

JULY 2025

COMPASS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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FOR
SALE!**

Temiloluwa Ola

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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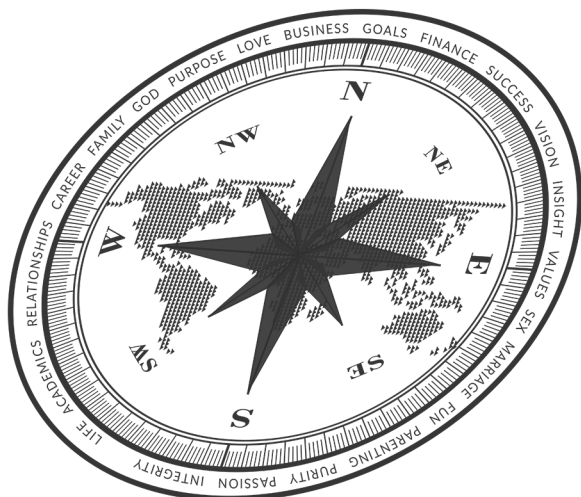
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COMPASS

D A I L Y D E V O T I O N A L

JULY 2025

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SALE!**

Femilolucwa Ola

Practical thoughts for a productive day

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Introduction

Beloved,

Welcome to the second half of the year. What a delight. What a joy!
The first half of the year has been a full one. No matter how it has been, make just one decision- Worship!

Worship if you have seen all you desire.
Worship if you still have what you are trusting the Lord for.
Worship when you can explain it.
Worship when it seems unexplainable.
Begin with Worship!

Second, ask the Lord to revive your soul in the midst of the year.

Habakkuk 3:2 KJV

[2] O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, In the midst of the years make known; In wrath remember mercy.

In revival, disappointment is dealt with, discouragement is dealt a huge blow. You come out stronger and better!

Worship and Ask for a Revival.

This Month has started well. It will also end well.
This year will end well.

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



BEFORE MORE... SAY THANK YOU FIRST!

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 NKJV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

glorify them, and they shall not be small. Jeremiah 30:19 KJV

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

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

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

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

What have you been complaining about?

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

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

CONFESS I O N

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

DAY 02

SAY THANK YOU LIKE YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE

Text: Isaiah 12:4 NLT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Give Glory to God. Yes! God deserves the glory always. You must give all the glory to God. He is the one who does mighty things. He is the source of inspiration. But it does

not end there.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Go and say thank you to your pastor today. It will strengthen his heart. Do it. Never forget- Appreciation that is not expressed is no appreciation at all. Will you be the one? Or are you part of the nine?

CONFESS I O N

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

DAY 03

FROM “TOO SLOW” TO “ON FIRE”

Text: Acts 9:15 NIV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

See the elder brother:

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DAY 04

GET DRUNK...

Text: 1 Kings 19:7 NKJV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There was a time when Irewamiri and I were having so many disagreements. The more I spoke to her, the harder the matter became. Eventually, I remembered the Holy Spirit and I asked for the help of God.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DAY 05

BUILDING SPIRITUAL RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF CHALLENGES

Text: Matthew 7:25 NIV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Job's friends may not have been perfect, but tough times are easier when you are not navigating them alone. Isolation makes difficult seasons hellish.

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

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

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

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

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

May the Lord grant you understanding. Amen!

CONFESSION

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

DAY 06

CONQUERING DISTRACTION (1): THE SUBTLE STRATEGY OF DISTRACTION

Text: Hebrews 12:1 NKJV

Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is

My Dad would sometimes spend time playing with us as kids. We would always get into mock boxing. It was not the real deal. Dad was a professional (at least in our eyes). He would make a move as though he was going to kick your stomach. As you attempt to cover your stomach, he would attack another part of the body. We were always frustrated when he made his hit.

Beloved, distraction is a tool of war. This age-long strategy has always worked, especially when a warring party is not discerning. Distraction diverts attention. It does not just divert attention; it steals attention.

In the strategy plan of the enemy, the first step is to "steal":

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...."
John 10:10 NKJV

It is easy to kill a man whose attention is already stolen. It takes a cheap and easy move to destroy a man who is already distracted.

Some years ago, the Lord said to me, "Whatever can distract you can defeat you."

How does the enemy steal from us? He steals from us by adding to us. The enemy adds to us to dilute our impact and reduce our productivity. He does not uproot the wheat; he only needs to place tares. Once your life is a mixture, the enemy has succeeded.

The enemy won't stop you from praying (or chewing your mouth in tongues); he's fine as long as you're not focused. You can sound fiery, but carry no fire. He'll deceive you into thinking you've prayed while he quietly preys on your soul.

Hear the words of Apostle Paul to Timothy, his son in the faith:

"No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules."

II Timothy 2:4-5 NKJV

The rate at which we tap our phones daily is alarming. A particular statistic says that we tap our phones an average of three thousand times a day! When you get on your phone, it takes an average of fifty minutes to get your focus back. Have you heard of FOMO? The fear of missing out! You cannot see an athlete carrying his phone on the tracks. You cannot see a soldier engaged in the heat of war and checking up on WhatsApp status.

You can walk into a home today, and all the children are focused on gadgets. You can sit with friends in a restaurant, and you talk more on the phone than with people you see physically. You can stay on the phone all day while legitimate goals are left unattended.

What do you have to put aside so you can run faster?

What do you have to lay down so you can be a sharpshooter?

Destiny is at stake. Are you distracted?

CONFESSION

*I am not distracted on my destiny journey.
I put aside elements of distraction. I am intentional about my progress.*



CONQUERING DISTRACTION (2): THE THIEF OF TIME

Text: I Chronicles 12:32 NKJV

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

I stole meat from the pot as a young boy. It was quite bad that Mum had to start counting the pieces of meat in the stew. Like a genius, I adopted the slim-fitting pattern. I would take small portions off each chunk rather than steal a whole piece of meat at a go. The pieces of meat in the pot were still the same, but the size would have been reduced significantly.

I think that is also the way the devil steals from people. He does not steal a life. He steals time. He knows that you would resist when he wants to steal life, so he goes for the tiny pieces that make the whole thing – a second or a minute! When you add it all up, the time of life is stolen. It is called 'lifetime.'

The only raw material that we all have in common is time. We are all blessed with this amazing raw material that can be converted into different things.

There is a time for everything...
Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV

Time can be converted into knowledge and wisdom if we give time to learning.

Time can be converted to skill if we give time to practice.

If the axe is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success.
Ecclesiastes 10:10 NIV

Time can be converted to wealth if we pay attention to investing it the right way and investing things at the right time.

But you, lazybones, how long will you sleep? When will you wake up? A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest— then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber.

Proverbs 6:9-11 NLT

When the raw material is stolen, it would be daydreaming to expect a finished product. The devil invests in making men waste their time so that they wallow in lack, frustration, and ignorance.

The devil steals your time when you have energy (when you are still young and agile). He ensures that you waste time with frivolities. By the time you wake up and are wise enough to understand what he has stolen from you for years, you do not have the energy and time anymore to do anything worthwhile.

So, a lot of young people have time and energy, but they lack the wisdom to maximize both. On the contrary, old people have no more time or energy, and they have a lot of regrets. What is the definition of regret in old age? It is a form of wisdom that now lacks opportunity for expression. It is expressed in words like, "If I can be your age again" or "If I can turn back the hands of time."

Time is the unit of life and destiny. Time stolen is destiny shortchanged. Time wasters often end up with a lot of regret.

Will you have an appraisal?

CONFESSION

I am a good steward of time. I convert my time to profitable things. I am not a time-waster.

DAY
08

CONQUERING DISTRACTION (3): DISTRACTION BEGINS WITH ATTRACTION

Text: Deuteronomy 32:15 NLT

But Israel soon became fat and unruly; the people grew heavy, plump, and stuffed! Then they abandoned the God who had made them; they made light of the Rock of their salvation.

The first time I fell in love, I had some unforgettable moments. I had fallen head over heels. It became so bad that if I was heading to pray and the babe requested a meet-up, I would postpone my prayer time to see her. It was becoming a distraction.

One day, while I was praying, I heard the Lord instruct me, saying, "Drop that handbag." I knew what the Lord was referring to. I was getting distracted.

Whatever will distract you must attract you first. You cannot be distracted by anything that you are not attracted to.

Nothing distracts you without your permission. If it distracted you, you permitted it. If you are already losing your will to say no to the attraction that led to distraction, it is likely already an addiction. The moment impulse has taken over from reasoning, there is trouble.

King Solomon started as a genuine lover of God, but his attraction to strange women became his distraction. He began by making sacrifices to the Lord and asking for wisdom.

And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father"
1 Kings 3:3 KJV

Solomon got an Egyptian princess as part of a treaty agreement but soon had seven hundred princesses. His attraction soon became a distraction. What began with the Egyptian princess soon began to spread.

But King Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;
1 Kings 11:1 KJV

His harem turned his heart away:

And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned away his heart.
1 Kings 11:3 KJV

For it came to pass, when Solomon was old,

that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

1 Kings 11:4 KJV

Your distraction can begin with attraction to a gaming app. For some, it could be where the seed of gambling was sown. Sometimes, your subscription to movie apps has become a distraction from studying God's Word and prayer.

How does the Apostle James put it?

And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

James 1:13-15 NLT

Temptation comes from our own desires. Do you realize that the devil tempted Jesus when he was hungry? He then suggested bread to him. He knew that his desire was the only way to get him. Be careful of your desire. It can also be your temptation.

Will you allow your desire to drag you away?

Will you watch that attraction become a distraction and also an addiction if not watched?

Do not forget. Whatever distracts you can defeat you.

CONFESSION

I will not permit distractions in my life. I put my desires and attractions under control. I am committed to God's vision for my life.



CONQUERING DISTRACTION (4): FROM HIGHFLIER TO AVERAGE

Text: Philippians 3:14 NIV

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

As a secondary (high) school student, the session began with some amazing decisions. I would have new notes, a blue or black pen accompanied by a red one, and a ruler. The goal was to have a neat and complete note. Who was like me?

It always started well. I would write the date in the top left corner. I would write every topic and underline it with two straight red lines. My notes were always 'on point'.

By the third week, my red pen was missing. I still underlined, but with the blue pen. By the fifth week, the ruler was missing, so I improvised with a pen. Just before the midterm, diagrams were already missing in the biology notes.

Just before the midterm, I might need to lie to the teacher at inspection time, claiming I forgot my notes at home, even though my incomplete notes were lying in my bag. Because I was a bit serious, I would get away with it. However, I would have to write all night to present a complete but untidy note the next day.

That is how many high-flier students become average. Distracted people are often high flyers who become average individuals.

By extension, this is how great writers ended up just as mere readers with many abandoned scripts. This is how great teachers of God's word ended up as mediocre voices in our generation. Once the seed of distraction is planted, diligence takes the back seat while packaging takes over.

It is tougher for gifted people to overcome distraction because people can still applaud your performance, but you know deep within yourself that you have not refined the gift. What they applauded was the raw version of your gold. What if it were the gold that you showcased?

You will likely consider yourself a king if you keep getting away with mediocre performances. Wake up! There is more to you than that lacklustre performance. There is more to you than that average output.

You can honestly start asking yourself now: "If I am not distracted, what height would I have attained by now?"

The test is always halfway. If you can overcome the halfway syndrome, you will do better. You are a good starter. You have great energy, but can you also bless us with a great finish?

'I have tried my best' can be the statement of mediocrity when there is more that can be done.

We know great men by their finishing abilities. You must be a great finisher. Who starts the race leading the pack, loses steam midway, and then comes back to say, 'I deserve a prize for being the best for a few seconds.' Men will laugh at you.

Let me say to you what Paul said to us all:

"Here is my advice: It would be good for you to finish what you started a year ago..."
2 Corinthians 8:10a NLT

What did you start a year ago, a month ago?

"Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now..."
2 Corinthians 8:11 NLT

Will y **CONFESSIO**

*I have the grace and unction to finish well.
I do not give room to procrastination. I will
not decline in destiny.*

ATOM

Anuoluwapo
Temiloluwa Ola Ministry

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HEART TO HEART MEN'S METING

GROOM'S NIGHT



with PASTOR
TEMI LOLUWA OLA

↑ **THIRD THURSDAY
OF EVERY MONTH**

**1st Floor, Fresh Bite Building,
Town planning road, Oluyole, Ibadan.**

FOR ENQUIRY: 08135669804

**5:30
PM**

See you there!

DAY 10

CONQUERING DISTRACTION (5): LEAVE THE 'NO DEMAND' ZONE

Text: 1 Samuel 21:8 NIV

David asked Ahimelek, "Don't you have a spear or a sword here? I haven't brought my sword or any other weapon, because the king's mission was urgent."

My parents told a story about how my brother fell sick as a little boy. It was late in the night in Eruwa when they got a referral to the city of Ibadan. Dad would not take chances to wait till morning. They drove that night for almost two hours to get to the city. Why? Life was at stake. There was a demand and a deadline to meet.

If you will overcome distraction, you must constantly be under the demand of destiny and be conscious that there is a deadline.

If you will overcome distraction, make sure you do not live in the 'no demand' zone of life. The language of committed people is "I must." They intentionally place a demand on themselves.

Jesus kept using the words "I must" to define his life's journey and assignment.

- He voiced it out at the age of 12. He was not going to have a sloppy and experimental teenage life. He knew what he wanted to do as early as possible and stayed committed to it.

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

- He knew that time was not on his side. He did not have the luxury of time to be wasteful with any day.

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

- He took His task with the same passion and drive. He knew He had grounds to cover. There were cities to reach.

"but He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent."

Luke 4:43 NKJV

- He took reaching individuals with the same passion he took reaching cities. He was committed whether it was a one-on-one conversation like that of the Samaritan Woman, visiting a home like that of Zacchaeus or reaching an entire city like that of Samaria.

"And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd."

John 10:16 NKJV

See your life as a kingdom project. Do you know the way that you would usually have deadlines for your project work? That is the same way you should take life. Here, God is your supervisor.

When David slipped into the "No Demand" zone of life, he ran into trouble that led to other troubles. He saw what he was not meant to see and did what he was not meant to do. He should have been on a major project of leading the nation to battle, but he stayed back. When you are in the wrong place, you will lose battles that you had no business fighting in the first place.

When Dinah slipped into the 'No Demand' zone of life, she took a walk that began a slip into a battle she should not have been fighting.

What demands are you leaving under?

What deadlines do you have?

CONFESSION

I run with the urgency of the demands of my calling. My life is a kingdom project. I will finish well.

DAY 11

CONQUERING DISTRACTION (6): DO NOT OVERCOMPENSATE YOURSELF WITH REST

Text: Judges 4:21 NIV

But Jael, Heber's wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died.

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 just needed to 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 that previous experiences of lack or inadequacy can lead to greed when opportunities come? You can become so materialistic. Watch it. It is a trap.

CONFESSIO

I will not rest at the wrong time. My spirit is ever alert.

DAY 12

CONQUERING DISTRACTION (7): BREAK FREE FROM THE GRIP OF PHONES & SOCIAL MEDIA

Text: Genesis 27:14 NIV

You will live by the sword and you will serve your brother. But when you grow restless, you will throw his yoke from off your neck."

At a point in my journey, I realised that I would have productive tasks to carry out, but once I picked up my phone, it took a while before I settled back into focusing on what had to be done. It was getting so bad that my phone became the last thing I pressed at night and the first thing I went for in the morning. I needed to be brutal with my decisions about this distraction.

Aside from that, it took a toll on our marital bonding too. I can imagine the miracles that will happen in some marriages if both parties can decide to put away phones at particular hours of the evening.

There are temptations you are naturally delivered from once you are away from your phone.

What can be done?

First, do not deny the fact that you spend excessive time on the phone. Come to terms with the fact that your phone and social media have become a distraction. If you are in denial, you cannot overcome the menace.

Second, as believers, we are used to fasting food, but you can also fast your phone and social media. Make up your mind not to touch that phone or go near social media for certain hours of the day. You can fast until 6 p.m. for a week. Touch it for just an hour afterwards. Call it your retreat week. You will be surprised how your creativity will be unlocked.

Listen, you must be brutal if you are battling with indiscipline at any level. If you are not, you will soon end up with greater issues:

- You will soon be struggling (if you are not already) with lust, sexual promiscuity and unfaithfulness in marriage

- You will have addiction challenges. Phone and social media are already proof that you have issues.

- You will find it hard to be financially disciplined. You will not be able to save or stick to a budget.

- You cannot stick to a routine.

It is really not about your phones and social media, it is the offshoot of a greater issue—lack of self-control.

But if you can begin by periodically doing away with your phone and social media, it would be a great win.

Try it. Find an accountability partner. Be faithful. You will see improvements.

Do not forget what the preacher said:

To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:
Ecclesiastes 3:1 NKJV

And remember this warning also:

People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the Lord.
Proverbs 19:3 NLT

Grace!

CONFESSION

I exercise control over my distractions. My life is not run by the distractions of social media. I am focused and productive.

DAY 13

FIND YOUR WAY HOME

Text: Luke 15:18 NIV

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

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

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

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

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

There are four dimensions to being a son:

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

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

What causes you to drift?

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

faster. Fight that spirit that tells you home is far now. Fight it!

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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

LOST AT HOME

Text: Isaiah 51:2 NIV

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

I had known my spiritual father for 16 years. I just did not have any understanding of our relationship. I even invited him to Eruwa in 2007. I still remember the love and humility that he related with.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Just like I used to be, some people have turned their “spiritual father” into a conference speaker. As long as people know they have a relationship with him, they are fine. It is called chasing clout rather than sitting to learn, be groomed, and imparted. They are annoyed when they cannot get them to feature in their

meetings. Beloved, you can get lost in the house. You have a relationship, but it lacks depth.

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DAY 15

WAKE UP TO SONSHIP!

Text: Proverbs 1:8 NIV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There is the "Omo Oro". This is the "Child of

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

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

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

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

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

I will be 12 years old on the journey of full-time ministry, and I have been on both sides of the divide- the side of the untrained and the side of the fathered. I can tell you one is better. The journey is longer when you are trying to build your own road. Wake up to sonship!

CONFESS I O N

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

DAY 16

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

Text: Acts 18:26 NLT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you are a Timothy, learn from your Paul.

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

Grace!

CONFESSION

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

DAY 17

NEVER BE ASHAMED OF THE ASSIGNMENT!

Text: Habakkuk 2:3 NKJV

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you will make visible progress, you must give yourself wholly to the assignment, including loving the location. You must love your spouse and stop saying, “I only

married her because God said she is my wife, or he is my husband. He is not my spec, or she is not my spec”. Stop that! Such a union will not bless you.

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

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

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

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

CONFESSIO

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

DAY 18

THE COST OF RUNNING WITHOUT TRAINING

Text: Luke 24:49 NKJV

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

For many years, as a pastor, I was doing all I could. But one day, a dear father in the faith counselled me: "Pastor Temi, we pastor in similar terrains. One of the factors in both terrains is that people transition very fast. Let me tell you the mistake I made for the first 16 years of ministry".

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

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

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

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

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

An untrained person will waste money. They think money will do it all. They soon realize that a fool and his money are soon parted.

An untrained person will waste men. They cannot sustain solid relationships. You will

always see them with new people around them. No stable relationships.

What other things can an untrained person waste?

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

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

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

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

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

What are you squandering now?

CONFESSION

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

DAY 19

WE KNOW YOU ARE GIFTED, BUT ARE YOU TRAINED?

Text: 1 Corinthians 4:2 NIV

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

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

One of the teenagers was handling the camera. A young man approached him and said, "May I have the camera? Allow me to help." The teenager politely declined. When some of his friends saw what was happening, they said, "He is a professional photographer. Give him the camera." The teenager did not budge. They were shocked.

Why was the teenager not budging? He knew he would be accountable if anything happened to the camera. He also knew that the young man might be a professional, but he did not yet know our values regarding stewardship.

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

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

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

If you change churches, be willing to learn the culture of the house you belong to. Do not get offended because you have a huge title from your previous church. Your submission to

process will soon speak for you. Do not try to prove any point. Calm down and learn again.

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

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

An untrained man has a sense of entitlement. If you will grow, eliminate entitlement. If Naaman's leprosy was to be cleansed, he must not boast about the rivers of Syria when he was instructed to dip seven times in the Jordan.

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

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

We know you are gifted, but are you trained?

CONFESSION

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

DAY
20

HOW TO BREAK FREE FROM THE PRODIGAL SPIRIT

Text: Hebrews 10:39 NLT

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

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

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

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

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

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

Listen! You will be dropping hints all over your

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DAY 21

DON'T BE A SPIRITUAL NOMAD!

Text: Hebrews 6:12 NLT

Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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

Beloved, there is a difference between “a pastor” and “my pastor”. There is a difference

DAY 22

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

Text: Philippians 2:22 NIV

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

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

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

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

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

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

I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.⁷
Luke 15:19 NIV

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

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

from you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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



THE UNSEEN IMPACT OF FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

Text: Philippians 3:14 KJV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He wrote to one person! But the Lord knew that faithfulness with that person was the link to billions of souls. Today, we read the book of Luke and Acts. He was writing to Theophilus, but God was writing to a generation he would never see. It was more than a Theophilus assignment.

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

In an outreach, it may be just 10 persons under that shed- do it to Theophilus.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DAY 24

THE METAL POLE, THE RAIN AND THE MARKS

Text: Zechariah 10:1 NKJV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Therefore, your goal must be to stay continually yielded to the Spirit of the Lord. A yielded man is a great vessel in the hands of the Lord. Train yourself early to yield to Him.

At all costs, resist anything and everything that makes it difficult for you to yield to divine leading. Fight it hard. When your life becomes so encumbered that God cannot lead you, you become stranded and confused, and it will seem as though things got complicated. God makes our lives simple.

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DAY 25

DILIGENCE AND DIVINE IMPACT

Text: Proverbs 22:29 KJV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Look at Jesus, our perfect example. He

called his assignment on earth "my father's business."

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DEAD SONS AND POISONED COUNSEL

Text: Proverbs 7:1-2 NLT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DAY 27

DON'T CONCEAL YOUR NEED FOR HELP

Text: Proverbs 11:14 NKJV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Frustrated people frustrate other people.

Hurting people hurt other people.

Stop transferring aggression. Ask for help.

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

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

CONFESSION

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

DAY
28

THE DECEPTION- I WILL STOP ONCE I GET MARRIED

Text: Galatians 5:24 NLT

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.

I shared the gospel that evening with a young man. After explaining what it meant to be born again, he then asked me, "Does it mean I will stop sleeping with the girls I sleep with now?" I responded in the positive. He said, "That would be very hard. I cannot stop that." I told him Christ comes with the grace to live a life above sin.

He said, "I can follow Christ and then stop sleeping around after marriage." I smiled and asked him, "How many times have you said you would stop but did not?" He paused and said, "That is true. I said so several times, but I still could not stop." I told him that he would still be sleeping around and fornicating even after marriage. He asked me, "Why?" I told him that there was something needed that he did not have- Christ!

He still did not accept Christ, but I pray God would use the seed sown.

Beloved, sin can be very deceptive. It tells you that you need to be free to do whatever you want; meanwhile, you are truly in bondage. All you have is an illusion of freedom.

The one who thinks he is free to sleep around is actually a slave of lust and sexual sins.

The one who thinks he is free to talk anyhow to anyone is actually a slave of anger, bitterness and hatred.

The one who thinks he is free to make money through any means possible is actually a slave of greed.

It is the deception of sin.

Apostle Paul mentioned that there is such a thing as being a slave to sin:

"Don't you realize that you become the slave

of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living."

Romans 6:16 NLT

What does it mean to be a slave to sin? It is this simple:

"I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate."

Romans 7:15 NLT

Where does this lead you? A miserable life!

"Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?"

Romans 7:24 NLT

What is the answer to this question?

"Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord..."

Romans 7:25 NLT

Are you living in the deception of sin?

Jesus is the answer!

CONFESSION

I crucify the affections of the flesh. I live above sin. Sin has no dominion over me.

DAY
29

BE GRATEFUL FOR A WIFE WHO ASKS QUESTIONS

Text: Romans 12:10 NKJV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When Achan brought in the accursed and hid it in the tent, there was a conspiracy of silence. On the day of judgement, ignorance

or innocence was not an excuse. The whole family bore the consequence. They all paid for it with their lives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESS I O N

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

DAY
30

YOUR SPOUSE IS NOT YOUR OPPONENT!

Text: 1Corinthians 3:6 KJV

I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

It happened around Yaba in Lagos State. It was still a bit early in the morning. We parked, waiting to connect with someone. Then we saw the most unusual scene- it has not left my mind since then.

We saw a man and a woman who wore the same attire driving by at speed in a car. The unusual thing was that they were both struggling for the car's steering wheel. It was strange. We knew something was wrong.

When we eventually left that spot on our way out of Lagos, we saw the car. It was already involved in an accident, and the occupants were nowhere to be found. It was strange.

Let me begin with prayers today: If your marriage seems to be under a spell, especially where a stranger gains from the animosity between you and your spouse, I declare the spell is broken in the name of Jesus! You are free from enchantment and divination!

Beloved, why are you competing with your spouse when you are meant to complete and complement one another? Why do you tell your children terrible things about your spouse so that you can win their attention? Even the kingdom of demons is not divided against itself. What's the competition all about?

Why on earth do people have to know from your suggestive talk and illustration that you are the one who earns more? You have become financially manipulative. You now use money as a tool of control, intimidation, and manipulation. Do you know what makes you a witch in training? Those are the three ingredients of the work of the flesh called witchcraft.

Paul told the Philippian church that:

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front or

sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. (Philippians 2:1-4 MSG)

See that simple list. If you practice it, your marriage will never become a battleground for relevance and superiority where you spill emotional blood:

Don't push your way to the front.

Put yourself aside.

Help your spouse make progress.

Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage.

Forget yourself long enough to lend a helping hand.

Someone said that when "We" replaces "I," even "Illness" becomes "Wellness." If "I" replaces "We," "Wellness" will become "Illness."

Beloved, why are kind words so scarce in your home? Why has patient endurance flown out of the window? Why do hurtful words fly with ease? Ah! You have wounded each other so much that you call it irreconcilable differences.

Can the wounds be healed? Yes! If you come under the fountain that flows from Emmanuel's vein and drink your fill from His fountain of love. It is always a game changer. If you touch His love, you will love exactly like He does and make the best out of your spouse.

Your marriage can move from a mirage to a miracle. It is possible. Are you willing?

CONFESSION

I give no room for unhealthy competition in my family. My spouse and I collaborate to achieve our purpose.

DAY
31

WHY ACCOUNTABILITY IS AN INSURANCE POLICY FOR MARRIAGE

Text: Proverbs 11:14 NKJV

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

A dear son brought a young lady whom he wanted to marry. It was a single visit where he was to interact with the young lady. We had a great time talking. I asked questions, and she also asked hers. The only strange thing was that she lost interest in the young man after the visit. We were wondering what went wrong. The relationship died a natural death.

A few months later, the brother informed me that the lady had given birth. I was shocked. How? For who? She was already pregnant by the time she came to visit. I smiled and told him, "You would have been trapped in deception if you were not thoroughly pastored."

It is easy for the devil to deceive a man who does not subject his steps to the scrutiny of those who have gone ahead, especially spiritual authority. One proof of spiritual maturity is the willingness shown in submission.

Think about Apostle Paul and all his remarkable exploits, yet he still lived a life of submission to the pillars in the church:

In fact, James, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the church, recognized the gift God had given me, and they accepted Barnabas and me as their co-workers. They encouraged us to keep preaching to the Gentiles, while they continued their work with the Jews. (Galatians 2:9 NLT)

Why did he go to them? He wanted to be sure he was doing what was right. He did not want to run in vain:

I went there because God revealed to me that I should go. While I was there, I met privately with those considered to be leaders of the church and shared with them the message I had been preaching to the Gentiles. I wanted to make sure that we were in agreement, for fear that all my efforts had been wasted and I was running the race for nothing. (Galatians 2:2 NLT)

Any height of spirituality that tells you that you can now live above scrutiny and accountability is self-deception that will end in a crisis. You now

hear directly from heaven that no one can ask you questions on earth; well done! That is the recipe for failure.

Please note that your pastors are not the ones to make decisions for you on whom to marry. That is your decision. They only ask questions and counsel until you reach that point of clarity and conviction. Their presence helps you to see things objectively.

Some of the counsel I got on the journey to marriage saved my life and my courtship. Do not hide it. If you are sincere with yourself, there is nothing to hide. You will be open to the process that will strengthen your decision or save you from making a terrible mistake.

If some pastors tell you the strange things they have heard from the mouths of men and women that their partners seem to be dying in love for, you will be surprised.

Just a little addition: If you step into a supermarket to buy a tin of milk and realize it will expire the next day, will you buy it?

If you are single, do not manage anyone close to the edge of corruption. Please note that "close to corruption" is not an option. He comes to church once in a while, but he is a good boy is not an option. She has a good heart, but she just does not have the time to serve the Lord is not a good one (but she does not miss her friends' parties). He is an unbeliever, but he is a nice man is not an option.

Be transparent!

Marriage is a critical decision.

Make it wisely!

CONFESSION

I am accountable in marriage. I will not make costly mistakes. I embrace godly counsel from my pastor.



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THE FEAST

**SATURDAY
JULY 5TH &
26TH, 2025**

9:00AM

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PLANNING ROAD,
OLUYOLE, IBADAN**

**NGCC AUDITORIUM
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