

Operate with a good understanding. Favour can open a door, but a sense of entitlement can close it.

Be careful.

CONFESSION

*I operate with people with divine wisdom.
I obtain favour always.*



IF YOU ARE CALLED, BE ENCOURAGED

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:24 NLT

God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.

Someone saw my brother and asked about me. My brother told him that I was in the land of Eruwa doing the work of ministry. He told my brother, "He cannot last in the land. I tried it, and the church closed up. That land is not an easy place."

He saw my brother some years later and asked, "Is he still in Eruwa?" My brother answered in the affirmative. The brother was shocked. Then my brother added, "He is not just in Eruwa; the work is also prospering. He is doing well."

Today marks 13 years of Nourishing Ground Community Church (formerly The Eagles Assembly), and we are grateful for what the Lord has done. We are grateful for the miracle of transformed lives and the expansions we have enjoyed. To God alone be all the glory.

Beloved, despise not the days of little beginnings.
Job 8:7 KJV

[7] Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase.

Focus on the assignment that the Lord has given to you. Thank God for the history of others, but hold on to the ministry you received from the Lord. Learn from the journey of others, but wield the rod of your calling with confidence.
Colossians 4:17 KJV

[17] And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

No matter what, like Abraham, do not stagger at the promise of the Lord. Fight doubt. Fight unbelief. Stay in faith. Give thanks to the Lord.
Romans 4:20 KJV

[20] He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

When it seems like you are seeing nothing, do not be discouraged. When Elijah sent his servant to check for the rain, the servant came back six times saying there was nothing, but the posture of Elijah did not change, and neither did his persistence. He groaned.

When you see a little sign of progress, hold on to it in faith and thanksgiving. When the servant said that he saw a cloud, Elijah moved on in faith.
1 Kings 18:44 NKJV

[44] Then it came to pass the seventh time that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.'

The small cloud is about to become a full gathering of the clouds and the release of showers upon you and all that is connected to you. The famine is over. You will not just hear the sound of abundance of rain; you will see the valleys filled up with water and the rivers overflow, and the dry trees blossom with green and fruit.

We rejoice with you.

CONFESSION

I focus on my God-given assignment.

DAY 15

IF YOU ARE IN LOVE, DO NOT HIDE IT!

Text: Jeremiah 31:3 NIV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

in every discussion (even when it does not apply).

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSIO N

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

DEAL WITH THE SPIRIT OF FEAR

Text: Hebrews 2:15 AMP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

One of the most critical units in the military is the Intelligence Gathering Unit. If the intel is wrong, a mission can become suicidal. If there

is no intel, it will be like groping in the dark. Gather intelligence from the Word of God and sharpen your Sword- hell is not smiling but we are not retreating either.

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

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

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

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

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

Do not forget the terms.

CONFESSION

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

DAY 17

WHEN YOU DO NOT KNOW HOW IT WILL HAPPEN

Text: Hebrews 6:15 NIV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DAY 18

UNDERSTANDING, NOT AGE!

Text: Hebrews 5:14 NLT

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are two things that the believer must fight:

First is Ignorance. A lack of knowledge will destroy a believer. An ignorant believer will go through the same cycle as an unbeliever.

Invest in studying the Word. Get soaked in it. If you are a parent, you are the primary Bible Study teacher of your children. Load them with the Word. Let them go to school "worded" in their minds.

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

Confidence is the backbone of the Christian walk. The righteous must be as bold as a lion. The lion is not prey. The lion does not turn back from challenges. The lion's roar can travel up to eight kilometres. That's scary. You are not the one to be pitied. You are not the one to go hungry. You are not the one to shiver because of the devil. No! That's not you. That's not you.

Your defence is in your growth in knowledge and boldness.

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

CONFESSIO N

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

ATOM

Anuoluwapo
Temiloluwa Ola Ministry

GROOMS NIGHT

HEART TO HEART MEN'S MEETING

with Pastor Temi Ola

↑ **THIRD THURSDAY
OF EVERY MONTH**

1ST FLOOR, FRESH BITE BUILDING,
ALONG TOWN PLANNING,
OLUYOLE, IBADAN.

**5:30
PM**
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See you there!

DAY 19

DO NOT GO! YOU MAY NEVER RETURN

Text: Psalm 37:23 AMP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DAY 20

HOW TO KNOW YOU ARE GROWING (1)

Text: 1Corinthians 13:13 NIV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A believer who knows the love of God is not tied to tribal sentiments. He or she does

not say, "I cannot marry from that tribe" or "I cannot do business with that tribe". In Christ, there is no Greek or Jew.

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DAY 21

HOW TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE GROWING (II)

Text: Acts 24:16 NKJV

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

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

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

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

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

Acts 6:3 KJV

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

Paul said that he takes the pain to do what is right in the sight of God and man:

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

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

Hear the words of Samuel: "Look at me! Do

you have any complaints to bring before God and his anointed? Have I ever stolen so much as an ox or a donkey? Have I ever taken advantage of you or exploited you? Have I ever taken a bribe or played fast and loose with the law? Bring your complaint and I'll make it right."

The people responded, "Oh no, never. You've never done any of that—never abused us, never lined your own pockets."

1 Samuel 12:13-4 MSG

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DAY 22

HOW TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE GROWING (III)

Text: Hebrews 10:36 AMP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DAY 23

HOW TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE GROWING (IV)

Text: Philippians 4:5 NLT

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

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

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

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

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

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

Some forms of speaking must be far from you as you grow. Growth refines our walk and our talk.

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

How do we handle other people’s money? Can you be trusted with what is not yours? Do you borrow and convert to yours without

returning it? That is what Proverbs calls wickedness.

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

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

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

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

Do not drop the ball!

CONFESS I O N

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

DAY 24

THE VOICES IN THE CROWD

Text: Hebrews 12:2 NKJV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Think of David screaming and saying, "Yes! That's how we do it. We get the forehead of that giant. We run towards that challenge"

Think of Paul saying to you, "Pick yourself up. I was worse off. I started later than others but I still attained the prize".

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DAY 25

THAT MISTAKE IS NOT THE END!

Text: Isaiah 30:15 AMP

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

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

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

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

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

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

Luke 15:22 KJV

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

Do not be attracted to what looks like a beautiful alternative. Do not eat a fruit while you lose a garden. It is a device.

No matter how messed up you are, the arm of the Father is always open. His outstretched arm is wide enough to heal and provide.

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DAY 26

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

Text: Hebrews 13:5 NKJV

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

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

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

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

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

Acts of the Apostles 27:22-23 NLT

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

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

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

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

They asked him for seven days. He saw them as hopeless and helpless. But they sent to Saul and they got a response from the king saying: "Tomorrow, by that time the sun be hot, ye shall have help." 1 Samuel 11:9 KJV

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DAY 27

DO NOT FALL INTO THIS TRAP

Text: Matthew 11:16 NKJV

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

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

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

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

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

If you view people and life through the lenses of your hurts and anger, all you will see are faults. Offence will magnify a simple issue and turn it into a mountain.

Offence quickly wipes away good memories and then replaces them with junk of faults. Refuse that trap.

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

Before you begin to make a list of what you

wish you had, have you raised praise for what you have? Thank God for the old car before you begin to complain about its faults or ask for a new one.

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

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

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

Do not let offence keep you away!

Glory to God.

CONFESSION

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

DAY
28

SIGNS OF AN UNTRAINED MAN (1)

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:22 KJV

Abstain from all appearances of evil.

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

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

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

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

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

Your neck is like the tower of David, built with courses of stone; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors. Your breasts are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle that browse among the lilies. Song of Songs 4:4-5 NIV

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

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

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

Did you see the two locations he chose?

First is the Mountain of Myrrh. Myrrh was one of the gifts given to Jesus that was symbolic

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

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

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

Dear sister, do not get into a trap because you do not want to marry a boring brother. Romance is an art. It can be learned. Becoming a priest is a spiritual thing. Such a man must be born again. Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit, it cannot be learned. You cannot motivate a dog to become a man. Salvation is a change of nature and not a self-improvement package.

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

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

CONFESSION

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



SIGNS OF AN UNTRAINED MAN

(II)

Text: Psalm 144:12 NIV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The righteous is compared to a tree and the planting of the Lord in the scriptures:

That they may be called trees of righteousness,
The planting of the Lord, that He may be

glorified."
Isaiah 61:3 NKJV

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

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

Appraise the places you went to this year and ask which one added the most value.

Hear the psalmist:

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing,
Psalms 92:12-14 NKJV

Training gets you rooted before you begin to flourish.

CONFESS I O N

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



ANSWER THIS QUESTION BEFORE YOU PROPOSE

Text: Ephesians 5:21 NKJV

Submitting to one another in the fear of God.

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

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

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

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

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

That is why marriage is not for consumers but for contributors. Sex outside marriage is lust-

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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



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