



The **REFINERY** **DEVOTIONAL**

A MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL OF THE REFINERY CHURCH

JUNE 2017

**START YOUR DAY WITH CHRIST CONSCIOUSNESS
AND BE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS**

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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: JESUS HAS PAID FOR SINS!

TEXT: 1 John 2:2

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

The word rendered as “propitiation” is a Greek word that refers to “sacrifice”. Thus, Jesus is the sacrifice for sins. John the Baptist declared loudly in John 1:29 that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The bible is quite very loud about the sacrifice of Jesus for sins. One may even dare to say that the sacrifice of Jesus for sins is the loudness of the entire bible, for this singular truth is the crux of the scriptures. Worthy of note is the fact that Jesus not only died for the sins of Christians, but the sins of the whole world.

Therefore, we know that there is no one on the earth today whose sins have not been paid for by the blood of Jesus. There is nothing any man can do again about the issue of sins that Jesus hasn't done already. Jesus is the eternal sacrifice for sins. We are to declare this with a mighty voice in every corner of the earth. We are to shout it on our rooftops. We are to let every man know this. We are to let the Buddhist, the Moslem, the Shintoist, etc. be aware of this reality. We are to let them know that there is one who has paid eternally for their sins; that by believing in him, they shall receive remission of sins forevermore.

This we must do vehemently, for salvation is only found in this truth. As we preach this to men, whoever of them just dares to believe is saved forevermore by the holy blood of Jesus shed for the sins of mankind forevermore, and has passed from death to life. This we must also teach and re-teach the one who has believed already. He must never forget this; that the blood of Jesus has paid for sins forevermore; that there are no sins against him anymore for his (Jesus') name's sake; that he has been cleansed, washed, justified, and sanctified by that most holy blood of Jesus once for all.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 2

TOPIC: WHOSE REPORT WILL YOU BELIEVE?

TEXT: Numbers 13:30-31

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“30And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. 31But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they [are] stronger than we.”

In the passage from which this text was taken, Moses instructed some of the elders among the Israelites to go and spy the land of Canaan which God had earlier promised them. They all came back with one thing in common. They all agreed that the land was flowing with milk and honey and some other good things. However, a larger percentage was not persuaded that they were able to possess the land. To them, they saw giants in the land and could no longer agree to God’s promise of Canaan for them.

Despite the fact that the larger chunk of the spies couldn’t see themselves possessing the land, Caleb and Joshua were strongly convinced that if the Lord had given a promise in Exodus 3:8, He was well able to accomplish it irrespective of what they saw in the land. You see; Caleb and Joshua also saw the giants as others saw, they didn’t deny that fact! Nonetheless, they believed God’s word above whatever was obvious to the senses.

Perhaps you are in the midst of situations that look so difficult, such that you are losing sight of God’s word already; this charge is for you! The same God that made all that we see today out of nothing is the same Father that gave you His word. His integrity is staked on His word. You must decide to take His word above whatever circumstances you are passing through today. By this, you walk in the reality of whatever is His word for you.

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DAY 3

TOPIC: HOW THE SPIRIT HELPS WHEN WE PRAY

TEXT: Romans 8:26

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“26 Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groaning’s which cannot be uttered.”

The Spirit of God is not inside of us to point out our faults when we do wrong. He is in us to help us. Our text tells us that he helps us in our weaknesses when we do not know what to pray for; he makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

The Greek rendering for “helps” *“issunantilambanomai”* and it means “to take hold with at the side, to take share in, to give assistance, to supply help that exactly corresponds to the need.” The phrase “hold with at the side” means the Spirit requires our participation to intercede for us. In other words, the Holy Spirit takes hold with us at the side against any issue.

So, we are not to sit, fold our arms and feel hopeless when faced with situations that are beyond our control; rather we are to stand in the authority given to us by Christ and be conscious that the Holy Spirit ‘takes hold with us’, supplies help that exactly corresponds to our need as we pray in tongues. Romans 8:27 says he makes intercession for the saints according to God’s will. You can be rest assured that when you pray in tongues you pray the will of God and you get answers to what you pray for. Hallelujah!

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DAY 4

TOPIC: RICH IN GOOD WORKS

TEXT: 1 Timothy 6:17

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

‘Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; 18- That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;’

From the above text, it is crystal clear that the Apostle Paul did not teach against being rich (wealthy) in this world. Apostle John in his Epistle stated his desire for the saints to be prosperous (3 John 1:2). In the early church, there were men who possessed lands and properties. (An example is Joses in Acts 4:36) Hence, it is not out of place for the believer to be prosperous.

The focus of this devotion is to admonish the believer to put his trust in God and not in riches. The appropriate use of wealth for the believer is for the furtherance of the gospel and the needs of the church. The believer should ensure that the gospel prospers by financing the work of the ministry.

Also, the believer should be ready and willing to give. The Apostle Paul calls this being rich in good works. Just as the believer has been blessed richly by God, he should also be of blessing to others. Joses whose example was cited earlier sold his land and gave to the early church. In fact, the bible recorded that there was none that lacked among them because the rich amidst them gave liberally.

As we work, it is certain that we are empowered to be prosperous. Hence, we should aim at giving liberally. Just as Christ supplied our needs, we are to meet the needs of others; most especially, our local church, pastor, fellow saints, family etc.

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DAY 5

TOPIC: WE ARE OF GOD

Text: 1 Corinthians 6:20

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

The words “for ye are bought” employed in the above verse informs us of something very important; the Apostle Paul speaking to the Church stated that we are bought which means someone bought us hence he takes ownership of us, therefore we belong to him.

From the above verse also, we are able to know with certainty the identity of him who bought us: he is God, it means therefore that God owns us and we belong to God.

In furtherance of the aforesaid, Apostle Paul now says glorify God in your body and in your spirit meaning having known that you are of God, now glorify him hence it means you are to glorify God having known that he owns us and not that we are to glorify God to be accepted by him rather we are already accepted by God, we are already his for he owns us.

Apostle Paul gives us the right mentality to glorifying God, it is to know that he owns us. The word glorify means to render and esteem glorious, to magnify, to honour and to be full of.

In context of the above chapter, Apostle addressed and rebuked the sins of the Corinthian Church and in particular fornication so towards his conclusion, he affirms that to flee fornication and by extension other sins, we are to recognize God owns us, it is by the referencing his ownership of us that we stay clear of sins.

We are to grow in this knowledge; in the understanding of God's ownership of us and by which we have absolute dominion over sins.

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DAY 6

TOPIC: GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME

TEXT: 1 John 1:5

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

There is not a shred of confusion or uncertainty in the words of the Apostle John in the text above. He elucidates to us without mincing words that "God is light and there is no darkness in him at all." The phrase "at all" was translated from a single Greek word; "oudeis". It means "not even one". Thus, we can say that "God is light and in him is no darkness, not even one." The word "darkness" means "obscurity". Therefore, there is not one particle of obscurity in God. To allude darkness to God is to go into error.

God has been plainly revealed in his Son Jesus, who is the express image of His person (Hebrews 1:1-3). We have clearly seen God in Jesus. We have seen that he is goodness through and through, for Jesus did no evil to any man while he walked the earth bodily but went about doing good, healing all those who were oppressed of the devil, for God was with him. Hence, we know that God isn't an orchestrator of evil. Apostle James clarifies the matter to us in his wonderful epistle. He lets us know that God cannot be tempted with evil, neither does he tempt any man (James 1:13). We have seen the true character of the Father in Christ Jesus. He is good all the time. Thus, we can boldly declare the popular saying, having no doubt whatsoever in our minds: "God is good all the time; and all the time, God is good."

Brethren beloved, do not go into error. God has no association or alliance with evil. God's only alliance is with goodness. His only association is with goodness. We can boldly declare today; "God is good all the time; and all the time, God is good", for this statement is eternally true!

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DAY 7

TOPIC: HIS WILL IN OUR PRAYERS 1

TEXT: John 16:23-24

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give [it] you. 24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”

The sixteenth chapter of the gospel according to John is the continuation of Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit which he started two chapters before. In the text above, Jesus spoke of a dispensation when the disciples will no longer ask him what they need. Rather, they will ask the Father in his name. His assurance for them in this passage is that “whatsoever” they ask, they “shall” receive of the father.

Obviously, they had not been able to ask the Father anything before then because they had not received the indwelling of the Spirit. Hence, Jesus mentioned the word “hitherto” which implies that “up till that time”, they had not asked the Father in his name. Now, this promise is not just limited to the disciples but all that will later be partakers of the Holy Ghost. We must hold the words of Jesus in high esteem. If he meant that we will receive of the Father “whatsoever” we ask him, we must agree to the same. Of course, this doesn't mean we can ask for evil upon another person in Jesus' name. We cannot also pray for the permission to sin in Jesus' name. Scriptures are clear on the fact that God doesn't append or do evil; He doesn't birth sin too.

However, you should never slide into thinking that some of your needs are so inconsequential that you don't need to bother the Father about it. It is pride to think that a need is too big or too small to ask the Father when he already gave us an open hand to always ask Him. Go to the Father today! He does not just want to meet that need, He has much more than all that it takes to meet your needs.

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DAY 8

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 9

TOPIC: REJOICE ALWAYS!

TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 4:4

Written By: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."

We are instructed in the above passage to always rejoice. Therefore, it becomes mandatory for all saints to rejoice. Apostle Paul unveils to us that rejoicing should be the lifestyle of the saints; it should be a norm for us to rejoice.

The word "always" means "at all times or every time". Thus, there isn't an exception at any time; we are to always rejoice! The manner in which Apostle Paul concludes the instruction is worthy of note; he says "...and again I say rejoice." This means we should rejoice again; this can also mean "continue to rejoice." Hence, we can say Apostle Paul means "don't stop rejoicing, keep rejoicing, rejoice again and again." Therefore, we are to be full of rejoicing and keep to it. To rejoice is to give a physical expression to the joy that is eternally within our spirits. It is to leap for joy!

Having said that, Apostle Paul tells us in whom to rejoice: we rejoice in the Lord. Hence, there is a constancy about what we rejoice about; this is not about cars, money or houses, this is in the Lord. Hence, we find out what is in the Lord and we rejoice about it.

Why do we rejoice? We rejoice because we have received all that is in the Lord; we rejoice because we have them already; we rejoice because we are eternally saved, eternally forgiven, eternally one with him; we rejoice because we are citizens of heaven; we rejoice because we have hope of immortality, we are joint-heirs with Christ; we rejoice always with a full assurance of what we have which cannot be lost neither can be taken away by any man.

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DAY 10

TOPIC: GREATER WORKS

TEXT: John 14:2

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater [works] than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”

Jesus’ ascension and enthronement is what gave us the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Again, Jesus’ promise to the disciples in this text is not exclusive to the disciples alone for he said; “he that believes on me”. The promise of the same works that Jesus did and even greater works are for every one that believes.

We have read about the various astonishing miracles that Jesus did. He clearly enforced the supernatural in natural matters so much that everyone in his days knew him. However, while Jesus was about to leave, he stated without ambiguity that those who will believe in him will do greater works. Little wonder the shadows of the apostles in the early church were healing the sick and materials taken from them were healing the sick.

Two of the greater works are; getting men saved and speaking in tongues. You see, speaking in tongues is such a “greater work” that no prophet before Jesus used it despite their healings and several miracles. You must always be zealous about getting men saved and making them to talk in tongues. Never underestimate it; no matter how popular it becomes. It is an ability reserved only for the man in Christ. How committed are you about doing greater works? We can do greater works by the enablement of the Spirit within us. Give yourself to demonstrating the Spirit today, and see an abundance of “greater works”.

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DAY 11

TOPIC: WE MINISTER THE SPIRIT

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 3:6

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“5 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.”

Many have misunderstood the text above. They think what the Apostle Paul was saying was that "the letter" refers to the words in the Bible. That's a far cry from the intent of our beloved Apostle Paul. Settle in your mind right now that the "letter" here doesn't refer to the “words in the Bible” but that which was engraved on tablets of stones by Moses- the Law.

The Law is "the letter that kills". The Law is the ministration of death; therein you will find death fully resident. But, glory to the Lord Jesus, the Spirit gives life. In the Spirit is life forevermore, and we are ministers of that selfsame Spirit. Hallelujah!

Paul juxtaposes ministering the new covenant with ministering the Spirit. Thus, to be a minister of the new covenant is to be a minister of the Spirit; never a minister of the Law. The word rendered "ministers" in our text-verse is the from the Greek word "diakonos"; it means "an attendant" or "a waiter". It's the same language used for one who waits on people in a restaurant. It's the equivalent of a server. Hence, we can say that we are servers of the new covenant (Spirit). We can serve the Spirit. We can dispense life. We were made this way by God. It's an ability inherent in us. We can give life where there is death. It's who we are. We are men who make that which is dead come back to life again.

Beloved, know that with the gospel on our lips, we are ministering the Spirit; we are ministering life. Know that as we do this, we are causing death to be swallowed up by life; know that we are destroying the works of darkness, and we are causing a mighty triumph of life in places erstwhile governed by death. Minister the Spirit today. Serve the Spirit! We are able ministers!

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DAY 12

TOPIC: PRAY FOR MINISTERS

TEXT: 2 Thessalonians 3:1

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

‘Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:’

The word “minister” as used in many texts of the New Testament writings (especially in the epistles) denotes” a waiter, servant, attendant or worker.” A minister is someone who works in the household of God. This includes a pastor, teacher, deacon or worker. A pastor is a minister of God who oversees a church. Besides several other responsibilities saddled with his office, he has the main duty of serving the people of God in the teaching of the word of God. The contribution of a pastor to the spiritual growth of the believer cannot be overemphasized.

We often neglect the need to constantly pray for ministers of God as there is a general assumption that they are special and they need not to be prayed for. The Apostle Paul himself requested the church in Thessalonica to pray for him. In fact, he made this request in more than one instances. Specifically, in his letter to the Church in Philippi he stated his dependency on the prayers of the saints for his deliverance from the prison (Philippians 1:19). Our prayers for ministers of God go a long way in bringing positive results to their ministry.

It is very important for saints to care for ministers of God. However, our care for them should not be limited or restricted to giving to meet their physical needs but also in praying for them. Do well to pray for your pastor and fellow ministers of the gospel today.

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DAY 13

TOPIC: HIS WILL IN OUR PRAYERS 2

TEXT: John 16:23-24

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give [it] you. 24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”

We have seen in the first part of this topic that God’s will is to always do whatever we ask Him because He is our Father. However, a few still have some misconception about a part of John’s epistles about prayer in 1 John 5:14-15:

“14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him”

These people are of the opinion that this text is saying that God only hears believers when they pray “according to his will”; that when they don’t pray “according to his will”, then they are praying amiss.

This text is clear. The positions of the commas made it seem to suggest that. What this text simply means is that it is God’s will that we pray and that he hears us whenever we pray! The next verse affirms the same. The summary of this text is that our confidence is in the fact that whatever we ask in prayer, we are rest assured that we have answers since it is God’s will that we pray and that he hears us.

Again, this passage says the same thing as the original text of this topic. If Apostle John meant that some certain prayers will not be answered because they are not God’s will, He would not have later used the word “whatsoever”. With this assurance, enter the place of prayer! Only one response is possible from the Father; it is a YES!

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DAY 14

TOPIC: THE MARRIAGE IDEAL

TEXT: EPHESIANS 5:24-25

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"24Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."

Apostle Paul teaches the relationship between husband and wife as a similitude of Christ and the Church. Notice the way he uses his words in the explanation of what should be the nature of the union between man and wife; he uses the words "therefore as" and "even as", which mean "in the same manner, likewise, just as." Hence, he explains that just as it had been expressed between Christ and the Church, the man and the wife should demonstrate same to each other. This makes clear to us that an understanding of the reality of the union between Christ and the church is pivotal to our marriages as believers.

Paul noted that husbands should love their wives even as Christ loved the Church. This is very crucial. How did Christ love us? He gave up himself for us that he might present us to himself a people cleansed, without spot or blemish or wrinkle or any such thing. Hence, husbands are to love their wives in this same manner, for they have been empowered to do so. Bossiness or headiness thus are not allowed.

To the wives, Paul writes that wives submit to their husbands and treat them with respect, just as the Church is to subject to the Lordship of Christ. The word "subject" refers to "obedience; submission." How is the church subject to Christ? The church believed in him, became as him and consequently became co-workers with him. In like manner, wives are to believe in their husbands and work in agreement with and in reverence (respect) of them. We see clearly from the above that the husband and the wife are to walk in togetherness as we work in togetherness with Christ knowing full well that marriage is a physical demonstration of what has happened between Christ and the Church.

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DAY 15

TOPIC: MEDITATE ON IT

TEXT: 1 Timothy 4:15

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.”

Meditation is a process that engages the mind. It is simply an act of thinking carefully about something. Man is created with the capacity to reason and think. The actions of a man are influenced by the thoughts of his heart or mind.

The Word of God is expressly written for the believer to read, meditate on and apply. Apostle James likened a man who is a hearer of the word, and not a doer, as unto a man who beholds his natural face in a glass, goes his way, and straightway forgets the manner of man he was.

Many sometimes cannot apply what they have learnt from the Word of God to their earthly matters probably because they forget things too easily. Forgetfulness, many times, is due to lack of adequate meditation.

Just as Apostle Paul instructed his son Timothy to meditate on the instructions which he had given him, the believer is also to meditate on the written word of God. We are to allow the words which we have learnt about our reality in Christ fill our minds at all times. For we can only be transformed by the renewing of our minds; and this can only be done by meditating on the written word. As you go on with today's activity, let the word of God fill your mind.

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DAY 16

TOPIC: HONOURING BELIEVERS' ASSEMBLY

TEXT: Hebrews 10:25

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

As technology continues to grow sporadically, there are possibilities of inventions that enhance the communication of God's word via internet and social media; much more than we are currently experiencing. A believer should take advantage of these advantages. However, we must be careful not to be drawn into the error of not physically gathering with the saints no matter the soundness of the teachings that we receive via these aforementioned platforms.

The gathering of the saint is God's wisdom as to ensure submission and responsibility in the body of Christ. Being a believer involves training and such is mainly obtained in the local assembly where he or she is responsible to fellow believers and the ministry gift(s) available. This is where he or she is taught to practice the things he or she has learnt or learning. He also can be corrected when in error.

Furthermore, the gathering of the saints affords believers the advantage of the laying on hands and impartation which is hardly possible via internet. Moreover, the use of the abilities of the recreated spirit such as word of knowledge, healings, prophesying, etc often require physical meetings. It is therefore expedient that a believer pays attention to instruction in Hebrews 10:25.

It's all fantastic to receive the ministry of the word via technological advancement. However, they must not replace the gathering of the saints in our practice.

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DAY 17

TOPIC: DO NOT FORGET

TEXT: 2 Peter 1:12

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth."

The major pitfall for the believer in Christ Jesus is the tendency to forget the things he has heard and learnt. It is so very important that we keep in our consciousness our realities in Christ Jesus. Apostle Peter, in the text above, lets us see the importance of this. When we constantly put in remembrance the things we have learnt, we become established in the reality of those things. We become rooted, grounded, steadfast, unmovable, and unshakeable.

The phrase "these things" as used in the text above makes us know that there's a specificity to the things that we must keep in remembrance. We aren't to just keep anything in remembrance. There are certain things we must keep in remembrance. If we read in context, we'll realize that the things Peter had spoken about in preceding verses are our eternal realities in Christ Jesus. He had spoken about the fact that we have all that pertains to life and godliness; that we have exceeding great and precious promises.

Brethren beloved, we must never forget these things! We must never be like the man James described in his epistle (James 1:23-25), forgetting what manner of men we are after beholding ourselves through the mirror of the new covenant. Let us not forget these things. Let us keep them in remembrance!

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DAY 18

TOPIC: GOD IS ABLE

TEXT: Ephesians 3:20

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”

Apostle Paul had just prayed in the previous verses that the believers in the Ephesian church be filled with all the fullness of God. That they would come to total understanding of who they are and what they have in Christ.

In the above text, he writes to strengthen our faith in that we cannot ask God for too much that he cannot give us when we pray. He describes God as a God who is able to do what we ask of Him. He lets us know that God is not just able to do what we ask of him; He is able to do far more abundantly, beyond what we ask or think. So when we ask God of a thing, he is able to give us.

God is able to do for us much more than we can express. He's able to do much more than we can conceive in our minds. He's also able to give us in excess, in abundance. And He can do these by His Spirit that works within us. This knowledge of what God can do should encourage us to ask for just about anything; big or small. For now, we are persuaded that He is able to do exceeding abundantly, far above all that we ask, think or imagine.

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DAY 19

TOPIC: DESIRE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

TEXT: CORINTHIANS 14:1

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy."

In the above text, Apostle Paul admonishes us to desire spiritual gifts. The above statement however is not an admonition to ask for spiritual gifts but to seek to demonstrate spiritual gifts.

Paul, at the beginning of his teaching on spiritual gifts in chapter 12, had already explained that spiritual gifts are given to every man (which refers to every believer in context) to profit withal.

1 Corinthians 12:7: *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."*

Every believer already has received the gifts of the Holy Spirit. A believer in Christ isn't to receive them at a later time. He has them already. Therefore, having the gifts of the Holy Spirit is not dependent on your labour. Thus, we are to quit asking if we have the gifts. We are also to quit asking if we are right enough to have them. Are you a believer? Then you have received the gifts of the Spirit.

Now, having said all this, it is left to us to demonstrate these gifts. It is in our will to either demonstrate spiritual gifts or not to. Hence, the necessity of the admonition to demonstrate spiritual gifts. You'll find in the passage a repetition of statements such as "he that speaketh in tongues", "he that prophesieth" etc. Hence, it is in our will to consciously speak, for the ability is already given and we have received it.

Today and always, let it remain in your consciousness that we have those gifts. The ability to demonstrate them is already given to us. We have them and we can demonstrate them. So go just ahead to speak in tongues, to prophesy, to give a word of knowledge, knowing full well that you have received the ability to demonstrate them all.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 20

TOPIC: LET US PRAY

TEXT: Romans 8:26

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

‘Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.’

The Apostle Paul reveals to us in our text that the Spirit helps our weakness in the place of prayer. The question that comes to mind is what weakness is the scripture referring to? This question is to be answered by interpreting the mind of the writer from what he has already written. Not giving a proper contextual interpretation of a text scripture could lead to wrong explanation and application.

Contrary to some person’s opinion that our weakness is that; ‘we cannot pray’, the Apostle explained in the same verse that our weakness is; ‘not knowing what we should pray for as we ought’. There is no verse of the bible that says that the believer does not have the ability to pray. The challenge sometimes is that we are clueless of what to pray about in understanding. In fact, one could have a glimpse of the issue to pray about but not know how to adequately address it in prayers.

Despite the limitations of our minds in prayers, the Holy Spirit helps us in praying according to the will of God. This is evident when we pray in other tongues. While praying in tongues, our minds are unfruitful but by the Spirit we declare mysteries. By the help of the Spirit we have no limitation in prayers. We embrace His help and we pray victoriously.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 21

TOPIC: LIVING THE LOVE-GOVERNED LIFE

TEXT: Colossians 3:12-13

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also [do] ye.”

Apostle Paul admonishes the Church at Colosse to be active about the believer's love walk just as he does in his epistles to several other churches. He mentions that a believer must learn to forgive others just as Christ forgave him. A deep meditation on this text reveals the failure of morality in comparison with godliness which the believer is expected to manifest.

If he says that a believer should forgive others as Christ forgave us, then the question that we should ask is “how did Jesus forgive us?” Jesus forgave us by choosing to accept the guilt and the blame for our sin. Moreover, we were the ones that wronged, but he was the one that sought for reconciliation. In the same way, as believers, whenever we notice an offence, we must be quick to reconcile and also be ready to accept the blame.

Furthermore, when Jesus forgave us, he didn't keep any record of the sins. Rather, he gave us justification so that we can access the Father without any limit or inferiority complex. In the same way, as believers, we must not keep any record of wrongs done to us. After reconciliation, we must endeavor to live in peace as though we've never had wrongs with our neighbors. Again, this is beyond the strength of morality. Only the new creature has the enablement to do this. As a believer, you have all it takes to live a love-governed life. Live free of offences!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 22

TOPIC: ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!

TEXT: Mark 10:27

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.”

This scripture has been often quoted without proper contextual explanation. In fact, the clause “with God all things are possible” has turned into a cliché that has been wrongly applied to life issues. It therefore becomes imperative for us to consider this statement in context.

This statement was made by Jesus as a response to a question. Let us consider the question;

Verse 26- And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, who then can be saved?

The response of Jesus is amazing. He said with men it is impossible but with God all things (salvation) is possible. God by his own will has made salvation possible for man. He made salvation possible by giving His Son Jesus to die for the sins of the whole world.

Many are still asking today, how can a man be eternally saved? The response to that question is this: by the works of man, it is impossible; but with God it is possible. If salvation is dependent on man’s effort, it will apparently be impossible for man to be saved.

Dear believer, you are eternally saved because God made it possible by the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Rejoice evermore in this truth!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 23

TOPIC: WE ARE GOD'S BELOVED

TEXT: Ephesians 1:6

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”

Every child seeks for their parents' or guardian's approval. They seek to please them (parents) and make them proud. They want to be their parents' favourite at every time.

In the above text, we are told that we've already been accepted in the beloved. We do not seek to be in God's good books. He was, and is, pleased with Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for sins. And by the sacrifice of Jesus, He is pleased with us forevermore. It isn't our doing but Jesus'. God wants us to wake up every day knowing that we are unconditionally loved and forever in His heart.

God loved us so much that he gave his only begotten son Jesus that whosoever believes in him receives eternal life instantly, and perishes no more. And not only that, he gave us the Holy Spirit who abides in, and with, the believer forever. The Holy Spirit comforts us, guides us into all truth, and tells us things to come. Hallelujah! We are God's favourite! We are the object of His love! All that He has we now have! All that he is we are! Where He's seated we are seated also!

The more we know how much God loves us, the more we can witness to people about all He's done for us in Christ, the more we can expect good things from Him and enjoy all He's freely given us. The more we can live victoriously here on earth. Beloved, God wants us to always be conscious of the truth that we are forever loved by Him.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GODS GOODNES!

DAY 24

TOPIC: THEY ARE YET PART OF THE BODY

Text: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:24-25

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: 25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another."

The Church is the body of Christ and every believer is a member in this body. Whilst explaining spiritual gifts in the passage above, Apostle Paul made us understand how pivotal each member of the body of Christ is to the body, such that we cannot afford to treat any member with disdain.

Every believer should take note of this; we are to see every believer as important in the body of Christ. We are to see each other as one. Apostle Paul tells us why: we have been made to drink of the same Spirit, and we all have received the gifts of the Spirit. Therefore, having been made partakers of these gifts, we all have our usefulness in the body of Christ.

Owing to the aforesaid, we are not to discredit any believer on account of any feebleness. Yes; they can (and should) be rebuked, disciplined; but they are yet members of the body and should be treated in accordance with that.

Apostle Paul warns against division of any kind, and admonishes us to care for one another. Such members who are "feeble" should be treated with care, and his love should be demonstrated towards them because they are also a part of the body. We are responsible to them. Thus, after rebuking their wrongs, we are to love him and encourage his use of spiritual gifts for the profiting of the saints.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 25

TOPIC: LET US PRAY 2

TEXT: Romans 8:26

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

‘Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.’

Some believers in their bid to defend their prayerlessness claim that they do not need to pray because *‘Jesus has prayed for us’* or *‘heaven is praying for us’*. This misconception is taken from the wrong interpretation of our scripture text. We learnt in the first part of this topic that our weakness speaks of us not knowing what we should pray for as we ought and not that we cannot pray. The epistles strongly instruct the believer to pray. The believer is to labour diligently in prayers as this is our way of relying on God. It is good to pray in understanding (human language). However, much more, the believer should pray in the Spirit. The Apostle Paul admonished the Church in Ephesus to make all prayers and supplication in the Spirit. (Ephesians 6:18)

To pray in the Spirit is to pray in tongues. The phrase *‘groanings which cannot be uttered’* in our text speaks of words which are uttered in non-human language. This speaks of tongues. Some erroneously believe that it is the Holy Spirit that should speak when they are asked to pray in tongues. This is not so, as it is clear that the utterance and the duty to speak is given to us.

Praying in tongues breaks the barrier of our minds in praying according to the will of God. When we pray in the Spirit, we edify ourselves; we do not pray in vain but we pray according to the will of God. ‘Tongues’ is the awesome provision of God for the believer. Do you pray less in tongues? Be encouraged to pray more in tongues today. This is more profitable.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 26

TOPIC: OUR QUALIFICATION IS OF GOD

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 text above is so very clear; we do not have any sufficiency of ourselves but our sufficiency is of God who has made us able ministers of the new testament. In other words, we are not seeking to be made able ministers. We are able ministers already. We are not to look at ourselves for sufficiency. However, we are to draw our strength from the very fact that God has made us able ministers.

The word rendered "able" is from the Greek word "hikanoo" which means "to qualify". Thus, we have been qualified by God as ministers of the new covenant. He is the qualifier and we are the qualified. He is the doer, we are beneficiaries of his work. This is reiterated by the Apostle Paul in the book of Colossians.

Colossians 1:12

“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:”

That word "meet" is the same word "hikanoo" in the Greek. It is "to qualify" someone. So, we know that in the equation of the new covenant, God is the initiator and we are just recipients. He has done it, we receive what he has done. He has made us; thus, we present ourselves as those who are made. Hallelujah! God is our qualifier and qualification.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 27

TOPIC: NEVER AGAIN!

TEXT: Hebrews 10:17

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”

God looks at us in the new covenant and declares that our sins and iniquities He will no more remember. God doesn't rehearse our sins every time we do a wrong. He doesn't keep record of any of them. He isn't mindful of our failures and shortcomings.

He says this because all our sins have been paid for by Jesus. We sin from time to time, but the good news is that all our sins have already been dealt with at the cross. They've been washed away by Jesus' blood. God calls us holy and gave us His Spirit to dwell in us.

So beloved, you need not be worried about what you've done in the past. You should rejoice because God remembers them no more; Jesus has paid for them. God counts you worthy to be called His son. He calls you His righteousness in Christ Jesus. He takes delight in you. So when you approach the Father, do so with confidence that your sins have been completely forgiven. Hallelujah!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GODS GOODNESS!

DAY 28

TOPIC: YOU SHALL HAVE WHAT YOU DESIRE

TEXT: Matthew 21:22

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

"And all things whatsoever you shall ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive."

God's word tells us that whatsoever it is we ask for in prayer, by simply believing, we shall have it!

When you pray, you are actually releasing your faith to lay hold of what you already have in Christ. And as you keep laying hold on that which you have in Christ, you will see the manifestation of it in your life.

Ephesians 1:3 tells us that we have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. So, when you're sick in your body or in lack, that's the time to release your faith, confessing who you are and what you have in Christ, releasing the power of God in the direction of your needs.

The scripture says as He is, so are we in this world. The same authority that Christ has, we also have. Never let ugly situations deprive you of the joy you have in Christ. Always stand in your authority in Christ, pray and ask anything in faith and you shall get the desires of your heart.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GODS GOODNESS!

DAY 29

TOPIC: KNOWLEDGE IS CRUCIAL

TEXT: COLOSSIANS 1:19-20

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"19 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it , do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 20 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God"

One of the things prominent in Apostle Paul's letters is his consistency in praying for the Church to grow in knowledge. This, therefore, means that it is very vital to be knowledgeable as members of the body of Christ. In the passage above, we will discover that knowledge is a prerequisite to walking worthy of the Lord. Hence, we can say "walking worthy of the Lord" comes from a knowledge of God's will.

The word "knowledge" is the word "epignosis" in the Greek which means " a full recognition or full discernment of something." Hence, Apostle Paul wants us to know that a full recognition or discernment of God's will is crucial for the members of the body of Christ. Thus, we can say in agreement that to be ignorant is uncalled for. Ignorance should not be in the disposition of the saints; we are to know. We are in a time when most believers are unwilling to know, where some saints are against thorough explanations of the bible, where some are against long theological teachings, where some are not pleased with the rebuke of several doctrinal heresies, and some don't just care so far they are not pastors. Hey! We are all to know of God's will. We should not be comfortable lacking in understanding. There are several benefits of being knowledgeable about God's will. Apostle Paul makes them clear to us in subsequent verses: "we will grow in the knowledge of God, being strengthened and be able to give thanks for all that we have in him." Hence, we are aware of that which is ours in God and can give thanks for same. We are more productive in Christ when we are aware of God's will.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 30

TOPIC: BE NOT IGNORANT!

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 12:1

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.”

The Apostle Paul, in the text above, speaks about spiritual gifts; he says that he would not have the Corinthian church ignorant about spiritual gifts. In other words, Paul is saying he wants them to know this. He wants them to be aware of it; to keep it fresh in their understanding and never lose track of it. Every time the Apostle Paul speaks in that tone of voice, he is communicating something very serious to us.

To be ignorant of spiritual information is to rob ourselves of growth in the Lord. If the Apostle Paul is saying "I would not have you ignorant of this", he is implying also that he wants you to learn it. As believers, we must be given to learning the word. We must pay attention to doctrine (sound doctrine); for therein does our growth lie. The Apostle Paul did the same himself.

2 Corinthians 2:11

“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

He says that Satan will not get an advantage of them because they know his devices. The word "devices" is the word "noēma" in the Greek. It refers to "a disposition" or "perception". In other words, they are aware of Satan's disposition. They know what he wants. They are not ignorant, so they know what to do.

As we give ourselves more and more to learning the word, we become more and more mature in the things of God. We will know the exact things to do. We will not be tossed here and there by every wind of doctrine. We will not be unbelievably found begging God to grant us things he has freely given us in Christ. Beloved, be not ignorant.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!