



THE REFINERY DEVOTIONAL

(A monthly devotional of The Refinery Church)



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

October, 2016.

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

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

Blessings.

DAY 1

TOPIC: QUENCH THE FIERY DARTS OF THE ENEMY

TEXT: EPHESIANS 6:16

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked”

The above text tells us to take on the shield of faith in order to be able to quench the enemy's fiery darts. This shield is meant to stand against the enemy's ploy and prevent it from harming us.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 tells us that though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but they are mighty through God to the pulling down of stronghold. The shield of faith discussed here is not a physical one, else it could get burnt by the enemy's darts; rather it's spiritual.

We can take on the shield of faith by praying in the spirit. When we do so, we speak mysteries and things are wrought in realm of the spirit. When we speak in tongues, we got victory over situations. When we pray in tongues, a shield goes up all around us. Hallelujah!

Beloved, we are of God and greater is he that's in us than he that's in the world. So, when the enemy rears its ugly head or throws its darts at you, you quench it by praying in the spirit.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

Further Study: 1 John 4:4

DAY 2

TOPIC: WE ARE TRUE WORSHIPPERS!

TEXT: JOHN 4:24

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

The above text has often been misinterpreted by many. Some say “true worshippers” are those who close their eyes during “worship sessions” in church. Others say they are those who are living a life of holiness. Some others say much more ridiculously that “there are some who worship God in the spirit but not in the truth.”

By proper bible study, we understand that the word “and” in the Greek is the word “Kai.” And most times when it is used in the New Testament writings, it is not as a conjunction but an explanation of the aforementioned. It actually means “which is.” Hence, we can read the text as:

“...worship him in spirit which is in truth.” Therefore, whoever worships in spirit worships in truth also.

Moreover, while it is true that we must allow the holiness which is eternally seated in our spirits be made manifest in our conduct, it isn't true that it's a prerequisite for worship. We must allow scriptures interpret themselves and never read our thoughts into them. The Apostle Paul helps us out on this matter in Philippians 3:3:

“For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”

Here, Paul gives a clear-cut exegesis to that very often misinterpreted verse. He says it in such very lucid terms that it will take someone to help anyone misunderstand this. He says it clearly: “we are the circumcision, which (who) worship God in the spirit...” In order words, we are the very ones spoken of in John 4:24. We are those who worship God in spirit which is in truth.

Therefore, we need not have our feathers ruffled at the mention of the words “true worshippers.” We need not ask funny questions such as: “Am I worthy? Can I give him true

worship?" You are a believer in Christ Jesus! Who else can if not you? It's not a function of the songs, your actions, and inactions. No! It's because of his eternal Spirit which dwells in you forevermore.

Lift your hands therefore boldly always. For you are a son of God; you are a true worshipper!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 3

TOPIC: THE BLESSEDNESS OF PRAYING

TEXT: EPHESIANS 6:18-19

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,”

Prayer is one of the privileges that a believer has as a way of enjoying the vitality of the fellowship he has with the father. Amazingly, prayer is also a responsibility for a believer in Christ; the bible and particularly the epistles are full of instructions for believers to pray either individually or amid saints while fellowshiping.

As simple as the act of praying is, one may be quick to lose grip on the importance of praying; hence, such soon forgets that prayer is God’s wisdom given to the man in Christ. To neglect praying is to choose to walk in foolishness by throwing away God’s wisdom. Practically speaking, a believer will not know what he is missing until he returns to the act of praying. The place of prayer is the place where believers become bold in the use of the abilities they already have in Christ. A typical example is the story of the early disciples in Acts 4:31. After they had prayed, they had more boldness to profess the word, even before the authorities that threatened them.

Have you been so engrossed that you have forsaken the place of prayer? It is time to return! Whenever we don’t pray, we leave events to time and chance; we give the devil the chance to use the precious times that we could have redeemed for his evil schemes. Yield to this call today and walk in boldness!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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Further Study: Acts 4: 1 -32.

DAY 4

TOPIC: WE LACK NO GIFT!

TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 14:1

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

“I Follow after charity, and desire spiritual [gifts], but rather that ye may prophesy.”

The Apostle Paul exhorts us to seek spiritual gifts, and then says we should prophesy. The reality of that text is simple; if a man is to seek spiritual gift, he is to seek prophecy. For, prophecy is the gift while prophesying is the act. Apostle Paul never addressed us as people who are lacking any spiritual gifts; rather he addresses our use of those gifts.

The whole chapter in consideration is replete with spiritual abilities in expressions. Not at a time in this chapter are we to pray to have spiritual gifts. Rather, our prayer is to stir us up to express the spiritual gifts in our regenerated spirit. It's very important to note this sharp difference. This chapter of the bible is not asking us to go on some fasting and prayers so God will give us spiritual gifts, a thousand times no!

The Apostle Paul reaffirms his words in verse twenty-six of this chapter, that when we gather, each and every one of us has a tongue, an interpretation, a revelation, a psalm etc. The apostle reaffirms to us that we have these things, thus let us use them to edification. Let's use them all to build up the saints, not tear down anyone, or usurp authority (as some women in the Corinthian church did), we are to be focused on edification.

Isn't it awesome to know we have all these glorious gifts in us just waiting for expressions? Let's go all the way and maximize them!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 5

TOPIC: BE FILLED WITH JOY

TEXT: ACTS 13:52

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.”

In spite of the persecutions by the Jews; the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Ghost. They were not moved by the persecution but were conscious of the Holy Ghost. The word “filled” in our text is the word *‘pleroo’* in the Greek which means “to furnish, imbue or endow.” In other words, the disciples were endowed, furnished or leveled up with joy by the Holy Ghost.

The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. The believer is in the kingdom of God. He is not void of the Spirit. He has the joy of the Holy Ghost forever. He is then expected to give a physical expression to the joy by rejoicing.

To rejoice is to physically leap for joy. It is a physical reaction to the joy on the inside. The believer is not to be overwhelmed with sorrows brought by the troubles faced in this world. He or She is to be constantly aware of the fullness of joy that is on the inside of him or her. The epistles clearly instruct that we should rejoice forevermore (1 Thessalonian 5:18).

It is noteworthy that our rejoicing is not conditional. We are not to rejoice when we have money or when we are making good grades in school. We are to rejoice in all circumstances, and at all times.

Choose to be filled with joy by the Holy Ghost!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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Further Study: 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Philippians 4:4; 2 Corinthians 6:10

DAY 6

TOPIC: CHIEF SERVANT!

TEXT: MATTHEW 20:25-28

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

The reference in consideration reports a power tussle between the disciples. Some sought to be the leaders of the group. They had been told many times of the sufferings that will befall the lord and his departure to heaven, thus there was a need for leadership to emerge amidst them.

This tussle amidst them was not of God, and so the Lord reproves them; “it’s the gentiles’ method of governance or leadership to impose themselves over others, to subject others and abuse their authorities.” This is peculiar to our modern world.

The Lord reveals his style of leadership; service! They need not fight or argue over who will emerge leader, they needed to have seen the Lord serve them and die for them, and thus be propelled to labour in service amidst themselves.

Imagine a place where everyone labours to serve the other; a place where one seeks aggressively the good of the other and strives for his or her blessing also. Imagine what goodness and love and joy and peace will burgeon in such a place, what glory will spring up more and more. The Lord made sure that they know the greatest amidst them is the one that serves the most (a very great paradigm shift).

The Lord, our God, showed us the true essence of leadership; selfless service, to the point of death, for a people who neither deserved nor merited it. The same Lord inhabits us today. As we seek to be a blessing to others, we see a glorious spark of goodness and joy in our church and the world at large.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 7

TOPIC: IT'S A MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION!

TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-19

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”

Many have set their foot on a wrong mission. They do exactly the opposite of what God has sent us to do. Often do we hear people shout into their megaphones and microphones: “you wretched sinner, God is against you! Very soon, God's wrath shall be poured out upon you!”

However, this is not what we have been sent to do. We have not been sent to shout death and condemnation into the ears of people. Not at all! We have been called as “preachers of reconciliation.” What is the message of reconciliation? It is very clearly seen in 2 Corinthians 5:19; “...that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them...” Hallelujah! The message of reconciliation is that God is not imputing men's trespasses unto them.

We are not to shout death and condemnation upon people. What we shout in every corner and every place is life and righteousness. We are ministers of the new covenant; preachers of righteousness. We have received this wonderful ministry from the Lord. It's a ministry of reconciliation!

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Further Study: 2 Corinthians 3:6; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

DAY 8

TOPIC: YOU'VE GOT JESUS' PEACE!

TEXT: JOHN 14:27

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give i unto you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid.”

Jesus was about to be die and leave his disciples, but before that happened, he bequeathed them ‘his peace.’ He made a contrast with his peace and the peace that the world gives.

The peace that the world gives is short-lived and it emanates from pleasure, material possessions and the likes. However, Jesus’ peace is the peace of God which passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7). His peace meets the wants of the soul. It’s substantial and durable. It’s eternal. Glory!

The good news is that the peace that he gave is embedded in the Holy Spirit and he lives inside of us, forever. He’s never on vacation. He never goes AWOL (absent without leave). Therefore when faced with troubling situations, we need not fear but activate the peace of God on our inside by praying in the Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!

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Further Study: Philippians 4:7

DAY 9

TOPIC: THE BELIEVER'S LOVE WALK

TEXT: MATTHEW 5:44-46

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?”

In our daily activities, we encounter lots of people with varying cultural, social, and religious backgrounds. Such varying backgrounds make people have different ideologies and perspective about life. This is the major reason why we cannot but have misunderstandings with people around us once in a while. If we do not take care, such misunderstandings may eventually lead us into picking offenses with fellow humans. In fact, some believers take it up to the level of keeping grudges and hence making fellow humans their enemies.

It is paramount at this point to yield to Jesus' counsel to the multitudes in the text above. Jesus instructed multitudes who were yet to have the Holy Ghost within them to love their enemies and pay good to those who do evil to them, how much we who have the Holy Spirit within us? In fact, Jesus emphasized in Matthew 22:36-40. That the whole law and the prophet is anchored on love.

As a believer, one of the things you must know is that offences may arise anytime, but you must never allow them to stay with you. You must never react with offence anytime anyone offends you. Such times are the best of times to just walk in love. Remind yourself of how bad a sinner you were, yet God forgave you without waiting for you to ask for it. Remind yourself that you're a love being! Hatred is not your nature, you are born of love! Be deliberate about meditating on these till such offence cannot find a spot to stay in you!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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Further Study: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.

DAY 10

TOPIC: WE MINISTER THE NEW TESTAMENT!

TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 3:5-6

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; 6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”

The Bible is clear on what God has enabled us to minister; it's the new covenant and not the letter. Many have erroneously preached that the phrase “the letter” here refers to the words in the Bible. But, that's not true! For, it is by the words in the Bible that we are able to renew our minds and thus are transformed. What does "the letter" refer to then? We'll find our answer in the next verse 2 Corinthians 3:7:

“But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:”

The letter is the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones. It's the old covenant; the Law! That's the letter! It ministers death. It doesn't minister life. No, not at all!

Beloved, God has qualified (enabled) us to minister the new covenant. It's what we have been called to do! The new covenant is the ministration of the Spirit. It ministers righteousness and life. It's God's will for us to minister the new covenant. It gives him great joy to see us walk in his will for us. Every time we minister righteousness and life to people, we are assured that we have not strayed away from God's will for us. We are confident of this: “yea, in his will we remain still; executing his plan with all fervency.” We are able ministers of the new covenant!

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Further Study: 2 Corinthians 3:5-18

DAY 11

TOPIC: STAY CHRIST-CONSCIOUS

TEXT: ROMANS 8:6

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“For to be carnally minded is death: but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

It is common knowledge that what we are conscious of is what we manifest. God wants us to stay conscious of who we are and what we have in Christ Jesus.

The enemy's trick is to distract you and keep you focused on your condition; but glory to God, we have been made conquerors through Jesus' finished work.

You might be sick in your body; you might even feel the symptoms of a disease and already have a doctor's report. But beloved, God desires that you be in health and prosper, he's willing to heal you, be conscious of that.

Your business might be facing rough times and you might be at the verge of losing all you've ever laboured for. But beloved, be conscious of God's favour that's upon you and see your business make outstanding progress.

You might have wayward children for whom you have done everything humanly possible so that they will do right, yet still everything seems not to be working. There's a power at work on the inside of you to turn every situation around for your good. Speak God's word over your children's lives by making positive declarations daily and you'll see the changes that you seek.

Every single time of the day, you've got to be conscious of the power of God on your inside. Never lose sight of who you are in Christ. Glory to God!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

Further Study: Ephesians 3:20

DAY 12

TOPIC: BE FILLED WITH JOY (2)

TEXT: ACTS 13:52

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.”

In the first part of this devotional, we learnt that the believer has joy. He is not going to have it in heaven. He has it already. By this, the believer is instructed to rejoice. We shall now consider the result that joy produces for the believer. The scripture affirms that the Joy of the Lord is our strength. So we see that joy produces strength. In other words, when the believer rejoices, he is strengthened. Isn't this beautiful?

In our present world, many get addicted to drugs and alcohol in order to get off their worries and gain strength to overcome the difficult situations that they face. They often tag it “getting high.” This has failed them, for they find no strength in it. But, in Christ, there is so much strength to carry on. The believer gets more strength by rejoicing. It doesn't have to make sense to the natural man for it is by the Spirit.

Today, choose to rejoice despite the challenges and difficult situations. Get serious about it. And as you do, you would feel peace and calmness from the inside. Great ideas would pop up in your mind and you will find strength to keep going. Do not despise rejoicing, therein lies great service

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Further Study: Nehemiah 8:10; Romans 15:13; 1Peter 4:13

DAY 13

TOPIC: THE POWER OF 'BUT'

TEXT: ACTS 12:1-5

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

“1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth [his] hands to vex certain of the church. 2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. 3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) 4 And when he had apprehended him, he put [him] in prison, and delivered [him] to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. 5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.”

The beginning of this chapter unveils to us certain happenings in the early church and their reactions to those things. We saw a king abuse his authority to the pleasing of some population that was against the gospel. He set out to kill major figures in the early church and succeeded with Apostle James. In our present world, this would be similar to nations who abhor the gospel of Christ, throw preachers in prison, execute anyone with a bible etc.

We saw the church keep quiet at first, doing nothing in this situation, perhaps for acceptance that “this may be God’s will.” However, when this affliction intensified, we saw them use the power of ‘but’; they prayed!

Our prayer is a rebellion against the status-quo. Our prayer is a rebellion against the plan of the devil. We have authority in Christ, but if we do not enforce this authority, we will allow the devil have a free day preying on us.

Today, we choose to stand to enforce the victory we have been given in Christ Jesus! We engage the power of “BUT” and see great results follow, as we see in the latter part of the chapter in consideration.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 14

TOPIC: FAITH SPEAKS!

TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:13

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;”

The text above is clear; we are not waiting to have the spirit of faith. We have the spirit of faith as we speak. It's the spirit of Christ in us; he is the spirit of faith. We are not lacking in faith. We do not have a faith problem. For we have the Holy Ghost and he evokes faith from within us.

This is the exact reason why we must speak. It is with this faith that we engineer our world. It is with it that we create events. Faith speaks. It doesn't keep mute. When we keep mute on issues, we are not exercising our faith. Yes, we have faith; but we are not exercising it. We are not allowing for the power within us to burgeon outside. The Apostle Paul reiterates this to us in the book of Romans. Romans 10:6:

“But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)”

Faith speaks! If an unclean thought such as “you are not righteous” springs up from any corner, we must raise our voices above it and let our faith speak: “Untrue! I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus!” That's how to exercise our faith! If we find someone around us inflicted with a pain or disease, we must speak out our faith: “You are not allowed in this body, go out now in the name of Jesus!” That's an exercise of faith!

When we want to exercise our faith, we need not look for many words, we just need to speak. For our faith is sure; it will yield. It is the very faith of Christ! Speak now dearly beloved, speak out boldly! We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, ‘I believed, and therefore have I spoken;’ we also believe, and therefore speak!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNES.

DAY 15

TOPIC: STAGGER NOT!

TEXT: ROMANS 4:20-21

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”

One thing that is so desirous in the attitude of Abraham to the promise of God is that he was fully persuaded that God was going to fulfill His promise.

God promised to bless Abraham (Genesis 17:2-7). The epistles clearly reveal that this promise of the seed refers to Jesus. And much more, as many as have received Christ are partakers of the blessings of Abraham. The blessing here does not refer to the physical prosperity of Abraham but the promise of the Holy Ghost. By this we see that the promise of God to Abraham is fulfilled in Christ, and that the believer is the substance of this promise.

We, having the Holy Ghost, also hope for the resurrection of our bodies. We must believe that this (the resurrection of our bodies) is sure. God promised us and he will surely make it happen. We are not to be disturbed whether we will make rapture or not. The rapture, or in the proper sense, the resurrection of the body is for the saints. We rejoice in this hope. We don't doubt it. For he that started the good work in us would surely finish it. Dearly beloved, stagger not. Stand firmly in the hope that you have in Christ. It is a glorious hope.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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Further Study: Hebrews 6:14-15; Philippians 1:6

DAY 16

TOPIC: PRAY FOR GOVERNMENT

TEXT: 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

“1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and [for] all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”

Apostle Paul admonished Timothy (his son in the faith) to make praying for leaders in government a priority, for the sake of peace which will also favour the preaching of the gospel (godliness).

This exhortation is clear; God doesn't love the killings, anarchy, sufferings, poverty etc that plague the world; for He wills that peace reigns in our nations. When the evil one stirs war, death, terrorism etc in our countries, we are not to fold our arms and keep mute, we are to pray, and use our spiritual authority to influence the happenings around us.

We should note that this prayer is for the sakes of the gospel, not greed, or sentiments, or political factions. In our present world, it's not strange to find preachers become prayer contractors for politicians, for money sakes. This is wrong and shameful. Our prayers are based on God's agenda for the world; that all men may hear the gospel, receive it and be saved.

We must see the woes that befall our nation as the devil's wiles to hinder the movement and reception of the gospel. We must pray and see glorious results follow!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 17

TOPIC: THE NAME OF JESUS

TEXT: MARK 16:17-18

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”

The verse above tells us in a very clear and simple language that these signs which follow the believer are wrought in the name of Jesus. The phrase “name of Jesus” as used in the above verse doesn't just refer to a nomenclature; there are many folks right now who bear the name “Jesus” in several countries of the world. However, there's a specificity to our Jesus; he is the one who died and rose again for us.

Moreover, the word rendered as “name” in the text above is the Greek word “onoma.” It implies “authority; character.” When we proclaim the name of Jesus, our minds must be soaked in the consciousness of his authority. We can heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out devils, and speak with tongues, in His name. His authority is ours; it's ours to use. We see an example of a man who used the name with all boldness in the book of Acts. Let's see Acts 3:6: *“Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.”*

Here, Peter makes a profound statement: “...such as I have give I thee...” In other words, he says that he has an authority. It's his! We have the name of Jesus. We have the same authority he has. It is ours now. We must speak the name boldly. For it's not just a nomenclature; it is power in our mouths. Whenever we see a lame, a blind, a deaf, a demon-possessed person, we heal them and cast the demon out in the name of Jesus! We must not be shy about exercising our authority. We must use it with all boldness. We have a name; we have an authority. It's ours now!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

Further Study: Mark 16:17-18

DAY 18

TOPIC: PROPHECY!

TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 14:1-5

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

“1 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual [gifts], but rather that ye may prophesy. 2 For he that speaketh in an [unknown] tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth [him]; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. 3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men [to] edification, and exhortation, and comfort. 4 He that speaketh in an [unknown] tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. 5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater [is] he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.”

The Apostle Paul stirs us up in our use of spiritual gifts; he exhorts us to pray in unknown tongues, and lets us know that as we pray in tongues, we edify ourselves, we are built up; we are invigorated!

When we pay careful examination to the chapter in question, we see that before Apostle Paul addresses the issue of prophecy (edification of the church), he focuses on individual edification (via speaking in unknown tongues). It's thus instructive that one who is not edified will not edify the church.

Therefore, the major step to prophesy is individual edification. Only when we are full of Christ can we express Him that others may be edified. It's a mind blowing reality, that in contrast with the normal physical body which is fed by the food that comes into us, in contrast, our spiritual man waxes stronger in expression as we speak. The more we speak, the more we are filled. It's instructive to know we are filled with Christ the more we express Him in unknown tongues.

What a sweet mystery! We maximize this and enjoy all the benefits to this spiritual expression.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 19

TOPIC: PROPHECY (2)

TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 14:1-5

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

We have considered already the basic step to prophesy in the local church, which is individual edification via speaking in tongues. We go further to the expression of prophesy (exhortation, edification and comfort).

The epistles did a very good job defining correct prophecy to us. It reveals it's not some condemnation tactics; it's not some opportunity for anyone to stand and speak ill of his brother or sister, it's not an opportunity to expose a non-existent fury of God out of ignorance, it's not an opportunity to breed fear in people.

In many local churches, whatever they call prophecy is an utterance of doom; it breaks people, scares them, and makes them vulnerable to the assault of the devil. However, the prophecy we operate in the local church is aimed at the edification (building up), exhortation (stirring up to action) and comfort (consolation) of the believer. If anyone stands up in a local church or believers' gathering and begins to yell terror, horror, fear, anger etc on God's beloved people, we must shut such a man up, for he or she walks disorderly.

We are empowered to prophesy and be a huge source of edification to the body of Christ. Let's maximize it. As we do this, we experience a church, healthy and built up in all good things of Christ.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 20

TOPIC: NO CONDEMNATION

TEXT: ROMANS 8:1

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“There is, therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

The word “condemnation” in this text is not talking about not feeling guilt when one has done something bad. The Greek word translated as condemnation here is “*katakrima*.” It refers to “an adverse sentence, verdict or eternal damnation.”

The present reality of the believer is that he is no longer condemned by God. He has passed the condemnation of death and he has received justification unto life.

This truth is not conditional. The latter part of that text is not to say that that the man in Christ will not be condemned if only he walks after the Spirit and not after the flesh. There are no “ifs” in this matter. It only explains further that the man in Christ walks not after the flesh but after the Spirit. In verse 9 of our scripture text, Apostle Paul emphasized more that the believer is not in the flesh, but in the Spirit.

That the believer is no longer condemned by God does not mean that his conscience cannot blame him when he does something wrong. However, this blame or condemnation is not from God. A believer’s conscience has been purged by the blood of Christ to serve the living God.

The believer is never to forget that even if his heart blames him, God is greater than his heart. This implies that the word of God which is “NO MORE CONDEMNATION” is greater than what the heart speaks.

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Further Study: John 5:22-24; 1 John 3:20; 1 Corinthians 6:17

DAY 21

TOPIC: NEVER IGNORE PROPHECIES

TEXT: ISAIAH 55:10-11

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper [in the thing] whereto I sent it.”

Prophecies are God’s spoken words to us! They come to us in spiritual meetings and fellowships of the brethren. Many times, we can be tempted to lose sight of the potency of prophecies, and disregard them as though they were man’s mere words. Although prophecies are often given by men, we must never forget that they are inspired of God whose knowledge is not limited to the confines of time.

Prophecies are so powerful that the whole story of man’s redemption in Christ is a play out of God’s prophecy in Genesis 3:15. Even though it seemingly took long, God kept the integrity of His word. No wonder Paul instructed Timothy never to neglect the gift he received by prophecy (1 Timothy 4:14). He also instructed the Corinthian Church never to neglect prophesying.

In several portions of the bible, the potency and the eternal strength of God’s word is emphasized again and again (Numbers 23:19; Psalms 12:6). In the midst of several challenges and difficulties that try to suggest God’s word as a lie, you must never forget that God is not a man that he should lie. His eternal personality is anchored on the integrity of his word! If he has promised, he’s ever willing, able and faithful to perform it! He will never deny himself. His word has never failed; it won’t start failing with you. Lay hold on those ignored prophecies, and never stop trusting.

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Further Study: Psalm 119

DAY 22

TOPIC: NEITHER MALE NOR FEMALE

TEXT: GALATIANS 3:28

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

“28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Many say the bible doesn't always record the women population in most cases. They say this from the background of the Law of Moses. Many also say women are not to hold any spiritual office because of Apostle Paul's admonition to the Corinthian church based on a background of women usurping authority over men in that particular church.

They are willingly blind to the very many ways God has found women vessels for his great wonders. Time will fail to speak of Ruth, Esther, Rebecca, Sarah, Elizabeth, Mary the Mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene etc.

It's also worthy of note that on that great day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God was not segregative. For they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke in divine utterances including Mary the mother of Jesus and other women present (Acts 1:14; Acts 2:1-4).

The text in consideration is very clear; in Christ Jesus, there is neither male nor female. We are all one in Christ. In Christ is the image of humanity redeemed. All are one, no superiority, no inferiority.

If anyone still feels inferior today based on his or her gender, let him or her look into Christ and see oneness, perfection, glory and be filled with Godly confidence, living high with power and strength in this life and that which is to come.

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DAY 23

TOPIC: SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

TEXT: 2 TIMOTHY 2:3-5

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of [this] life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. 5 And if a man also strive for masteries, [yet] is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.”

It's a clear fact that the world is becoming busier by the day with lots of activities, many of which are necessary and productive. Undeniably, believers physically live in this sphere of life, and therefore, are involved in these activities which apply to several ramifications of our lives; career, academics, finances, business, family, etc. Added to these is the advent of the social media which, although has lots of advantages, could be a distraction in many ways.

Amid all these activities is the need for a believer to participate in both individual and collective spiritual activities such as bible study, prayers, evangelism, fellowshiping with the saints, and lots more. The discipline to be actively engaged in these spiritual activities without lagging behind in other important life activities is often a challenge to most believers. In fact, it's often as though there is almost no way to be effective in all.

This is why Paul's instruction to Timothy is very useful to us! We all need to understand that a believer is a soldier; such description can hardly be used without a sense discipline and endurance attached. At this juncture, I dare to say that there may never be a time where a believer will have all the time for all these necessary activities without discipline. Hence, the key to effectiveness is “priority” and gaining mastery over your body. You must prioritize activities based on their importance; spiritual before physical. You will need to stay up late in the night, starve your body of pleasure, etc. You have all it takes within you to live a healthy Christian life (Philippians 4:13), straighten up and live effectively!

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DAY 24

TOPIC: LOVE IS THE KEY!

TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

“I Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become [as] sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.”

The Apostle Paul admonishes us to pursue love, seek after charity (love), and be fervent in our manifestation of love. He lets us know the importance of this in the use of spiritual gifts. When we see physically impotent folks, are we moved with compassion?

When we see people in confusion, are we moved with love to give them a word of knowledge or wisdom that will give them a light, a hope, an assurance of God’s goodness? When we meet people who are not saved, our Muslim friends, atheist friends etc, are we moved with compassion for their eternal end? Are we moved with love to preach to them and activate spiritual gifts that will make their coldness give way to the love in Christ?

When we meet people who are starving and hunger, do we seek to meet their physical needs and exhort them to honest labour; ignite hope and faith in them that they may be on their toes, to live an abundant life which God wills for them?

Apostle Paul unveils to us that our first passion shouldn’t be to speak in tongues or interpret or heal etc. Our passion should be to edify ourselves in God’s love (Jude 20-21) and edify others.

We are to be pulsated by God’s love, not a desperate attempt to show off or to impress, for spiritual gifts are the expression of God’s love to us and the world. Let’s be zealous with love and we shall always have cause to bless lives with God’s gifts within us.

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DAY 25

TOPIC: TOTALLY FORGIVEN

TEXT: COLOSSIANS 1:14

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“...in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins...”

God does not keep any record of our sins; however grievous they are or they might be because Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was sufficient enough to pay for our past, present, and future sins.

Most people have the impression that it is only the sins that they committed right from when they were born until the day they became born-again that are forgiven. So right after they become born-again, they begin to confess their sins daily because they think if they don't, they'll never be forgiven.

There's nothing anyone can do to wash away his or her sins that Jesus hasn't already done on the cross. It is not by our weekly confession in church on Sundays. We have redemption through his **blood**.

You've got to be consistent in your believing that you have total forgiveness because of Jesus' blood. So, instead of being conscious of your sins and condemn yourself every single time you commit a wrong, just thank the Lord for his perfect sacrifice on the cross that's cleansed all your sins and live a victorious life. Hallelujah!

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Further Study: Romans 3:25; Romans 8:1

DAY 26

TOPIC: GOD WANTS YOU WHOLE

TEXT: JOHN 5:5-9

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? 7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. 8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. 9 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.”

The passage above is a very familiar one, which many sermons have been taught from. Our emphasis today, however, is God's ability to make whole.

In Jesus Christ, we adequately know God. While Jesus lived physically on earth, it was his will that all he met were made whole. Therefore, we know from this that this is what God wants for us: wholeness.

It's very important that we perfectly know that God wants us whole. While it is true that the context of this scripture speaks of physical healing, it would be illogical to think that God, who wants us whole health-wise, would will something else for us in other areas of our lives.

This understanding, that God wants us whole, will enable us rebel against whatever is not in conformity to God's will in our lives. God's will for us is good, and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2). He wants wholeness for us. We must be fully sure about this, and walk unwaveringly in the light of same.

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Further Study: Romans 12:2

DAY 27

TOPIC: GOD'S LOVE CONSTRAINTS US

TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-15

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15 And [that] he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”

Very many times, wrong approaches do produce seemingly good results. We hence get caught up the euphoria of the ‘results’ that we care less about cross checking if the approaches are correct. This scenario is a typical picture of what we have in many local assemblies today. We often slip into philosophies, wrong image about God’s personality, men’s ideas, e.t.c. All these we do, so as to keep men in the “fear” of God. Very often, we end up painting God as dreadful to believers; hence losing grip on the Father-son relationship that exists in the Father’s kingdom.

The earlier we yield to biblical advice, the better the results we’ll achieve! Most importantly, enjoy the blessedness and fulfillment that comes with simply obeying God. Believers are sons with the “willingness” and the “ability” to do God’s will dwelling within them. Philippians 2:12-13. They don’t need to be threatened as animals to do what is already pleasing to their spirit. What constraints believers from living lawlessly is an understanding of the love of the father. God is not a fiery fire alongside being love to His sons. There are no two sides to God, God is not a coin! God is 100% love personified.

If you happen to be a leader over believers, ensure you establish them in God’s love till all fear is gone. This is the sure way to making people live in the absolute reference of God. Ensure you do things using God’s method.

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DAY 28

TOPIC: THE HEAD OF EVERY MAN

TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 11:3-4

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

“3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman [is] the man; and the head of Christ [is] God. 4 Every man praying or prophesying, having [his] head covered, dishonoureth his head.”

The world is buzzing with a rebellion from women. The world is buzzing with pressures on women while underemphasizing the leadership of men. It's not strange to hear people blame any woman for the ruins in her family. A lot has been said about women abuse, women deprivation etc. The church, in a bit to settle these issues emphasizes more and more that women should submit to their husbands. I have seen firsthand the woes some men have brought their families via wrong leadership while the women are forced to submit to such tyranny.

The reference verses above are very clear,; in the family, submission starts from men. A man must submit to the love of Christ, the passion in Christ, the humility in him, the service in him, the men must model submission to their home. For if we humble ourselves before the Lord and take of his love, his armour of sacrifice and goodness, it shall be easy to admonish women to submit.

We cannot go right to a tree whose disease emanates from its root and treat only its leaves over and over, we have to go through the roots and let the healing begin from there. The Lord wills for our families to be healthy and fruitful, but we must submit to his leadership structure. As we admonish women to submit, we must emphasize men to submit more and more to their head (The Lord Jesus), and our homes will grow in all love and abundance via this.

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DAY 29

TOPIC: HUMILITY

TEXT: 1 TIMOTHY 6:3-4

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,”

The bible was written by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost and it is translated into different languages for the reader's comprehension. While it is good to look up bible words from the English dictionary, it is however important to know that the right meaning of the words used in the bible are understood better by reading them in the context which they are used.

It is very clear from our text that the man who consents not to the doctrine of our Lord Jesus is proud. Hence, the word humility has a contextual meaning which is agreeing with the word of God. Many believers have a dangerous attitude of not agreeing with what the word of God says about them. When the word says “as He is so we are on earth,” they still see themselves as inferior to God. They call themselves slaves of God when God has made them joint heirs with Christ. Their motive for doing this could be in the bid to be humble. The word of God is clear that when we agree with the word, then we are humble. Jesus' humility was revealed by him accepting his equality with God.

As you study the word today, choose to be humble by agreeing with what the word says about you as a believer. The true reality about who you are is seen in Christ, to disapprove this is to be proud.

Confession: I am who God says I am. I do what the Word says I can do.

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Further Study: Philippians 2:6; John 10: 30-33

DAY 30

TOPIC: NEITHER JEW NOR GENTILE

TEXT: GALATIANS 3:28

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

“28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

All through the bible, we see God honour faith above tribes and ethnicity. While it is true that salvation was predestined via the Jews to the rest of the world, it's however profound to know that without faith, no man can please God (Hebrews 11:6). The scripture is replete with all who pleased God through faith, such as Abel, Noah, Abraham etc (all these are individual folks who believed God without any credit to their tribe or descent).

Apostle Paul's letter to the Galatians reveals God has no partiality on his acceptance of any man. Anyone who believes in the Lord Jesus is God's son. Neither Jew nor Gentile avails anything! In Christ, all shades of racism are silenced! All manner of prejudices are silenced! All manner of tribal conflicts are solved in Christ. Some churches today, lacking this understanding, run a tribal fellowship; they step down on people of other tribes, allowing only a particular tribe lead them. Such politics is abomination and alien to the reality we have in Christ Jesus.

In all Christ, all men count as one, as joint-heirs with the Lord; we boast in him only. All inferiority and superiority is silenced! Oneness is exemplified, and good works are seen and felt from here to the ends of the world!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 31

TOPIC: HE WILL RAISE YOU UP!

TEXT: JOHN 6:38-40

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

In the text above, Jesus clearly points out to the multitudes that came to hear him that his goal is to fulfill the will of He that sent him. In fact, in John 4:34, Jesus boldly declared that his meat is to do the will of his father. Along the same lines, he clearly emphasized what the will is. The Father's will is for him to raise up all that has been given to him without losing any. This blessed promise is for every believer today.

As a guarantee for this promise (2 Corinthians 1:21), Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit who will reside in us forever. (John 14:16). No wonder each time the epistle reminds believers of this promise, they are encouraged to comfort themselves with such a wonderful promise. 1 Thessalonians 4:18.

Halleluyah! Our saviour has promised, He will not lose us, This is the Father's will and Jesus is in perfect unity with the Father. He will raise us up on the last day!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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