



# THE REFINERY DEVOTIONAL

A monthly devotional of The Refinery Church



## JULY, 2017.

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

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**Blessings.**

## **DAY 1**

### **TOPIC: WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

**TEXT: Romans 5:1**

*“Therefore bring justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

From the above verse, we find out that which is ours through Jesus Christ; we have peace. It shows clearly to us how our relationship with God is like; it is peaceful. This choice of words our text-verse is very definite. This means that our relationship with God cannot be different from what is stated above. It is quite very precise that we have peace; hence, we are not troubled or in discomfort with God. On this note, we are assured that peace is of God. We are confident that rest is in God, and not otherwise.

Apostle Paul unveils to us why we have peace with God; it is because we have been justified by faith through Jesus Christ. The word “justify” means “to render innocent, just or free”. This, therefore, means that we are just or innocent before God, free of all charges or guilt. Owing to the aforesaid, we are so confident, and fully assured that we are guiltless, that we are not condemned, and that we are without fault before Him; and so, we have peace with God. Note, however, that we were justified by faith. Therefore, it was not by our own works that we were justified. Hence, it is through none of our works that we have peace with God. So quit struggling, quit labouring to please God; quit trying to have what already is yours. Jesus already brought you into a perfect position of peace with God; he already declared you guiltless.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GODS GOODNESS!**

## **DAY 2**

### **TOPIC: EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH!**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

**TEXT: Jude 1:3**

*“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”*

The Apostle Jude writes unto exhortation in the text above. His words aren't one to take lightly or loosely. He exhorted us in the light of what should be our disposition towards all that concerns the Christian faith. The phrase "the faith" here is descriptive of all that concerns the Christian faith; that is, all what the apostles taught and practised, as delivered unto them by the Lord. He lets us know in the clearest manner that we must contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

There are those today who would rather sit down and keep quiet when the arrows of heresies and unsound doctrines are being shot at believers by ministers of God who haven't been diligent with studying the word. Apostle Jude tells us that such attitude is not one to emulate. He explains to us that we have a responsibility to contend for the faith. To contend for the faith is to be in defense of the faith. As a matter of fact, we aren't just to contend for the faith; we are to earnestly contend for it.

This informs us that we must be vehement in our defense of the gospel. Our defense isn't by throwing punches or violence, but by standing strong on the written word of God. Via the instrumentality of intense, passionate, and accurate preaching of the word, we must oppose firmly, rebuke sharply, and withstand strongly, the doctrinal errors of men who have veered away from the sanctity of the written word by peddling their opinions and falsehoods.

When we do this, we can be rest assured of great results made manifest amongst us. Clarity will be birthed in many hearts that have been erstwhile darkened by the veil of error, heresies will have no more place in the church of the living God, the Lordship of the written word will be mightily heralded, and the Spirit of God given free course in every corner of the Earth.

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## **DAY 3**

### **TOPIC: WHAT IF?**

**TEXT: James 1:6-8**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”*

The passage above clearly reveals to us that while asking anything from God, we are to ask in faith and not be doubtful. Our prayers and request must be in the assuredness of what Christ has done for us. Not doubting whether or not God is able to do what we ask for.

Many have wondered why they pray and do not receive answers to what they ask for. Apostle James clearly stated that a double-minded man should not think that he shall receive anything of the Lord (James 1:6). This shows to us that doubt is not of God and it hinders us from receiving answers to our prayers. Hence, we have to be single-minded when we pray.

Another thing that is noteworthy from our text is; doubt produces instability. In other words, when a man wavers as regards his convictions, there's the tendency for him to retrogress and lose focus.

Beloved, do not doubt the ability of God that is inside you. Do you plan to engage in a business or trade? Be persuaded that it will yield profit. Are you preparing for a job interview? Choose to be of one mind; agree with the word of God which affirms that the favour of God is upon you. When you pray, do not doubt. Rather, hold on to the word of God. There are no “what ifs”, there is only the assuredness of God's word.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 4**

**TOPIC: BE CONTENT**

**TEXT: Hebrews 13:5**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

Contentment comes by our absolute dependence on God and His promises. It comes from knowing what God can do. God Himself has said, “I will never leave you (desert you), nor will I ever forsake you (abandon you),” so that we may boldly say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid what man shall do to me.” Contentment comes through trusting your life into God’s hands, and not on something you want Him to give you. Contentment is not sticking to status quo; it is a firm belief in the ability of God to supply your needs. Also, if material things are where your hope emanates from and you are only “using” God to give you what you want, you will never be content, because human needs are insatiable, and you have made material things your source of hope. You get what you thought would make you happy, but the glitter quickly wears off, and you go searching for something else.

The phrase “for he has said...” lets us know that He Himself has made the promise. God’s promises are not the words of fickle men, who may mean well, but often fail. These are the promises of the living God, the one who spoke the universe into existence; the one who never fails (Numbers 23:19)!

God hammers home the assurance that there are no circumstances, ever or anywhere, in which He abandons His children. Even when believers go through horrible situations, he’s there to create a way of escape for them, (1 Corinthians 10:13). The reality of this comforting truth enables us to be content in all circumstances. We might not have all the money we need to do certain important things, but we rejoice in the truth that God is able to do more than we ask or think. Having God is all that we need for contentment! We are content because we have God, and He is our provider.

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## **DAY 5**

### **TOPIC: OUR OLD MAN IS CRUCIFIED!**

**TEXT: Romans 6:6-7**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.”*

The text above clearly states a reality that is common to every believer. Paul declares with all clarity of speech that the old man, whom a believer once had, is already crucified! That is; the old man is absolutely dead. Consequently, this makes the man in Christ absolutely free from the nature of sin. He is no longer held bound by the sin nature, not anymore!

Very many times, the confusion about 'sin' among believers is their inability to differentiate the sin nature from the acts of sin; that is, sinful habits. They try to stop sinful habits without first acknowledging that the old man is dead; hence, the man in Christ is no longer in the bondage of sin where he was before receiving Christ. In fact, many read this text and just gloss over it as though Paul meant that the old man only fainted and has subsequently resurrected. No, the old man is absolutely dead for any man in Christ!

Do you still struggle with sinful habits? The good news is that the old man is no longer alive; there is a new life operating through you (Galatians 2:20). This new life is the life of Christ. All you need to do is to allow the new life to have expression.

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## DAY 6

### TOPIC: REMAIN UNDAUNTED

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

TEXT: Mark 10:46-48

*“And they came to Jericho: and he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and sat, Jesus, thou Son of David, Have mercy on me. And they charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David, have mercy on me.”*

We could learn a lot of things from blind Bartimaeus' story. It is clear from the passage why he persistently cried out for Jesus' attention; it was because he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was close by. Apparently, he had heard great reports about how Jesus demonstrated numerous signs and wonders; hence, he was convinced of the ability of Jesus Christ to restore his sight just as he had done in many other places in previous times.

This was evident in his refusal to be calm or quiet when he was charged not to shout by those who were around him; he rather cried out the more. We will soon see how important being resilient is from this blind man. Notice how he responded to Jesus in verse 5:

*“And Jesus answered and said unto him, what wilt thou that is should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.”*

His request showed his conviction; he was so sure of Christ's ability to restore his sight and sure did get his eyes restored. We can learn from this man; he refused to be discouraged about his present condition but was rather convinced in the consistency of the character of Jesus Christ to restore his sight. For this reason he was resilient, he refused to be quiet because he was sure.

Beloved, this is a man who had not the indwelling of the Spirit of God; how much more you who are a son of God? How convinced should you be, knowing that the Holy Spirit dwells in you forevermore? For how long should you be sure, knowing that you are joint heirs with Christ? We should have boldness of speech, certain that we shall have what we seek, sure that we always triumph, we should be confident because we are seated in a place of all authority forevermore!

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## **DAY 7**

### **TOPIC: KEEP RENEWING YOUR MIND**

**TEXT: Romans 12:2**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

Paul admonished the church in Rome to ensure that they renew their minds to the end that they may be transformed. Clearly, from this text, the way to be transformed is to expose one's mind to renewal. This happens when we open our minds up to the written word, correctly divided.

He commands them to take this position as against getting conformed to this world. This means that this world has information, ideologies and philosophies that are not helpful to our minds. They are not helpful in that they will distract our minds from proving what the will of God is. We therefore must be aware that as believers, we must be ready to lay down every of our thoughts and examine them to know if they align with God's words. If they are found to be otherwise, we must always dispose them and seek for the wholesome counsel of God on such matters.

This ought to be practically ensured by all believers. Whatever are the belief systems entrenched in us based on the influence of society, culture, family, education and so on, must be deliberately uprooted if found contrary to the written word. This is God's pathway to transformation and consequently, spiritual growth.

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## **DAY 8**

### **TOPIC: WHEN I SLIPPED AWAY**

**TEXT: Psalms 94:18**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGU**

*“When I said, my foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up.”*

Today’s devotional opens with an old fictitious story of an ambitious lad whose dream is to be knighted after he completes his ongoing training. Sooner than he expected, the training was over and on the eve to the ceremony of conferring knighthood upon him, in excitement, he had an immoderate merry night. At dawn, the ambitious lad struggled to open his eyelid, and to his dismay; he is braced with bandages as he has lost his left foot to merry. “...my dream is shattered...all hope is lost”, he sobbed.

It is common to man to give up hope of survival when he slips away. Many are faced with difficult situations today either as a result of their mistakes or the unfairness of life in the fallen Earth. Some have even resulted to suicide as a panacea to their abject state. There is one thing to learn from the patriarch David, His consciousness of God’s love and mercy kept him through difficult situations. This man David was once faced with an unpalatable situation where the enemy took away his family and belongings together with that of his people and the people conspired to stone him. But, we learnt that He encouraged himself in the Lord.

Beloved, if you give up on yourself, or the world even gives up on you, be persuaded that God never gives up on you. He has promised never to leave you nor forsake you. Only the knowledge of his love and mercy can help us up when we slip away. His love is profound and never ending. There is so much hope when we look at Jesus.

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## **DAY 9**

### **TOPIC: UNANSWERED PRAYERS?**

**TEXT: 1 Peter 3:7**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with [them] according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”*

The major discussion in this passage was submission and love between husband and wife in a Christian home. However, some people have misunderstood a phrase in the text to mean that God may not answer the prayers of the husband if he's not dwelling with his wife according to knowledge. While it must be emphasized that the will of God in Christian families is that the husband and the wife must dwell together in accordance with the written word, we must however correct this misunderstanding.

First of all, to suggest that God will not answer the prayer of the husband because of the character weakness is to contradict several other portions of the Bible. It is clear that God does not impute sins unto the believer in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:19). This is consistent with the crux of the New Testament where God has promised that He will not remember sins and iniquity, (Hebrews 8:12). God is a Father who listens to His sons irrespective of their character defects, though He wants all of them to live in accordance to His will.

The phrase “that your prayers be not hindered” is simply saying that the husband must seek to dwell with his wife in accordance with God's word so that he's not stopped from praying. What may be hindered is not the answer to the prayers but the act of prayer itself. Be reassured that God hears you always and pray more effectively.

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## **DAY 10**

### **TOPIC: TAKE CAUTION**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

**TEXT: Colossians 2:8**

*“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, the rudiments of the world and not after Christ.”*

The word “spoil” means “to lead away; it also means to “take captive”. Hence, Apostle Paul warns against being taken as captive or led away from that which is Christ’s. This is what he means; he charges us not to receive that which is not in agreement to that which is provided in Jesus Christ. Consequently, he charges us to shun, and refuse to adhere to the traditions of men, the rudiments which are contrary to what we have in Christ.

Owing to the aforesaid, Apostle Paul consequently admonishes us to be established or rooted up in that which we have received through Christ by faith; that is, we are to walk in the consciousness of that which we have received by faith alone. Only in this knowledge can we be sure and can stay away from being held captive from that which is not of Christ.

He goes further to remind them in subsequent verses about what is theirs, having received Christ. Thus, we learn from the Paul’s letter to the Colossian church that reminding ourselves about who we are in Christ, and our inheritance in him is imperative to staying clear of being led away from that which is Christ’s.

Beloved, at all times, be filled with the consciousness of who you are and what you received! Never stop confessing who you are; never stop studying about what you have received in Jesus Christ; never stop thinking of that which you have received in Christ Jesus! It is through this means that you cannot be deceived; it is through this means that you cannot be held captive by that which is not in agreement with Christ Jesus.

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## **DAY 11**

**TOPIC: RENEW YOUR MIND!**

**TEXT: Romans 12:2**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God”.*

The Greek word translated as “conformed” here means “co-shaped, co-formed”. What the Apostle is exposing to us here is: do not be or become of the same shape, same form, co-formed, with this world. Now if we think, hear, speak and do what this world thinks, hears, speaks and does, then we are co-shaped, co-formed with this world. And when the world and its worries and “joys” occupy your mind be sure, you might begin to forget who you are in Christ.

The next part in the above text says , *“but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

Instead of being conformed to this world we are admonished to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Now to be transformed here, in the original Greek renderings suggests being changed into who one really is. It’s the Greek word “metamorphoo”. It means “to change”. Against popular belief, we are not becoming new persons; but rather, we are being changed into who we really are. The believer is a new creature in Christ. He isn’t become one; he is already. He has put on Christ. The Spirit of God bears witness with our spirits that we are sons of God. Nevertheless, take note that it is our spirits that have been regenerated; our minds need to come in agreement with this; thus, the admonition to renew our minds in the text above.

Where we set our mind on is something **CRITICAL**. This is how we are able to show forth who we really are in Christ Jesus. We can either be in conformity with the ideologies of this world or be transformed by choosing to renew our minds, by setting our hearts on who we are in Christ and not on things of this earth. This transformation comes by feeding our minds with the word of God so that we grow thereby.

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## **DAY 12**

### **TOPIC: FORGIVE, AS HE FORGIVES**

**TEXT: Ephesians 4:32**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”*

A natural man believes that he is justified when his actions to others are based on how they treat him. The principle of distributive justice (i.e.; giving to others what they deserve) is so pervasive in our society that the mannerism of doing well to good people and doing evil to bad people is an acceptable norm to mankind.

This knowledge, as seen in the world, must never be imbibed into the church. It is profound that the world does not know nor understand God. Hence, the principles of this world do not equate the principles of God. Concomitantly, the believer cannot emulate such ungodly principles.

The written word of God reveals the personality of God in Christ Jesus. Consequently, the mind of God about an earthly matter as this can be grasped from his written word. The Bible teaches that the believer is to treat others as Christ has treated him. This is in contradiction with the popular idea of treating people with the measure of how they treat others. The measure of our actions as believers to other people (unbelievers inclusive) **MUST** be from the standpoint of what Christ has done for us.

The work of Christ on the cross is to the effect that all sins are forgiven. This awesome work of redemption was accomplished when we were yet sinners. At the moment that man was travailing in his debt of sins, Christ paid it all unconditionally. This same character of love has been shed abroad in the believer's heart, and he thus has the ability to forgive others of their wrongs irrespective of the magnitude. Meditate on God's character of forgiveness today and let that renew your mind towards a good work of forgiving others.

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## **DAY 13**

### **TOPIC: ACKNOWLEDGE THE GOOD THINGS (1)**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

**TEXT: Philemon 1:6**

*“That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.”*

There is a truth most profound staring us right in our faces in the text above; there is every good thing in us in Christ Jesus. This is wonderful! One may even see it as a thing too wonderful to be true; for in the world where we live, the system, psychology, and thoughts thereof allows for good and bad to cohabit. However, the believer in Christ Jesus has a makeup that is different. He has every good thing in him in Christ Jesus. The word translated as "good" here is the Greek word "agathos"; it refers to something that has benefits. Hence, there are only benefits in us in Christ Jesus.

The man in Christ Jesus is a man of good things. There are no bad things in him. There is no coexistence of good and bad things in him. He must acknowledge this truth. To acknowledge isn't just an admittance, or an agreement to something. It's to understand all that surrounds what has been agreed to. It's the word "epignosis" in the Greek. It means "to have a full recognition of something." Paul's words in our text are very firm and instructive; we must fully comprehend and recognize every good thing in us in Christ. It's our responsibility. The Christian walk is a journey of acknowledgement; a continuous discovery and precise knowledge of all we have discovered about ourselves in Christ Jesus.

Dearly beloved, you are a man of good things. Acknowledge the good things. Acknowledge the good things in you in Christ Jesus!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

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## **DAY 14**

### **TOPIC: YOU ARE CONFIGURED FOR GOOD WORKS**

**TEXT: Ephesians 2:10**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*

These days, very many people use computers and smart phones. Such devices have variations in their functionality and performances based on the configuration of the maker. For example, I may have an Android phone that doesn't have a flashlight attached to its camera. This will mean that I will not be able to take snapshots in the dark no matter how desperately I need such function. The phone cannot function that way simply because it has not been configured by the maker to carry out such function.

From the analogy above, it is clear that a product can only function based on the configuration of the maker, and not necessarily based on the need of the user. Such is the case of the believer in Christ. He has been wired up to do good works! Whatever good work he displays is also carried out based on the configuration of the maker. Every believer in Christ has been equally enabled to do good works via the power of the Holy Spirit. Our judgment of what is good work must also be from a spiritual premise; not from cultural sentiments and unstable personal biases. We judge good works by the written word and by the Holy Spirit.

The good works which the believer has been configured to do are seen in the fruit of the spirit. As a believer, good works are resident in you. You're God's masterpiece; God's perfect creation. You have been configured for good works. Show men more of your good works!

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## **DAY 15**

### **TOPIC: NEWNESS OF LIFE**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

**TEXT: Romans 6:4**

*“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*

Believers in Christ are beneficiaries of the purpose for which Christ died and resurrected. In the text above, Apostle Paul says we were baptized into Christ's death. The word rendered as “baptized” here means “to immerse into”. Hence, we were immersed into Christ's death. How was this possible, since we were not born then? We were immersed into his death because our sins were upon him or because he died for our sins; thus, he identified with our sins by doing so.

The Apostle Paul went further to state that “as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father even so we should walk in newness of life.” The meaning of the above is that we should walk in the recognition of what Christ has done for us by his death and resurrection.

The conclusion is this: Jesus has paid for sins through his death; and having been immersed in his death, we are free from the judgment of sins. Consequently, Paul affirmed that we, who used to be dead in sins, are now alive without sins in Christ. Thus, we must walk in the newness of life; that is, in the understanding or in full assurance of what Jesus has fulfilled for us, which we also are partakers of. Therefore, in this understanding, we should no longer be filled with guilt or sin consciousness anymore, but rather with full conviction of all that has been done on our behalf.

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## **DAY 16**

### **TOPIC: IT IS JESUS' RESPONSIBILITY**

**TEXT: Jude 1:24**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy”*

A school of thought describes the Christian faith as a track race. Their proposition is that the believer is on a ‘heavenly race’; hence he has to keep running with all diligence to get to the finish line. This school of thought presupposes that the weakness and incapability of the ‘runner’ would automatically disqualify him from the race; therefore, he has the responsibility to ‘keep fit’ till the end.

It is notable that the Bible is not a book subject to diverse school of thoughts. The Bible is an expository book to the unvarying idea of the will of God; who is Jesus Christ (John 1:1). This premise guides our studying of the Bible. We are not to make any postulations or create any thoughts outside what is clearly written.

As against the religious notion that the man in Christ has the responsibility to ‘keep himself fit’ by conforming to some moral codes and principles in order to reign with the Lord at the very end, the Bible teaches us that our Lord Jesus Christ is able to keep us till the very end. Jesus’ birth, death, burial and resurrection are the requisite provision that makes the believer fit to the end.

We have been perfected for Jesus’ coming. It is profound that the Lord is coming for the believer, for the believer is the bride of the Lord. We are to acknowledge Jesus’ responsibility of keeping us till the very end through His Spirit in us.

**Confession: There is no occasion of stumbling in me. I am established in Christ forever. He is able to keep me from falling. I rest in His ability.**

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## **DAY 17**

**TOPIC: CONSIDER NOT!**

**TEXT: Romans 4:19-21**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah’s womb: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”*

God promised Abraham a son though he and Sarah were well stricken in age. The text above tells us that Abraham considered not his own body now dead neither did he consider the deadness of Sarah’s womb. We could agree that he paid no attention, neither did he reflect on the physical obstacles both in himself and in Sarah, in that they were both past child bearing age.

The circumstances that surrounded Abraham and Sarah were more than enough reasons to discredit God’s promise. He was even yet to see the son God promised him. But the bible says his faith was strong in God. He believed God’s word. His faith in God rested on God’s ability to perform what he had promised.

That Abraham believed God does not imply that there was no inward conflict with doubt in his mind. Abraham had reached a point where he was fully convinced and absolutely sure that God was capable of doing that which he had promised, and that He doesn’t make promises he cannot live up to.

Beloved, we can learn a great deal from Abraham. He staggered not at God’s promises for him nor dwelt on the obstacles that surrounded him and Sarah. He did not allow his situation dictate the level of trust he placed in God. He believed God with all of his heart and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Dearly beloved, stagger not at the promises of God for you; for He who has promised is able to perform.

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## **DAY 18**

### **TOPIC: ACKNOWLEDGE THE GOOD THINGS (2)**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

**TEXT: Philemon 1:6**

*“That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.”*

In the first part of this devotional, we saw without any ounce of shadows, crystal clear for all eyes to see, that there is every good thing in us in Christ Jesus. There is a boundary to what the believer must acknowledge; he must acknowledge the good things in him in Christ. He must not at any time reason that there is a bad thing in him in Christ Jesus. The man in Christ is a man of good things. He must fully recognize this in the most detailed and accurate manner.

Paul exposes to us a resultant effect of having a full recognition of every good thing in us in Christ Jesus. He lets us know that when we acknowledge the good things, the communication our faith becomes effectual. The word "effectual", as used here, was rendered from the Greek word "energēs". It means "to be active or operative". Thus, when we acknowledge the good things in us in Christ Jesus, then the communication (i.e fellowship) of our faith becomes active or operative. When we acknowledge the good things, we see them in operation. When we comprehend precisely what is ours in Christ Jesus, we are able to appropriate more and more that which we have precisely comprehended.

As believers in Christ Jesus, our living here on Earth must be one of a perpetual acknowledging of every good thing in us in Christ Jesus. We must never stop doing so at any time. We must give ourselves to acknowledging the good things! Beloved brethren, we are in Christ Jesus; and there are good things in us in him. Let us acknowledge the good things! Let us acknowledge every good thing in us in Christ Jesus!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!**

## **DAY 19**

### **TOPIC: REMAIN STEADFAST**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

**Text: 1 Corinthians 15:58**

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

The above is a charge to believers to remain steadfast. The Apostle Paul admonishes us to remain steadfast, to be unmoveable, and to always abound in the work of God. The word “abounding” in our text-verse means “to excel”. Hence, Apostle Paul charges the Corinthian church and, by extension, all believers to always excel in labouring in the work of the Lord.

The word “always” used in the above verse makes it very clear that it should be continuous. This means that at no time should we stop being steadfast; we should not at any time stop labouring in the Lord and excelling at it. This should be our earnest desire; we should not be weary or discouraged in labouring in the work of God, but should rather be given to labouring therein.

The Apostle Paul gives us the right understanding for earnestly serving God in his work, it is in knowing that our labour is not in vain in the Lord. Our labour in the Lord is not a waste of time or effort; it is not fruitless, it is productive in the Lord, it fulfills a purpose.

We are encouraged on the aforesaid that our labour is not for nothing in the Lord: through our service, many will get saved, many will be established in faith, many will be delivered from bondages, many will be comforted by us and much more than this, we will receive eternal rewards.

My beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!**

**DAY 20**

**TOPIC: UNTO EDIFICATION**

**TEXT: 1 Corinthians 14:3**

**Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN**

*“But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.”*

It is not unusual today to see believers give words of prophecy, either in visions or revelations. In fact, it is laudable that churches are more effective in the use of the gift of prophecy. This is to the glory of God who has endowed us with all spiritual gifts by the indwelling of His Spirit in us.

However, it is saddening to see believers whose lives are in a state of abjection owing to some prophecies they received from a said “man of God”. Many have abruptly ended their promising marital relationships; the sanctity of family union has been soiled in many instances where a man receives a prophecy that the instability in his life is caused by a human agent in his family. These, to mention but a few, are the hazards caused by the abuse of the spiritual gift called ‘prophecy’.

Recourse to our scripture text shows us that prophecies are for edification, comfort and exhortation. The person who is to prophesy to the church must be abreast with the intent of prophecy. Prophecies are not meant to breed fear, discomfort, hopelessness, confusion or insecurity in the recipients of those prophecies. Rather, prophecies unveil in clarity all that Christ has accomplished as it relates to individual situations. This in turn births strength in the man who has been made to see the awesome provision of God which surpasses his weakness or challenges. Hallelujah; in prophecies we are also edified.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!**

## **DAY 21**

### **TOPIC: WE HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

**TEXT: 1 Corinthians 2:16**

*“For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”*

Many have erroneously thought that this verse speaks about a mind of Christ for writing examinations and passing. While it is true that we can trust in God's ability to speed up our assimilation processes when we study our academic books as believers, and get beautiful results in the end, we must never compromise the accuracy of biblical interpretation on the platform of sentiments and fickle emotions.

Truth be told; there are unbelievers who write their exams and pass very excellently without cheating. The reason is not farfetched; God gave every man, believer and unbeliever, a brain, and the ability to reason, put it to use, and make good out of it. If many people who think they are to write their exams with the “mind of Christ” read their books a little more, they'd come out in flying colours. That said; what then does “the mind of Christ” mean in the text above?

The word translated as "mind" in the text above is the Greek word "nous". It refers to "an understanding" or "an explanation". In other words, we have the explanation of Christ. We have an explanation of what? By reading in context, we understand from the previous verses that it's an explanation of what the Old Testament prophets wrote of but didn't fully understand. Consider this:

1 Corinthians 2:9

*“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”*

Their writings are fulfilled in Christ. They are revealed and explained to us in Christ. Therefore, we are not confounded. We have clarity, for we have the explanation of Christ. Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecies, and the explanation of Old Testament writings. We see in him. Thus, we are a people with an understanding of the Old Testament writings, for they have all been revealed to us in Jesus. Hallelujah! We have the mind of Christ!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!**

## **DAY 22**

**TOPIC: PASSED FROM DEATH TO LIFE!**

**TEXT: John 5:24**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“I am telling you the truth: those who hear my words and believe in him who sent me have eternal life. They will not be judged, but have passed from death to life.”*

Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. He alone has the authority to give eternal Life (John 5:26). In the above text, Jesus gives an assurance of eternal life to anyone who hears his words and believes in him. He says because such a person has eternal life, he will not face the judgment that comes with transgressing the law.

Eternal life is the possession of anyone who believes in Jesus. Such a person has moved from spiritual death to spiritual life. This eternal life is not only for the present; it is forever! It is an entitlement for the man who believes in Jesus. Such a man is no longer alienated from the life of God. He will not face condemnation for his sins any longer because Jesus has paid for them. That man now has the life of God. His spirit is life because of righteousness. The Spirit of Christ dwells in him thereby making him a life-giving spirit.

Hallelujah! We, who have believed, have received eternal life. We have passed from death to life. We will never perish! We rejoice in this truth forevermore!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GODS GOODNESS!**

## **DAY 23**

### **TOPIC: REJOICING IN PERSECUTION 1**

**TEXT: 1 Peter 4:12-13**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”*

Are you being persecuted for preaching the gospel of Christ? Then Peter's admonition in the text above is for you! A major experience a believer begins to have the day he or she believes in Christ is persecution for his or her faith. In Matthew 5:10-12, Jesus in his earthly ministry called the man who is being persecuted for righteousness' sake a blessed man. In the same text, he instructed on what the reaction of the man being persecuted should be; he should rejoice!

Before Jesus rounded up his earthly ministry, he told the disciples again that men will persecute them for their staunch stand for the gospel (John 15:20). Little wonder the Apostles and other disciples rejoiced consistently in the midst of several oppositions as recorded in Acts of the Apostles. For them, rejoicing was not just a means of escape from persecutions. It was their lifestyle; their default response!

Just as the disciples in Acts 5:41 rejoiced greatly to have been counted worthy to suffer shame for Jesus' name, you too must. Men's persecution against you because of your preaching and defense of the gospel ought to stir you up for more labour in the gospel. This you must do with rejoicing; this is because there is a glory to be revealed in us.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!**

## **DAY 24**

**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.”*

Despite the persecutions by the Jews, the disciples were filled with Joy and with the Holy Ghost. They were not moved by the persecution but they 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 or level up’. In other words, we see that 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 be furnished by rejoicing.

To rejoice means to leap for joy. In other words, it is to give 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. The believer is to be constantly aware of the fullness of joy he has on the inside. 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 at all circumstances.

Choose everyday to be furnished with joy in the Holy Ghost.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!**

**DAY 25**

**TOPIC: LET EVERY MAN WORK**

**Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN**

**TEXT: 2nd Thessalonians 3:10-12**

*“For even when we are with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.”*

It is very clear from the verses above that believers are to work and earn their living. It means that believers are never to be idle or lazy. Apostle Paul exhorts against this and instructs that we work. Many, believers having misunderstood what resting in the finished works of Christ is, have become lazy, unwilling to work, and waiting for “the miraculous” to happen. Apostle reveals to us that this is very wrong. Paul lets us know that being idle leads to disorderliness, whereas being engaged with something (working) gets our lives in order.

Finally, Apostle Paul also makes it known that those who work should enjoy the fruits of their labour, which is described as “eating their own bread in the verse above”. Beloved, we should never be caught lazing around. We must be engaged with doing something. Don’t be disorderly, rather get something doing, and also enjoy the fruits thereof.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GODS GOODNESS!**

**DAY 26**

**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 27**

**TOPIC: REJOICING IN PERSECUTION 2**

**TEXT: 1 Peter 4:12-13**

**Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU**

*“12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”*

Sequel to where we stopped the last time, it is important to understand that what some people call persecution is an amalgamation of just self-inflicted problems based on ignorance or naivety. For instance, in preaching the gospel, we are not sent to force the message on anyone. We are simply supposed to share the gospel with as many as are willing to hear us. If in the midst of forcing the message, the supposed hearer attacks, such is more of lack of understanding rather than persecution.

However, if you are in the midst of intense persecution, neglect, denial, blackmail and so on for the sake of the gospel, again I say; count it all joy and rejoice greatly! Such persecution must not stop you in the place of your devotion to God; your service among saints, preaching of the gospel, worshipping God, financial support for the gospel, prayers and so on. This is evident in the life of Paul and Silas as they were still given to praising God and prayers even in the midst of persecution.

You must also know that persecutions are not from God but from oppositions of the gospel. However, it is God's will to deliver us in all (2 Corinthians 1:10). Our strength in the midst of persecution as mentioned in the text is that there is a glory that shall be revealed in us. This glory is the reality of the resurrected body which all believers shall have. Rejoice greatly in this!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!**

## **DAY 28**

### **TOPIC: BEWARE OF DOGS!**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

**TEXT: Philippians 3:1-2**

*“1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe. 2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision”*

"Beware of dogs!" Oft do we see these words inscribed boldly on the gates of people who rear dogs in their houses, warning outsiders and intruders about the presence of a dog in their homes. Such inscriptions communicate the message very seriously, such that people always hearken to the warning by being extra-careful before entering into such compounds.

This, now ubiquitous and popular statement, was actually used by the Apostle Paul in a different context in the Bible. When Paul wrote to the church in Colosse to beware of dogs, he wasn't referring to animals. He was actually referring to an ilk of persons, a sect, a group of people; the concision. He called them evil workers. The tone Paul had set from previous chapters, and the first verse of the third chapter of the book of Colossians especially, makes us know that he was (is) communicating a very serious matter here. In fact, Paul lets us know that he had communicated this to them in past times but he considered it not grievous to write the same things to them again.

Who are the concision? They are those who preach that the Law of Moses must be kept. They say things such as "justification comes by doing the law" or "we are justified by faith but we are kept in this state of justification by doing the law." Paul calls them evil workers. They take your eyes off what Jesus has done to what you can do. They take your gaze away from Jesus and his Spirit to yourself and the flesh. Beware of them! They are evil workers, perverting the gospel of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let no man beguile you with vain words, and take your heart away from the assurance that is in Jesus.

Dearly beloved, let us beware of dogs!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!**

## **DAY 29**

### **TOPIC: HOLD FAST TO SOUND DOCTRINE**

**TEXT: Hebrews 2:1**

**Written by: MAY AYINTETE**

*“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.”*

We, who have believed, are heirs of the new covenant that was administered by Jesus, and we have the seal of the Holy Spirit. Apostle Paul exhorts believers to give strict attention to the word. It is our duty to retain the truth of God’s word in our heart. We shouldn’t be indifferent to God’s word at any time. As we become familiar with the truth, there’s a tendency that it becomes common place to us. We may lose appreciation of it and take it for granted. Constant pressures of our daily needs could also make us forget who we are in Christ.

Another reason why we should give the more earnest heed to God’s word is because there is also the tendency to let the word slip, to let it drift away. The drifting away may be subtle and could occur in several ways. One’s love and desire for God’s word starts to wane. He begins to have zero desires to express joy and gratitude at remembering the finished work of Christ. He starts feeling there is no reason to gather with the brethren, and most times, even looks for something ‘extra’ outside of Christ.

Beloved, a believer puts himself in danger by letting the word slip from him. Hence, the warning to take heed to God’s word must not be taken with levity.

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!**

**Further Study: Jude 1:3**

## **DAY 30**

### **TOPIC: WE ARE HIS HOUSE!**

**Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL**

**TEXT: Hebrews 3:6**

*“But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.”*

We find a truth most profound in the text above; we are the house of God. This is almost unbelievable! Men, and not buildings, are the dwelling place God. This shatters many notions that have been held in many quarters that God dwells in temples and buildings built with the hands of men. The writer of Hebrews reveals to us that God has a house, and shocks us by letting us know it isn't a magnificent physical edifice or structure. The believer is the magnificent edifice that God dwells in. He is the house of God. Paul resounds this truth in his epistle to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 3:16

*“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”*

Awesome! The man in Christ Jesus is the temple of God. He is God's building, God's home, God's place of abode. We must never forget this, and pay more attention to the physical structure wherein believers gather than to those for whom the structure was built; that is, the believers. Physical structures are good, the klieg lights are a lovely thing to have, the air conditioners are very nice things to possess; but we must never forget that the believer is the reason for the physical structure, and not vice versa. Rather than go unnecessarily crazy about building jaw-dropping edifices, we must be crazy about labouring in the word, that the believer may be well taught and fully equipped for the work of the ministry.

Brethren beloved, we must never forget that the believer is the mansion of God, where God tabernacles forevermore!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!**

## **DAY 31**

### **TOPIC: ANOTHER GOSPEL**

**TEXT: Galatians 1:6**

**Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE**

*“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:”*

The very many twists to the gospel of our Lord Jesus have made it almost impossible to know what the gospel really is. Our individual emotions have clouded God’s perception in these matters. Many preachers, being angered at the lascivious behaviours that plague the earth, begin to substitute their anger for God’s ways. They preach a million and one ways to character rehabilitations, they seek to compete with the moral sanity that is seen in some other ‘morally-upright’ religions like Buddhism, Islamism etc. They begin to preach their anger and not Jesus’ gospel. Some other preachers feel the fear of hell will turn people around and seize them into the fear of God; thus they go into fables, imaginations about hell, lake of fire etc. They are drawn to any “testimony” of anyone who claims to have gone to heaven and back.

Apostle Paul was alarmed that the Galatian Church had been removed into another gospel. They had been shaken off their feet, they had been deceived; they had taken man’s ways for God’s ways, and they had followed a separate ideology against the truth of God’s word.

The Apostle Paul re-emphasized to us, that the gospel he preached wasn’t some new ideology but the same that ran through the entire Scriptures (Old Testament), four gospels, and the book of Acts.

We choose to be grounded in the original gospel (1 Corinthians 15:3), for therein lies our assurance, our hope, our faith, our strength; we continue in the truth and our freedom increases unto all Godliness!

**AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!**

**WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!**