



THE REFINERY DEVOTIONAL

(A monthly devotional of The Refinery Church)



Start your day with Christ's consciousness
and be refined unto God's goodness.

November, 2016.

This devotional was written by the leaders of The Refinery Church, compiled and edited by me.

You are free to share this devotional via social media platforms, and media sharing apps such as Xender, Flashshare etc.

You are also free to make public individual messages on the devotional that blessed you on particular days.

However, this devotional is a property of The Refinery Church; we do not encourage the editing of the messages in the devotional or using the devotional without proper acknowledgement of the source.

You are free to make your contributions and praise reports via my inbox on Facebook @ Harrison Ayintete.

Blessings.

DAY 1

TOPIC: FORGET THE PAST

TEXT: Philippians 3:13-14

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“13 Brethren I do not count myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are before. 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Most times we let the mistakes and wrongs we did in the past get to us. We make statements such as; “If only I had married the right man or woman ... If only I had gone to the University ... If only I had moved to another state or country ...”

Dwelling on the past doesn't do anyone much of good, rather it robs us of today's joy. If anyone was to dwell on his past and allow all of his wrongdoings get to him, it was Apostle Paul. He persecuted the Church day and night, until he encountered the Lord Jesus on his way to Damascus. Right there, he received forgiveness for his sins, and he could boldly say he was letting go of his past and reaching unto things that are ahead.

Beloved, God takes no account of your sins (Hebrews 10:17). You needn't remember them either or keep them in reserve so you can loathe over them. Like Apostle Paul did, forget your past and the wrongs done to you or even the ones you did to others and move ahead to better things. Your past is your past! Don't let it rob you of today's joy. God's given you a victorious life in Jesus Christ, so you got to take hold of that. Hallelujah!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS

Further Study: Hebrews 6:1

DAY 2

TOPIC: NO OTHER NAME

TEXT: Acts 4:12

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Many religions of the world affirm the existence of God but deny the salvation which is by Jesus Christ, the son of God. In the bid to get to God, many have made for themselves idols either in persons or objects. They worship these gods hoping in them in they would be saved. It is clear in all scriptures that there is no other name whereby the world can be saved except through the name of Jesus. The intent for the birth of Jesus is to take away the sins of the world. This was fulfilled in His death and resurrection, where He was offered up as the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. If any man accepts Jesus’ sacrifice for his sins, such a man is eternally saved.

Brethren, let us be more assured of the saving power in the name of Jesus. Whoever believes or accepts Jesus as his saviour is saved. There is no other way to salvation. Man-made idols cannot save a man neither can the works of a man save him. The only legal name that assures a man of salvation is the name of Jesus Christ.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

Further Study: John 3:36; John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5-6

DAY 3

TOPIC: SERVANTS, NOT LORDS

TEXT: ROMANS 13:4

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

‘4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to [execute] wrath upon him that doeth evil.’

In the above text, it's clear how God intends for leadership to be exemplified; it is by service.

The word “ministers” in the above text is the word “diakonos” in the Greek. It means “an attendant; a waiter; a servant.” Look how a waiter serves in a normal restaurant, paying attention to costumers’ needs, ensuring everyone is properly attended to, in humility and kindness. If anyone is important in a restaurant, it's not the waiter; it's the ones he serves.

The waiter, however dressed in silk clothing or elegant in style, is to serve the guests in the restaurants better. Anyone in leadership or aspiring to such office must be proven in service. Not greed or corruption, but service. The Lord Jesus showed us this example, as the creator, He didn't come to be served, but to serve. It's a resounding truth; service derives its essence from God.

Such manner of men and women we must be; servants. We must be men and women whose daily ambition is not how much they can have to themselves. It's how much they can give, bless others with. As we grow in this character, the goodness of God fills all sectors of life and our world will be better for it.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

DAY 4

TOPIC: WE ARE A FAMILY!

TEXT: Galatians 6:10

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

As believers, we share a common bond. This bond is far much stronger than any on the earth, and so cannot be severed by any force. This bond is the Spirit of God himself, for we were all birthed by that same Spirit, and He now inhabits all of us. It is from this oneness we have in the Spirit that our conduct towards one another must emanate.

People often make the statement “we are one in Christ.” This statement is not a cliché by any means. It is true in its entirety. Having this at the back of our minds will enable us act appropriately as members of God’s family on earth. This knowledge will empower us to do what believers did in the early church in Acts 2:44-45, even though times have changed now.

Our conduct towards one another is not dependent on time, it remains the same even when time and events change. The word rendered as “household” in the text above is a Greek word descriptive of “relatives of one’s own house.” We are brethren; brothers and sisters. Thus, we have one another’s care at heart. This fuels passion for the other’s life. When we see a brother or sister err, we rebuke and correct such in love. It is because we are brethren; relatives of the same family. One’s good is the other’s good, and vice versa. Hence, we are not in a competition. Instead, we are thankful when one shines so bright; it is to the glory of God, our Father.

We are believers; members of the household of faith. We are a family!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 5

TOPIC: LIVE LIFE DELIBERATELY

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 9:11

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race [is] not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.”

It is good to pay attention to the phrase; “under the earth” as used many times in the words of Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes. Without much ado, this is enough to point out to us that the book of Ecclesiastes largely speaks about the reality of a man under the earth; a natural man. Hence, the text above speaks of the same. At the end, most people who live on earth have their lives subject to time and chance.

A believer is in this world, he is not of this world! He is born from a realm that is heavenly. He must be deliberate not to live life like normal human beings but as a man born from above. In all his endeavours, He must be focused on the constancy of God’s personality that resides inside him; he must never forget that at every point in time, he is more than a man.

A believer has been made one Spirit with God, he now has faith; hence the creative power of God now resides within him. He can call forth occurrences for his favour by the authority he now has by virtue of his eternal union with divinity. He can call forth things that do not physically exist as though they are (Hebrews 11:3)!

As a believer, though the realities of the earth exist, we must always stay conscious of a greater reality. By this, we do not deny earthly realities such as outbreaks of diseases, wars, economic recessions, and so on. We are however supposed to live by a greater reality; our identity in Christ. By this we live life deliberately and are not subject to time and chance.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 6

TOPIC: AN OFFICE, NOT A CALLING

TEXT: 1 Timothy 3:1

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

‘1 This [is] a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.’

One of the major misunderstandings when it comes to church leadership and matters of conduct is the issue of callings and offices. Callings are gifts, offices are earned. No man impresses God and thus becomes called to ministry. Apostle Paul reveals this in 2 Corinthians 2:5. We are not in ministry because of any qualifications we have acquired. He validates the same position in 1 Corinthians 15:10. We are in God’s vineyard, serving by grace. If we had any qualifications at all, it would be that we are not good enough.

We must not misunderstand callings for administrative offices like bishops, elders etc. As seen in the main text, a man can seek the office of a bishop, he can apply for that office, he can request to be appointed into that office and he must meet certain requirements that are fitting for that office. A man, however, cannot request to be called into ministry, it is a gift, and it is given us. We do not earn it. This confusion has led to many strange teachings and practices in many churches. Some will not accept a pastor if he or she is unmarried, some will ask a man to divorce his polygamous family in service to God, some will demand the resignation of a preacher due to crisis in his home.

While there is a lot to learn of leadership from the criteria cited for bishops, elders etc, it is very important to know that these are not yardsticks to serve in ministry. Rather, they are yardsticks to fill certain administrative offices. This demarcation will create more order and simplicity in our understanding of calling, gifts and administrations.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS.

DAY 7

TOPIC: HEAVEN IS OUR PLACE OF ORIGIN

TEXT: Philippians 3:20

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:”

The above text is clear; our conversation is in heaven. The word rendered as "conversation" here is the Greek word “politeuma;” it means “citizenship.” In other words, the Apostle Paul clarifies to us that we, believers, are citizens of heaven on earth. Isn't that profound? We are not citizens of earth trying to “make heaven” as many ignorantly do in futility. We are citizens of heaven journeying through the earth! Glory to God! That's who we are!

Hence, going to heaven for the believer is more of a homecoming than a welcome party for a stranger. Angels are not going to be surprised at the sight of us; neither are we going to be fazed at the sight of them. For, we are citizens! We are known by heaven. We were born from there! Heaven is our very own country, our place of origin and birth.

Dearly beloved, be rest assured that you are not on a race to “making heaven.” Rather, you're on a mission of expressing heaven on earth, for heaven has made you. We are children of God; citizens of heaven on earth. Rejoice in this light!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

Further Study: Colossians 3:1; Ephesians 2:6; Ephesians 2:19

DAY 8

TOPIC: GOD ACTIVELY PROTECTS

TEXT: Psalms 105:13-15

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“13 When they went from one nation to another, from [one] kingdom to another people; 14 He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes; 15 [Saying], Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.”

The text above is a revelation of God’s disposition towards any set of people referred to as his own. It is noteworthy that in the wilderness, the Israelites missed the mark on several occasions, yet the character of God to actively protect them remained unchanging irrespective of their failures. As they journeyed from one location to another, with exposure to several nations, wild animals and other harsh conditions, God ensured their preservation.

The book of Psalms 91 reassures our hearts that for us who have trusted in God, He is our refuge; keeping us from all evils by giving His angels charge over us (Psalms 91: 1-16). Isn’t this comforting enough to assure our hearts that even in the midst of fierce evil, God is for us?

What an awesome God we have! We can absolutely rely on his protection for us. Hence, whenever fear of evil occurrences is stirred up in our hearts at any point, we must consciously remind ourselves of God’s ever active protection for us and rejoice greatly in it. Day and night, He does not sleep, His security is available, and He’s always there to protect us! Hallelujah!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

Further Study: Psalms 91: 1-16

DAY 9

TOPIC: GODLY SORROW

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 7:10

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”

This scripture has been used mostly in a wrong way. Many say godly sorrow occurs when the Holy Spirit makes you feel sorry for your sins. Some even are bent on the fact that one must weep and wail when one repents. In other words, true repentance is done with sorrow and weeping. So, if you don't weep, your repentance is not genuine.

However, these are assertions which are ungodly. They do not conform to what is clearly revealed in scriptures. It must be noted that the “godly sorrow” which Paul talks about here is the sorrow the Corinthians felt when they read his letter (as seen in the previous verses of the text). It is good to feel sober when corrected of a fault or wrong. But we should never be deceived by the lie that repentance without tears is worthless. The word “repentance” is from the Greek word *“metanoia.”* It refers to a change of mind or, by implication, a reversal of decision.

It is the goodness of God that leads a man to change his mind and embrace God's goodness (Romans 2:4). The point is whether a person actually changed his mind and not whether he cried or rejoiced while doing so. Godly sorrow is not to be manufactured to impress or appease God. If your sorrow leads you to see the goodness and love of God, then it is sure a good and godly sorrow. But, if such sorrow leads you away from God and makes you focus on your unworthiness, then it is not a godly sorrow. God is not imputing our sins unto us anymore and his goodness causes us to change our minds towards good works. Let go of the unworthiness, guilt and depression in the name of having a godly sorrow.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

Further Study: 2 Corinthians 7: 1-10; Romans 2:4

DAY 10

TOPIC: IT'S BEEN PAID FOR

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 2:12

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God: that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”

We miss out on God's blessings when we try to earn it by our works. Most times we are told that we have to pay a certain amount of money in order to earn what God has “freely given to us”. When we do this, we make light of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

God wants us to know the things that have been freely given to us. He gave us his Spirit so we can know these things and enjoy them. He desires that we receive them freely because they have been paid for at the expense of His Son's (Jesus) life.

God is saying from his word that whatever thing you lack; provision, health, peace of mind, wisdom, favour, etc. It's all yours; take it and receive it with gladness because it's already been paid for. Hallelujah!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

Further Study: Romans 8:15

DAY 11

TOPIC: HIS FLESH AND BONES

TEXT: Ephesians 5:30

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

'30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.'

The kind of descriptions the epistles give of the man in Christ are jaw-dropping. The epistles describe the believer in Christ as Christ's very body. We are Christ's own body; His own blood and bones. How can one read such a text yet say the believer will be dissociated from Christ by any means, by any sin, by any fault?

It's so clear, the same blood (life) that flows in Christ, flows in us! The same ligament, tendons, veins, nerves run through us. We are not some visitors around the personality of the Lord, we are his own body. As it is impossible to sever the head from a body without destruction of that being, so also can nothing separate us from the Lord. To have such thoughts is to hope the destruction of the divine being.

It is impossible and unthinkable! We are his very bones and blood. What more confidence exists? What more joy prevails? What more gladness flows? This information is life and peace, forever more. It is safe haven. It is grace and truth explained vividly.

Thus, we rejoice in this union, now and forever more!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

DAY 12

TOPIC: GOD GIVES ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES

TEXT: Philippians 4:19

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

KJV

Very many believers believe that God’s supply varies depending on several factors. Many of such factors are considered to be dependent on the limitations of men, hence the variableness on God’s part. As ridiculous as this belief system is if critically investigated, it is amazing how it has been subtly taught and readily accepted by the church to a very large extent. It is ridiculous to believe this “lie” because it places the readiness of God’s capacity to supply on the inconsistencies of men.

In the text above, it is important to note that Paul pointed out the benevolence that the Philippian church exercised in taking care of his needs even when he didn’t demand such from them. Hence, he was motivated to pray for them. In his prayer, he was careful enough not to say that God will supply their needs according to how much they have given to him. He clearly prayed that God’s supply to them will be according to “the riches of His (God’s) glory by Christ Jesus.” You see, men’s limitation is only applicable to how much of God they can receive, and not how much God can give. It is consistent in scriptures that God’s gift to men at every point is always greater than what they need. He supplies in abundance!

This same attribute is seen in the way God gives forgiveness just like he does with every other gift. He gives according to the riches of His grace (Ephesians 1:7). God gives before a need ever arises; He also gives greater than is needed. A believer will therefore do himself lots of goods by increasing in the knowledge of what has been given and get more grounded in the consistency of God’s giving capacity. By this, he transcends limitations into receiving all that God gives to him.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 13

TOPIC: BE THANKFUL

TEXT: Hebrews 13:15

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Greek word to be thankful is “*eucharistos*” and it means “to show gratitude, or appreciation.” Thankfulness is a mental or verbal expression of one’s acknowledgement and appreciation of God’s person; His grace, blessings and sovereign work in one’s life and environment.

We are to give thanks firstly because it is commanded in the scriptures. The scripture is replete with the subject of thankfulness. The book of psalms is also filled with the call to always give thanks.

We are to give thanks because it honors God. When we do so, we recognize the existence of God and our dependence on him as our source. When we give thanks, feelings of hopelessness, bitterness, depression, etc, pave way for a joy-filled life. This is so because our focus no longer is on our problems but rather on the Lord.

As you go about your day to day activities, be thankful for all that the Lord has done for you and more that he will do. Hallelujah!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS.

Further Study: Ephesians 5:20

DAY 14

TOPIC: IS ANY MERRY?

TEXT: James 5:13

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

‘13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.’

The text above awakens us to the right demonstration of happiness or cheerfulness. The Lord's goodness is demonstrated to us in many ways. Many times, we have faced adversities we never thought we would survive, and some other times, we have been near death and were rescued, we have experienced favour upon our businesses, expansions in our ministries, fruitfulness in our marriages etc.

The correct expression of happiness or gratitude is not to be drunk with excess wine, as some do. Many in the rave of the moment outstep their sanity, get drunk and run into a vehicle that kills them. Many others begin to boast of how powerful and majestic they are. Many also boast in the vessel through whom their needs were met instead of rejoicing in the Lord that gives all things freely, for it is God that gives bread to the eater and seed to the sower (2 Corinthians 9:10).

Psalms are inspired words, declaring God's glory. Psalms are our utterances declaring the power and the glory of the Lord, our boasting is in Him. Thus, when we merry, let us rejoice in the Lord more and more as His joy fills our hearts and we are drunk in the consciousness of His Spirit. As we do this, we reinstate God's goodness to us more and more, now and forever more, Amen.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

DAY 15

TOPIC: PRAY ALWAYS IN THE SPIRIT

TEXT: Ephesians 6:18

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”

Of course, when the Apostle Paul says that we should pray always in the Spirit, he is not saying that we should pray 24 hours every day. That is not really possible because, if he (Apostle Paul) is teaching, he can't be praying at the same time. If he is exhorting or giving an instruction, he can't also be praying at the same time.

Nevertheless, the Apostle Paul's instruction is one that stresses the importance of a life of prayer. To pray always in the Spirit is not an addendum to the epistles. In contrast, it is one of the core things that the Apostles taught. The epistles are abundant with instructions on a consistent prayer life for the believer. It is non-negotiable. It is a must!

For, it is by prayer that we enforce God's will on the earth. It is by prayer that we put our authority to use, and thus show that we are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. It is by prayer that we make the enormous and ever-present power within us available for use.

Dearly beloved, give yourself to a life of prayer. Pray today (in the Spirit), and always. You are God's child now, and you are in charge. So, enforce God's will upon the earth. A lot will not happen if we don't pray. But, if we pray; there's no telling how much wonderful things will be made manifest by us in all places.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

Further Study: Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17

DAY 16

TOPIC: MEDITATION

TEXT: Mark 4:24

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“24 And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you — and more [besides] will be given to you who hear.” AMP

Jesus, in the fourth chapter of the gospel according to Mark, expressly gave the instruction cited above. He instructed that his disciples must be careful of what they hear. This is because many times we eventually do or become what we pay attention to. In other words, a believer will do himself a lot of good by being selective about what he listens to. He must be careful enough to listen to only truths taught from the bible.

Along the same line, Jesus explained that the amount of diligence that a man gives to ruminating on the things he has heard goes a long way in determining whatever he will understand from what he has heard. This clearly explains one of the major reasons why believers don't profit equally with God's word which they have learnt. As a believer, it is not enough to hear the word, it is not even enough to listen, you must go ahead to meditate on God's word. It is in meditation that we have a firmer grasp and deeper understanding on the things we have known.

Little wonder David referred to a man that cultivates the habit of meditating on God's word as “blessed” (Psalms 1:1-3). It is therefore profitable to make a practice of meditating on God's word rather than making unnecessary worry that only wearies the soul. Make a practice of meditating by decisively engaging your mind and you will enjoy the accompanying benefits.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 17

TOPIC: HONOUR YOUR PARENTS

TEXT: Ephesians 6:2

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)”

Honouring one’s parent as seen in the text above is not a mere instruction that should be trivialised or done away with. It is an instruction that is paramount to the believer. The word honour comes from the Hebrew word meaning ‘to be heavy or to give weight’. In other words, it means to regard someone seriously, or to offer profound respect and importance to a person or anything. The opposite of honouring someone is trivializing them; treating them as if they don’t matter.

Parenting is a system ordained by God with the purpose of guiding, providing and nurturing children in the way of the Lord. It is seemingly natural to honour people when they are good and when they deserve to be honoured, just as it is not easy to honour someone who has hurt you deeply. But, the believer is not to honour his or her parent conditionally. We don’t honour our parents because they deserve it. We honour them because the nature of the gospel is that God gave us what we don’t deserve.

Do you find it difficult to honour your parents due to some hurt they have caused you? Let the word of God heal your heart today. Love for a hurtful parent doesn’t come from our own abilities; it comes from the supernatural love of Jesus who died for us even while we were undeserving sinners (Romans 5:8). Let go of the pain. You are a love being. Honour your parents.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

Further Study: Colossians 3:20; Ephesians 6:1

DAY 18

TOPIC: NOT TO CONDEMN, BUT TO SAVE

TEXT: John 3:17

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world: but that the world through him might be saved.”

The above text lets us know that God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn the world; rather he was sent that anyone who believes in him might be saved.

Most preachers portray God as an unloving entity that sent Jesus to condemn the world for their sins, hence making some persons scared of going to God for fear of their faults and weaknesses being exposed.

In John 8:12, Jesus calls himself the light of the world. He did not come to bring to light our failures; rather, he is the light that shows us how perfect we are before God because his blood has washed away our sins. His light reveals how spotless we are because of his perfect work on the cross.

So when you approach the Father, you go boldly; knowing that he doesn't condemn you but sees you as his righteousness. Hallelujah!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

Further Study: 1 John 4:14

DAY 19

TOPIC: WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THE GOSPEL?

TEXT: Matthew 28:19-20

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen”

It is the Lord's desire that we go into all the nations of the earth, and make disciples of all men. The grace which we have all received is a call to responsibility and not otherwise. Now, that we have freely received the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the accompanying benefits, our paramount goal must be to get others saved. We must ask ourselves very sincere questions such as: “What am I doing with the gospel?” By asking this question, we'll be able to do more if we have started doing something, and to start doing something if we have been doing nothing.

Reaching all the nations of the earth starts by witnessing to one person at a time. You don't necessarily have to be able to travel to another country. Before you crave travelling to another country, what have you done in your neighbourhood? How about your school, your office, and so on? What have you done in these places? Now that you understand that it is only through belief in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross that a man is saved, sanctified, and perfected forevermore, what are you doing with that knowledge? Are you putting it to use by teaching others who are uninformed like you were at one time? Or, are you just accumulating knowledge for no purpose? Getting correct information as regards what Jesus has done for us is good. However, this must be to an end; that we may be able to teach others also.

Dearly beloved, what are you doing with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ? Are you making the savour of his name manifest by preaching the gospel in all places? Get responsible with the gospel today by preaching the good news of Jesus, and see the lives of men transformed.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 20

TOPIC: VAIN IN ITSELF

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 1:2

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.”

Human needs are insatiable. Therefore, the pursuit to acquire wealth and material things is endless. Such material things like houses, cars, clothing, shoes and so on, are needed and important for physical upkeep in this world of ours. But the believer is not to be overtaken with the pursuit of these things as he knows that they have no eternal value.

King Solomon upon all his wealth and accomplishments still counted all to be vanity. Even though it is not wrong to be materially successful, it is wrong to be driven by material success. Apostle Paul warned Timothy against the love of money. He clearly stated that the love of money is the root of evil. Hence, the burning and intense desire to gather up wealth all to oneself is not a believer's character.

The right use of our material wealth and accomplishments is for the propagation of the gospel. We must note that the gospel is potent in itself and does not require money to make it valid. However, there would be a massive spread of the gospel if individuals can commit their incomes to this course. This attribute was recorded of the early church.

Upon this knowledge, it is important for us to adhere and stay with God's word. The word of God is truth and life. Let the word of God guide the use of whatever material things we acquire. For a material thing is vain in itself but yields eternal rewards when used for an eternal purpose.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

Further Study: 1 Timothy 6:9-10; Proverbs 1:19

DAY 21

TOPIC: 'BRETHREN', JUST A CLICHÉ?

TEXT: Hebrews 2:11-14

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified [are] all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. 13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.”

The word “brethren” which refers to “brothers” is generally used throughout scriptures to mean “people who have a common origin.” For example, all Israelites are referred to as “brethren.” However, from the text above, the word brethren is used to refer to people who have a common origin from God; that is, they are born of God. In our modern day language in the church, this same word is used as “brothers” and “sisters.”

These words have been so commonly used in our days that they do not carry the honour attached to them in the epistles. This is because of several reasons; one of such is the fact that in some places, particularly Africa, the use of “brother” or “sister” is mainly as a title to show respect. Such respect is often based on age differences. It is therefore good on this note that, as believers, we must remind ourselves that the words “brothers” and “sisters” are far more than any cliché; they are not even related to any socio-cultural belief. They are words with spiritual significance.

The word connotes a relationship stronger than the bonds of physical blood. It seems more like a word referring to a “cult” or “fraternity” in which all members have equal rights and are born of God. This is made possible by Jesus’ resurrection and glorification. As believers, we are therefore supposed to call believers with a great honour knowing that our fellowship is divine; transcending the space of time. This understanding should stir us unto loving other believers more than ever before and be quick to pray for them.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 22

TOPIC: GOOD WORKS

TEXT: Titus 2:14

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

‘14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.’

The above text gives a strong precedence to our zeal as believers. Our zeal doesn't come from an obsession to meet up to God's standards or be accepted by Him. Our obsession comes from the truth that He gave Himself for us. This is the bedrock of our existence, this is the life-wire of our faith, not that we gave ourselves to the Lord, but that He gave Himself to us. This is awesome, glorious and worthy of dancing to all at the same time.

The text says He redeemed us from all iniquities and purified us unto Himself a peculiar people. The word 'peculiar' in the Greek is the word "periousios"; it means "being beyond usual, special". This is amazing! We are a special people, we are beyond usual, because of what the Lord has done for us; He gave Himself, to clear our sins and purify us forever.

Thus, it's only a reasonable service that we act out or express who we are as we show forth good works as we are designed to in Christ Jesus. The One who lives in us, works in us unto all goodness, all sacrifice, all giving, all endurance, all love and joy. Such is our special existence, to bring the goodness of God to our world. This is who we are. We are not trying to be someone else; this is who we already are!

Thus, let us express our true essence and the world be filled with the fragrance of Jesus.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

DAY 23

TOPIC: WHAT IS CHURCH TO YOU?

TEXT: 1 Timothy 3:15

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou ought to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

What is church to you? Is church just a place where to you go to pass time? Or a place where you go to learn of the new ways to succeed in business? The scriptures are clear; the church is the pillar and ground of the truth. Notice that the Apostle Paul did not say “a truth” in the text above. He said “...the truth.” In other words, it’s definite; the truth. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).

Therefore, the church is a place where we come to learn of Christ only. Nothing else! The church is not a place for fun-fair or other sensual activities. Rather, it’s a place where believers gather, God’s word is taught, and the things of the Spirit are demonstrated. Take away this, and what you have is a gathering unto sensuality, and not Christ.

Some cynically complain; “If you don’t do a comedy night or talk show, the church won’t be exciting.” That must be a joke! God’s word and demonstrating the things of the Spirit must be the believer’s excitement! That’s what excites us, not the unnecessary jamboree that many seek today.

Dearly beloved, redefine what church is to you today. For in this redefinition is the beginning of growth in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 24

TOPIC: THE FEAR OF GOD

TEXT: Proverbs 9:10

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. It is the will of God that the believer exhibits wisdom and knowledge. The scripture we read stated expressly that the fear of the Lord is the beginning (first step to) wisdom. A man cannot claim to be wise without fearing God. Contrary to popular opinions on this subject, to fear God is not to live in horrible terror of him. Many use their earthly experiences to judge this matter. The fear of God here talks about the awe of God. In other words, being in awe of God is the beginning of wisdom. This speaks more about honour and reverence for God.

The way to honour a thing is to revere and accept it. God gave his son Jesus to die for the sins of the whole world yet many reject him, while some that accept him do not know nor revere the work that He did. They still believe their sins can invalidate what Jesus has done with His blood. This is total dishonour to the finished works of Christ and to the personality of God.

Let your meditation be in fear (awe) of God.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

Further Study: Psalms 111:10

DAY 25

TOPIC: GOD MAKES A WAY OF ESCAPE

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 10:13

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

Temptations are common experiences of every believer. At one point or the other in our lives, we might be misconstrued, abused, slandered and the likes. We experience those because we live in a fallen earth and any man that doesn't encounter such is already in heaven with God.

The above text tells us that though we encounter temptations, God is faithful to make a way of escape for us. He's got an immutable character of keeping his promises to his children. Physically speaking, we might not have the capability to overcome trials and temptations but glory to God, we have the Spirit of God on our inside, and He is more than willing to help us overcome any situation and come out stronger.

God promises to provide a way of escape for the believer when he faces temptation in order for the believer not to fall into sin (Psalms 125:3).

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS

Further study: Psalms 23:3

DAY 26

TOPIC: BE STEADFAST!

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 15:58

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

Imagine what catastrophe it would have been if the apostles were not steadfast about the preaching of the gospel. What do you imagine? I imagine a darkness so thick it can be touched and felt hovering over the face of the earth. We must be aware that the eternity of many people lies in the words of our mouths. We must know that if we do not preach the gospel, many will be doomed to destruction. We cannot afford to relent on our efforts. We must be steadfast. We must stay the course.

We must be steadfast in the word, in prayers, in gathering with the brethren, in reaching out to the unsaved, and other good works. We must steadfastly labour in the Lord. In our steadfastness is great gain. For by steadfastness, we achieve great results, we grow and abound unto all good works. Much more wonderful is the truth that we will have eternal rewards for our labour in the Lord. It can never be in vain!

Dearly beloved, remain steadfast and unmovable, abounding in the work of the Lord, for your labour in the Lord is never in vain!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 27

TOPIC: NO EYE SERVICE

TEXT: Ephesians 6:5-7

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

‘5 Servants, be obedient to them that are [your] masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; 6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:’

As believers, it’s imperative we know that no aspect of our lives should be isolated from the consciousness of who we are in Christ. We are God’s servants; either we work in ministry or secularly. The epistles admonish us to do our secular work even as unto the Lord. It’s clear that as we do all things with our sonship in Christ in proper perspective, we demonstrate virtues that are honourable to the name of the Lord.

We are not to serve so we can be seen. Neither are we to serve so people can give us laurels, or so we can have applauses of men. We are to serve with sincerity as sons of God. For our Father is full of truth, it’s impossible to live a lie with Him in perspective. Let not people say of us “he doesn’t come to work except the boss is around to notice him”, or “she doesn’t help out unless the media will applaud her for it”. Such pattern of living is injurious to our personality in God. We must be found to serve even secularly as unto the Lord, for while the job is secular, the rewarder of our living on earth remains the Lord.

As we do this, we have boldness to preach the gospel to our fellow-workers; we have boldness to defend the gospel even amidst those who oppose it, for we have won them over without the word, by our demonstration of true service.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS.

DAY 28

TOPIC: I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES

TEXT: Psalms 77:14

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“14 Thou [art] the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people.”

One spectacular character of God that remains constant throughout all scriptures is that He does miracles. Right from the creation story throughout all dispensation to the manifestation of redemption and after it, is a display of a miraculous God. The earth naturally operates as it does now since the fall of man. Man has to overcome several challenges and he is subject to the limitations that naturally exist on earth. However, with the intervention of the supernatural, these natural limitations are stopped once in a while and hence we have miracles at such points.

We must never forget that the same God who parted the red sea such that there was a dry land in between that could accommodate multitudes; made clothes to grow as each Israelites grew in the wilderness; displaced a metal axe-head with a wood inside a water body; did several miracles in the gospel, and so on is now our Father. Glorious enough, He's not just with us but in us. He is an eternally constant God! If He has done miracles at any point in time, He can repeat the same again and even do many more.

The life of a believer is in fact a miracle! That a man believes a message and all at once He's eternally transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His (God's) dear Son and starts enjoying the privileges is a miracle. Such miracle is beyond the explanation of any human language that has evolved in the space of time.

As a son of God, you must believe in miracles and expect to see miracles manifest in times when you need to go beyond the present limitations on earth in order to get something done.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 29

TOPIC: LOVE IS OUR NATURE

TEXT: 1 John 4:7

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.”

We must know as believers that love is our very nature. It's our character. It must be deeply seated in our minds that loving ourselves and others is not a difficult thing for us to do. This is because love is our source. God, our very own Father, is love (1 John 4:8). Hence, we are people born of love; a kind of love that is beyond emotions and the senses.

This love is what fuels a passion for evangelism in us. It is this love that makes us rebel against whatever we find around us that is not of God. It is this love, God's love, within us that energizes and invigorates us, enabling us to do good to men who haven't known this love when they do evil to us. It is this very love that made God deliver Jesus up for the sins of the whole world that we (believers) were hewn from.

We must know this. It must sink into the nooks and crannies of our minds! God is love, and so are we; for we are his children and have his very own life flowing through us! We are believers; a people made of love and for love. Love is our nature!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

Further Study: 1 John 3:23; 1 John 4:11; 1 John 4:21

DAY 30

TOPIC: FOR GOOD

TEXT: ROMANS 14:4

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

'4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.'

The above text exposes us to God's intention for governance. His intention is that governance serves for our good. This is very important that we know. The word "good" as rendered in the Greek is the word "agathos"; it means "benefit". Governance wasn't intended to be a tool for destruction, corruption, killings etc. We must know the reason God instructs us to be subject to leadership. His instruction is not to terrorize us or make us feel inferior to any one in power.

However, His instruction stems from order; that we may benefit from leadership as they serve us. We saw leaders in the bible that wreaked havoc on the citizens, we saw people pray and God intervening by sending a man (such was the case of the Israelites in Egypt). We saw Queen Esther use her association with the king to deliver the Jews from the extermination of that race as planned by a man in government at that time. We saw the early church resisting the government as they continued preaching the gospel in spite of orders against this.

Thus, it's very clear, leadership was not put in place to rain down evil on us or subject us to tyranny. We must stand up against evil from those in governance, for the will of God is that they be for our benefit, and not ruin. As we do this, we see the will of God brought into effect in our lives and we enjoy a peaceable life in all prosperity and love.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

Further study: 1 Timothy 2:1-2