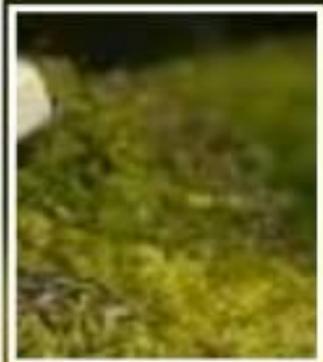




THE REFINERY DEVOTIONAL

A Monthly Devotional of The Refinery Church



Start your day with Christ consciousness
and be refined unto 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: THE LIFE WE HAVE

TEXT: Colossians 3:3

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“Christ who is our life shall appear, then we shall appear with him in glory”

The Apostle Paul makes it very clear in the above verse who our life is; our life is Christ. The words “who is” are italicized. This means they were added for easy readability by the transliterators and translators. Thus, the above verse can be read in this manner “when Christ our life...” This becomes very definitive. It becomes more specific; Christ is our life. It means therefore that our life is the fullness of who Jesus Christ is. Therefore, whatever makes up who Jesus Christ is makes us also. It means we are not different from who is. Hence, we are just as he is.

This means that we are to understand who we are, in the fullness of Jesus Christ’s personality. For example, knowing what nature Jesus Christ has makes us know exactly what nature we bear. This informs that if Jesus Christ is of an endless life, we are of an endless life too! Knowing where Jesus Christ is seated makes us know where we are seated. Since Jesus Christ is seated in heavenly places, we are seated therein also. His kingdom is our kingdom. His power is our power. His all is our all!

Following this, we can equally say that since we have the life of Jesus Christ, we cannot be who Jesus Christ is not. Since he is a son, we are therefore sons; we can’t be sinners or slaves! Since he is one with God, we are one with God too; we cannot be distant from God! Since he is holy, faultless and blameless, so are we also. We are just as Jesus Christ is because we have his life; his identity is our identity, his nature is our nature and we are both citizens of the same place.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 2

TOPIC: GOD CARES FOR YOU

TEXT: Isaiah 46:4

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.”

God lets us know that he remains the same, unchangeable from age to age. His love for us surpasses even that of the tenderest parent’s. We are the object of his love. We are the direction towards which his love flows. He says he, who watched over us as infants, would not leave us helpless even when we grow old.

The above text implies God’s unabated affection for his people; his continued presence with them; an assurance of his effectual support in all spheres of life. Our heavenly Father takes pleasure in keeping his promises to his children. He has the capacity to supply all of our needs.

He says *“I will carry and will deliver you”*. This implies we are not without his help at the times we need it most; and though we are exposed to danger, we will not become preys because the Lord will deliver us from all troubles.

Our God is a responsible Father who makes sure that we lack nothing. He’s promised never to leave nor forsake us. To show us how much he loved us, he gave us his Spirit. With Him, we have an assurance that we will reign with Him in the end of days. He cares for us that much, to give us his eternal Spirit forevermore. His provision super-abounds! It is always much more than we ever expect. Take this truth in, let it fill your mind, let it be as music to your ears, let it cause you to leap, and twirl, and laugh. It is true; God cares for you!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 3

TOPIC: LITTLE BEGINNINGS

TEXT: Job 6:8

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase”

To every success story, there is always a beginning. Our Lord Jesus Christ did not start his ministry with a thousand disciples; rather, he started with twelve which he called one after the other.

The Apostles as well had the mandate to preach the gospel starting from their environment to the ends of the earth. It is very important for believers to appreciate the power of little and grow in little, for in this comes the assurance of increase. Whatever you are doing now, either in ministry or business, it has the capacity to grow however small or little may seem.

Do not hope for increase when you have not appreciated or maximized the little in your hands.

We are not to be discouraged at the magnitude of our ministries or businesses. But as we work and proceed we are to be assured of increase.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 4

TOPIC: JESUS CAUSED IT!

TEXT: Hebrews 5:9

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him”

The word translated as “author” in the text above is the Greek word “aitios”. It refers to something/someone who caused something; that is, a causer. So, we can read the text above as *“And being made perfect, he became the causer of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.”* To obey him is to believe in him. The point of salvation is the point of obedience to Jesus. So, Jesus has caused eternal salvation for all who believe in him.

Some folks kick hardly against this truth, saying that salvation is not eternal. This shows that they are not aware that what we profess was caused by Jesus. By calling us liars, they are saying that Jesus caused a lie. They are insinuating that the Lord's work is a hoax and has no truth in it.

However, we find the truth about Jesus and what he has done for us in the scriptures (especially in the epistles). He has caused eternal salvation for us. Hence, the premise for our assurance about salvation is that Jesus caused it to be an eternal one. We didn't do it. Jesus did.

So, next time a person asks you why you are so sure that salvation is eternal, reply him or her with a broad smile of boldness on your face and say: “Because Jesus caused it!” Hallelujah!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 5

TOPIC: GATHER THE FRAGMENTS

TEXT: JOHN 6:12-13

WRITTEN BY: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.”

We can learn quite a lot from the above verse. Jesus demonstrates to us something which is of utmost important to our lives. He said “Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.” This means that the essence of gathering up was that nothing would be lost. Thus, we can say that Jesus Christ does not make provisions so that they would be lost. It therefore means that Jesus Christ makes provision for things to be maximized or to be profited from.

From the above, we can say conclusively that we are not to be put to waste or lose what we have as provision; we are to maximize and profit with them.

Going further, we discover in the above verse that what they were able to gather was much. This informs us that gathering up the things we have enables us to know how much we have. We may never know how much we have until we gather them up. To gather up is to collect together. It is to assemble. It is to deliberately sum up the totality of what one has.

We are to find what we have. In verse 9 of that chapter, Philip informed them of what they had upon which Jesus was able to perform the miracle of feeding many. This means that abundance can come from gathering up seemingly little things. Today and always, find out what you have; it is with you to prosper with.

Again, we can learn something from this text; there is always a provision. Philip found it in a place where there was uncertainty of one. Find out what you have. You definitely have more than you think; find it and prosper with it.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 6

TOPIC: REFUSE THE SCUM!

TEXT: Philippians 4:8

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are noble, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things.”

The things we meditate upon form the basis for our behavior. Hence, it is Important that believers develop a thought life that stems from God’s word. Paul makes it clear that we must make an effort to only think on things that are true, lovely, honest, just, pure, and of a good report. We live in a world that’s geared towards emotions and influenced by different kinds of thought-patterns. But, as believers, the word of God should always be the basis for our reasoning and actions.

We need not be subject to the whims of public opinion. For everything we encounter, we should learn to run it through the grid of God’s word. There’s a power at work within the believer to refuse negative, offensive and dirty thoughts. This power is the Spirit of God on our inside. He produces the fruit of self-control within the believer.

We have the power to think Godly thoughts, see the best in people, and be appreciative of all that God has given us, as well as enjoy life. As you go about your day, refuse every scum (garbage) that comes to mind, knowing that you have the power over it.

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DAY 7

TOPIC: WHAT A SAVIOUR!

TEXT: Hebrews 7:24-25

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“24 But this [man], because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

Imagine a life-guard who requests that a drowning swimmer first try all he can to come out before he can help him out. Sounds ridiculous? Such is the life-guard that Jesus has been painted to be by majority. They say, Jesus wants to save you but you will need to first deal with certain issues in your life. A saviour accepts you the way you are and helps you out of your problems. More accurately, a saviour does not need you to come the way you, he rather comes to you even in your low state.

This was what the Old Testament priests tried to do the Israelites. They sought to help the Israelites solve the sin problem; however, they were being affected by the same sin problem. Hence, they will need to first offer sacrifices for themselves so that their own sins may first be covered, thereby making them fit to offer for the Israelites. Moreover, the offerings they always brought could only cover for sin for one year. This meant that they needed to offer such sacrifices yearly. Another imperfection which they had was that being men, they were subject to death, hence another high priest needed to be chosen once the former was dead.

But this Jesus was made a high priest; a man who understands the feelings of men's infirmities yet sinless such that he didn't need to offer sacrifices for himself. Also, He's not subject to death again for he had once died and lives forever. To cap it up, he himself is the offering; perfect offering. It therefore suffices to say that since both the offering and high priest remain eternally, we who are beneficiaries are eternally forgiven and kept. Glory!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 8

TOPIC: WE ALWAYS TRIUMPH!

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 2:14

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.”

The text above is very clear; God always causes us to triumph in Christ. The word “always” means “at all times”. So, this means that there is not one time that God is orchestrating defeat for us. Many miss this truth and allude their losses to God. They think that when they lose their jobs or some other things of importance to them, it is because God allowed it. This cannot be farther from the truth than it already is. What we see clearly revealed about God's nature is that he always causes us to triumph. To triumph is to have victory. Therefore, God is an orchestrator of victory at all times.

This victory is as a result of our being in Christ Jesus. In Christ is the location of victory, dominion, and power. We are in Christ. We are victors; more than conquerors. We only bring of that which is within us and make it manifest in the physical. Even when we do this, we are only yielding to what God is causing within us; for it is God who causes us to do of his good pleasure. So, the victory process is God's doing from start to finish.

The victory is God's to give, and ours to receive. We acknowledge that in Christ Jesus is victory alone and we are able to make this manifest in our lives. We see his victory at all times. Thanks be unto God; for he always causes to triumph!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 9

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!

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DAY 10

TOPIC: WE HAVE IT ALL SETTLED

TEXT: Hebrews 7:19

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did, by which we draw nigh to God.”

Clearly revealed to us in the above text is something very profound which informs us of the nature of the realities we have obtained through Christ. We find out in definitive terms the nature of what we have in Christ is that it is perfect. This is very clear; if the law made nothing perfect, something else did which is the bringing in of a better hope. Further reading makes us know through, and in whom the better hope came; the man Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 9:22

“By so much was Jesus made a surely of a better testament”

This better hope came by Christ and is perfect by nature. The word “perfect” means “complete, accomplished, finished or fulfilled.” This spells out in more detailed terms the state of those things we have received in Christ; they are complete, accomplished, finished or fulfilled. Thus, we are safe to say that there isn’t any need for add-ups, because we are sure of its completeness. This is why, for example, we are certain our salvation is complete or accomplished. We do not work to earn it or sustain it; Christ has made all perfect on our behalf, and we have received the fullness of all the things that were made perfect by his sacrifice on the cross. So, we won’t have to try to make heaven for we are already citizens. We can say with all boldness that we are already holy by nature; we do not try to be holy.

Beloved! This is our confidence; we are sure that Jesus has sanctified us and made perfect (Hebrews 10:10-14). This is the truth; never changing, but eternally consistent!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 11

TOPIC: THE DEVIL IS DEFEATED!

TEXT: Matthew 28:18

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”

The resurrection of Jesus is a reality that every believer must be vast in its details and firm in its defense. In fact, there are both eye witness accounts by his disciples to attest to this and, more solidly, the spirit-birthing revelations that prove the same; boldly inscribed in the pages of the epistles. Clearly, Jesus' resurrection is the fulcrum of our faith. It is so important that Paul exclaimed that if Jesus didn't resurrect, we are yet in our sins and hence our faith is in vain.

Upon the resurrection of Jesus was his public declaration that all power had been (is) given unto him as cited in the text above. Upon his resurrection is the reality of a new name which he received as well, to which all other names are subject according to Paul's writing. You see, Jesus clearly defeated principalities and powers. Little wonder that very few details were given about the devil in the letters of the Apostles to the saints. Believers were rather told of such great power they now have in Christ. They were told of how the devil roams about seeking whom to destroy and how they must resist him steadfastly.

In all honesty, you don't need to waste valuable time researching the components of devils. All that matters is that they have been defeated and your only reaction to them at any time is to cast them out! Jesus' name is now yours, his power is yours, and you are a joint heir with him!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 12

TOPIC: NO MORE STRANGERS

TEXT: Ephesians 2:19

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.”

Strangers do not get to enjoy the rights and privileges accrued to the citizens of a country. The scriptures let us know that we were once afar off due to our sins and trespasses, but are now brought near to God through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. We, who have believed, are now reckoned as the people of God. We are no longer regarded as outcasts and aliens to the grace and love of God. The privileges that come with being God's own, we now enjoy.

We are fellow citizens with the saints and God's made us seat in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. We have been accepted in the beloved and now have liberty of access to God through Jesus.

Beloved, we are heirs of a never-fading inheritance in Christ. We belong to a city whose maker is God and whose foundation is built by God. We are surrounded with an innumerable company of angels who minister to us whenever we need them to. We are surrounded with a cloud of witnesses who believed and have gone before us. We believe, and we have been sealed with the Spirit of God. We are now his place of residence. Hallelujah!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 13

TOPIC: ONLY IN THE LORD

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 7:39

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.”

In the context of the text above, Apostle Paul was admonishing saints about marriage. He had written from previous verses how it is good that a man has his own wife, and a woman her own husband. The phrases "let every man have his own..." and "let every woman have his own" here would imply that the choice of a man and woman is very important in the decision of whom to marry.

In our text-verse, Paul makes it more explicit. The phrase "...whom she will" means that marriage is a play out of people's will. It means that people's choices are very important when it comes to marrying. However, Paul gives a clear-cut instruction to the believer who is about making the choice of marriage. He (She) is to marry only in the Lord. This means that the right of a believer to exercise his or her will concerning who to marry has a jurisdiction. The believer can only exercise such a choice in the Lord. He (She) can only get married to a believer, and not an unbeliever.

Therefore, we aren't to get overly emotional when it comes to marriage and say we are marrying unbelievers. That mustn't be heard! It is against apostolic instructions! We are believers, lights in the Lord. We must walk as children of light! We are to marry from amongst our midst. We are to choose from among believers. This way, we are able to foster the progress of God's plan of salvation on the earth. We are also able to have beautiful and godly marriages when we heed this instruction.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 14

TOPIC: RESIST THE DEVIL

TEXT: 1 Peter 5:8-9

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9- Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

Many people dread the devil in their minds. They nurture great fear for his personality. Some even say that “The devil is powerful but he cannot save”. It is gross ignorance for a believer in Christ Jesus to hold on to such a belief or opinion. The bible is clear and it gives us answers to all questions and hidden subjects. The bible calls the devil a liar, a sinner from the beginning. (*John 8:44*) All that the devil has is tricks and wiles (*Ephesians 6:11*).

The bible never attributed any power to the devil. However, the bible states in more than one instance that all power in heaven and on earth belongs to God. This same power has been given to the believer.

The only response the believer gives to the devil is resistance. The word “resist” is quite a very strong word of opposition, rebuke or restraint.

We are not to beg the devil, neither are we to negotiate with him. We are to resist him and his works. Walk in this knowledge and you will experience victory in all aspects of life.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 15

TOPIC: SOLD OUT FOR THE GOSPEL?

TEXT: John 12:3

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.”

The passage from where this text was taken is the story of Mary, Lazarus’ sister, who came around to anoint Jesus with a precious jar full of expensive ointment. John’s account clearly stated that this particular “ointment of spikenard” was very costly. This is evident in Judas’ reaction when he tried to stop the woman, claiming that such precious oil could have been sold in order to cater to the needs of the poor. This suggests how much it would have cost Mary to get the ointment.

Many bible scholars agree that it would cost an average Israelite a year’s saving to purchase such ointment. Yet, this woman poured it all on Jesus as though she wasted it. Corroboratively, from other accounts, this woman did this after she had received Jesus’ love by being delivered from the devil’s oppression (Luke 8:2). More amazing is the fact that she didn’t see it as shameful to wipe Jesus’ feet (which could have been dirty as a result of dust) with her hair after anointing them with oil. Traditionally, women hold their hair in high regard, yet this woman could descend so low to use such esteemed part of her body to wipe clean Jesus’ feet.

You see, this woman was ready to do anything to show gratitude and to prepare Jesus’ body. She was not ashamed of what the people present would say or think. This should be the disposition of every believer to the course of the Gospel. You must be ready to always serve God with your substance, strength and body. There is nothing that we do for this gospel that can measure up to how much sacrifice that has been made for us. It’s not a payback time; it’s a time to respond with all that we have to the love that saved us!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 16

TOPIC: WHEN WE SIN

TEXT: 1 JOHN 2:1

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“My little children, these things write I unto you that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”

The Apostle John admonishes us not to sin, however he was quick also tell us what happens when we sin; he says we have an advocate in the person of Jesus. Apostle John makes something very clear to us: the possibility that we can sin and the certainty that we have an advocate. This is not mincing words neither is this in doubt of an advocacy, for we already have, and are assured we have an advocate and he is Christ Jesus.

Looking at the words again “if any man sin, we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous”; we discover that priority is not on the sin but on the advocacy of Jesus Christ. Hence, Apostle John makes us understand that the advocacy of Jesus Christ before the Father overwhelms whatever sin we have committed. This means that our sins do not stand against us. Rather, Christ advocacy stands for us above sins in the presence of the Father.

The second verse tells us how Jesus stands as advocate for us:

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

The word “propitiation” here means “atonement, sacrifice”. Therefore, Christ is the sacrifice for our sins. Hence, he speaks of his sacrifice on our behalf. Thus, when Apostle John wrote “*if any man sin, we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous*”, he meant that we are not judged for our sins because Christ took our place. He meant that we don’t lose our identity when we sin because Christ took our place. Finally, we don’t lose our confidence because we are sure we have an advocate whose sacrifice renders all our sins void against us.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 17

TOPIC: WHAT ABOUT ANOINTING OIL?

TEXT: James 5:14-15

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: 15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.”

James, an Apostle wrote in his epistles on how the elders of a church ought to administer healing to the sick using oil. As clear as this passage is, it's amazing how the doctrine of using “anointing oil” for different purposes has been built around these two verses, even though no other apostle made reference to this in their epistles.

It is therefore good that we examine the text with enough attention. James gave an instruction on how any sick fellow should not be careless in church but rather call the attention of the elders so they can pray over such. He also mentioned applying or rubbing such with oil in the name of the Lord. Notice that the applying of oil was to be done after they must have prayed. A more careful attention to verse 15 points to what actually heals the sick; it is the prayer of faith, not the oil.

Clearly from scriptures, several means were used in healing people supernaturally. For example Jesus spat and mixed with sand to cure a blind, the apostles used mantles and so on. It will be absurd to now make spitting to cure the blind a doctrine. You see, we cannot make just a method the formula. What is consistent in all the instances of healing is the power of God at work or the faith of the receiver or both.

It will be very ridiculous when the house of God; the believer, where the dynamic and self-regenerative power of God now dwells cannot heal the sick unless he sees an “anointing oil”. You are God's power room. Be always ready to heal with or without mediums!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 18

TOPIC: YOU CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF THINGS

TEXT: James 5:17

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.”

The above text lets us know that Elijah was a man of like passions as we are. The same encounters we have, he also had. But he prayed earnestly that it might not rain and so it was. He prayed again that it might rain and it did.

One thing we can learn from this story is that Elijah knew that in the place of prayers, things change. He did not have the indwelling of the Spirit but he changed the course of things in that city for three and a half years. The fact that it had adverse effects on the people as at that time is not the premise of our discourse. But what we need to learn from the story is Elijah’s perseverance in the place of prayer; that he prayed until something happened.

It is important that we prevail in prayers not just because we have the strength to do so, but because we have the assurance that our prayers will be answered. In the place of prayers, people get saved, dreams are birthed, ministries sprung up, directions are given on specific things to do.

Beloved, we have the indwelling of the Spirit and so we can pray in the Spirit at all times, and change the situations around us whenever we want to.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 19

TOPIC: BE ENCOURAGED, GOD CARES FOR YOU!

TEXT: Isaiah 49:15-16

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“15 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. 16 Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of [my] hands; thy walls [are] continually before me.”

This text above is just some of the many comforting words that God spoke to the Israelites. Obviously, it is very unusual for a nursing mother to forget her child. Even animals that are not in any way to be compared with humans will not do that. Yet God says that despite the seeming impossibility of such scenario, peradventure such happens, He will not do that!

This attribute about God is consistent throughout scriptures. Jesus; God’s express image came to this world and declared the same about God. He publicly declared to his listeners that they are of more value than sparrows. At another point, he mentioned emphatically that whatever you need, your heavenly father knows that you need them.

Whatever seeming difficulty you are passing through today, God is not just a sympathizer with a good heart but with an inability to help out. He cares and has the ability to help you out. Are you in a huge debt? Is your marriage getting frustrating? Are you giving up on your health already? Are you even considering committing suicide? Be of good cheer! God’s got you engraved on his palm. He is that concerned with the tiniest detail of your life. It’s not a time to give up. It’s a time to trust more. Remember that he will never leave you nor forsake you.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 20

TOPIC: WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

TEXT: Psalms 91:2

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“I will say of the Lord, He is my Lord and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.”

Several instances were recorded in the four gospels of Jesus’ response when he was in dire situations. When a storm arose as Jesus and his disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. He didn’t say to his disciples, “The storm is here to test our patience or God is teaching us a lesson.” Instead, He rebuked the wind and said “Peace be still!” And there was perfect calm (Mark 4:39).

When he arrived at Lazarus’ house, he didn’t tell his sisters, Mary and Martha, that “God wanted to take Lazarus, or the common saying ‘God giveth and taketh’.” Rather, he stood outside his tomb, and said “Lazarus, come forth!”(John 11:43). The widow of Nain, whose only son had died, was being carried away to be buried; Jesus met them at the gate of the city and said to the dead son: “Young man, I say to you, arise.”(Luke 7:14).

Beloved, when faced with situations, we are not to become doubtful, speak negative words and be fearful like the people of the world. Instead, we are to speak God’s word and remember that we’ve been made more than conquerors through Him that loved us. When we’re sick in our bodies, we don’t say of the Lord, “God wants me sick to teach me to trust Him more.” Instead, we say, “Lord Jesus, I know it’s your will that I stay in good health; thank you for your healing power which heals me right now!” (3rd John 3). While trying to make ends meet, we don’t say of the Lord, “The Lord keeps me poor to keep me humble.” Instead, we say, “The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.”(Psalms 23:1). God’s word doesn’t return unto him void (Isaiah 55:11). In the scriptures, we can find out what His word says about our situations, believe it and declare it, and expect to see the manifestation thereof. Hallelujah!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GODS GOODNESS!

DAY 21

TOPIC: BE OF A GOOD CHEER!

TEXT: John 16:33

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

Jesus made the statement above before he died and rose again. He was speaking to his disciples in the light of what was going to happen. In context, he spoke of his death and resurrection (in preceding verses) and the glory and victory that was going to bring. He said that this victory would be the expressway that the Holy Ghost was going to follow in his coming to dwell in the disciples forevermore. Therefore, the Holy Ghost is the Spirit of Jesus' victory over the world. How did Jesus conquer the world? In dying, he destroyed he who had the power of death, even the devil. He vanquished hell totally, and came out as the highest authority in all realms. He has given us his Holy Ghost, for we have believed, and he lives in us forevermore.

The Holy Ghost witnesses evermore of the victory we have in Jesus to us. He causes us to see the glory that we were born from. He causes us to see that our origin is that of glory, power, authority, majesty, and dominion forevermore. When we begin to acknowledge this eternal truth, we begin to see and understand who we really truly are in Christ. What we see and understand then causes an orderly, heavenly, divine eruption of joy within us. We laugh from within us, and rejoice heavily in the victory we have. We are then able to be of a good cheer in the midst of life's tribulations because we have understood that Jesus has overcome the world, and we also have in him. Who is he that overcomes the world? It is the man in Christ Jesus; the believer. He is the overcomer! He is the victor! He is the conqueror!

Dearly beloved, be of a good cheer! To be of a good cheer is to have courage, comfort, and a calm delight. Jesus has overcome the world! Be of a good cheer!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GODS GOODNESS!

DAY 22

TOPIC: BE ENCOURAGED

TEXT: 1 Samuel 30:6

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.”

The story in our text is so emotive if properly imagined. David was a great king who had led Israel in several battles and won.

However, in our passage, his country was attacked; his people abducted, including his two wives.

As a matter of fact, there was no one to encourage David. People sought to stone him. They were all depressed. Despite the situation of discouragement and depression, David remembered his God. He encouraged himself in the strength that was available for him in God. The story ended in victory and he recovered all that was taken from him.

We have something very crucial to learn here as believers. David had no one to show him the way. He was overly dejected and sad. In all of these, he found courage in God.

Beloved, no matter your situation, there is always strength to move on in God. You can only choose to encourage yourself or keep being discouraged. But notice that David's encouragement produced great result and victory. Never let challenges overtake you, for there is strength to move on. Encourage yourself in the Lord, and see great results made manifest!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 23

TOPIC: YOU NEED A LOCAL CHURCH

TEXT: Hebrews 10:24-25

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 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.”

We live in an age where lots of things have been made easy. This has positively affected almost all ramifications of our lives. Nonetheless, attached to every good innovation is often a negative side. One of such inventions is the advent of technology which keeps growing very sporadically. Such development has made many think those who still gather with other saints as just being religious; but that's not true. We must honour apostolic teachings irrespective of the advancements that come to make life easier.

As believers, submission to one another as brethren purchased of a precious and incorruptible blood is clearly an instruction for us in the written word. This cannot be effectively practiced unless we gather. Furthermore, submission to authorities is also very paramount and gathering avails us such opportunity. In the same line, a believer will have better protection from heresies if he gathers with other believers where his doctrinal persuasions can be monitored and questioned if need be.

It is also important to note that many of the abilities of the Holy Spirit require contact with other believers for them to be used. Hence, a believer seeking growth ought to utilize such gatherings to grow in the understanding and use of such abilities.

Have you stopped gathering with other believers? No excuse is genuine enough in disobeying clear instructions. Take heed today and get back on the right course.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 24

TOPIC: GOD IN US

TEXT: 1 John 4:15

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.”

The bible teaches us that the name of Jesus is Emmanuel which literally means ‘God with us’.

One of the greatest miracles in the entire bible is God becoming man. This is a mystery. Apostle Paul called it the mystery of godliness. (*1 Timothy 3:16*)

The revelation of God on earth is the man, Christ Jesus. While he was on earth, he healed the sick, raised the dead, and did lots of miracles. As He was about leaving the earth, he did not leave His disciples without hope. He reassured them that His presence will not just be with them but also in them. This promise is to all that believe in Him.

It is a joyful thing to know that the Holy Ghost is God in the believer. Brethren, we have God in us. Herein is our faith! We are in Him and He is in us. His presence in us defines our lives. It is evident that we are absolutely nothing without Him.

Today, be conscious of God's presence in you. Do not feel unworthy to house God. Through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you have been made worthy. Exercise yourself always in the consciousness of His presence in you.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 25

TOPIC: WORK WITH YOUR HANDS

TEXT: Ephesians 4:28

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”

The Apostle Paul admonishes us on the need to work. This lets us know that he doesn't support idleness or laziness, but industry. In other words, Paul expects the believer in Christ to be industrious. There are many today who sit down, doing nothing, hoping that meat and drink will rain down from heaven. They are ignorant. They are acting foolishly, and are not walking in accordance with apostolic instructions.

As a matter of fact, in another epistle to the church in Thessalonica, Paul stated that any man who was not working but gallivanting around, having no wish to be productive, should not eat. It's that serious! He even stated that to act like that is to walk disorderly (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12). A believer must desire to work. He must desire to be productive. Of course, this work has to be something that benefits the believer and everyone around him. Paul already lets us know the work cannot be theft, fraud, or any such thing.

While it is true that there may be many seemingly tough situations that tend to militate against productivity in the earth, especially in a country like ours, this however doesn't give the believer an excuse to be idle and lazy. He must work hard, in the midst of the tough situations, and be assured that there is a way through. This is because the Spirit that we have received is a relentless one. He is not a Spirit that gives up. He is a way-making, door-opening, life-changing Spirit. By the direction he gives, we will find opportunities to maximize and benefit from. The resulting effect will be that we will have to the end that the needy may have also, as we give them of what we have. Dearly beloved, we are believers. We labour, working with our hands things which are good, that we may have to give to those who are in need.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 26

TOPIC: HE GIVES HIS BELOVED SLEEP

TEXT: Psalms 127:2

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.”

The responsibility bestowed on the believer in Christ is to renew his mind to the reality of God's power in him or her. Since we have believed in God through Jesus Christ, we also have the right to enjoy all his blessings and goodness. You must know and be persuaded that God is good and his ways are good. He does good to us. Hence, we can ask him when we are in need with the assurance that he hears us.

Our scripture text reveals that God gives his beloved sleep. Sleep is a blessing of God to man. It energizes and flourishes our mortal bodies. It is the design of God for our mortal bodies that we rest and sleep. Through this we can receive the physical energy to work and go about our daily activities.

Many have suffered inability to sleep and they have no solution to it. Beloved if you are in this category, know fully well that God wants you well; he wants your mortal body energized, and functioning well.

The body might be malfunctioning due to the fall of Adam. However, the Spirit of God in you has the ability to quicken your body and amend all wrongs. Do not panic, rest in the provisions available in your spirit. Pray against that insomnia, and curse it to its roots. You have victory!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 27

TOPIC: COMMITMENT TO FRIENDSHIP

TEXT: Romans 16:3

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my helpers in Christ Jesus: who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.”

There is something peculiar in all of Apostle Paul’s letters and that is his way of appreciation to the church. The Apostle Paul never ended any of his letters without greeting, telling his helpers of their shared identity in Christ and appreciating them for the things they had contributed in his ministry.

We should learn from Paul. We can draw out a conclusion on his consistent attitude, that beyond participating in all spiritual activities together, working in a unit, something also is very crucial and that is learning to appreciate others; co-labourers, friends, and families. Appreciating people is a way to say you recognize them and their sacrifices. This certainly goes far; it goes a long way to encourage the brethren, to lift up their spirits, to earn trust and respect and build up awesome friendships or teams.

Finally, Apostle Paul makes something obvious; we do not have to be physically present to make this a reality. When he was not physically present, he employed the use of letters. Location should not be a barrier to building friendships and to showing appreciation. So, it is not an excuse if they are far away; we can still reach out to them.

This lesson from Apostle Paul should be put to practice; show great love to your pastor, appreciate your team-head and members, tell them you appreciate their efforts, check out for those members who were absent in services, give a visit and give a call to those who rendered you help or you have long seen. By this, we demonstrate oneness, support and love to one another.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED TO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 28

TOPIC: EXERCISE YOUR WILL

TEXT: Genesis 2:16

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17- But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

To deny that a man has a will is to deny the nature of man. Also, to acclaim that God makes choices for man is to make man of no importance or relevance. An important feature of the nature of man is that he can make choices.

The first man was made a living soul with the ability to choose and make decisions. He made the choice to eat of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. Man has intellect and will. Man is not created a robot or a machine. This is very peculiar to the form of man.

Many believers today have attributed all their actions to God as the cause. Some are even so lazy that they expect God to reason and work for them. These live their lives like robots who have no will or intellect. It is the sole responsibility of a man to exercise his will by making decisions on what to do in life.

Knowing that we have the Spirit of God, we can depend on his constant leading in us but we cannot depend on him to make choices for us. Your progress in life is dependent on you exercising your will (choices and decisions) in accordance with the will of God. His will is revealed in His word. Stop waiting for God to act, act on his word and you will see results.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 29

TOPIC: WHEN WE HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

TEXT: ROMANS 14:18

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

The Apostle Paul unveils to us in the above text what is ours by nature as believers. He employs the use of a definitive term in his affirmation of what already is ours. He uses the word “is” which implies what is ours is definite.

In the above verse, Apostle Paul tells us that what is ours in the Holy Ghost is righteousness, peace, and joy. Hence, he affirms that what is ours by the Holy Ghost cannot be contrary to what is already stated. It could never be unrighteousness, fear, panic and sorrow.

The word righteousness means “equality with God”. Thus, in agreement with what had been said earlier, we are sure we are equal with God. This means to say we have all that God has is not blasphemous in any way. Instead, it is a statement of truth concerning our identity in Christ Jesus. We have the fullness of what makes God divine. We are filled with all of his goodness. We have peace with God, and are therefore bold before him. We can call him Father and he refers to us as sons. In this we are joyful, and rejoice always because what we have in the Holy Ghost is eternal.

For all these, we walk head high, assured of all that we have in the Holy Ghost, knowing full well, that they neither fade nor diminish but abide forevermore.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED TO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 30

TOPIC: GO!

TEXT: 1 Timothy 4:14

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.”

Many times, we are held back by the contrary winds of situations and circumstances that often blow our ways in life. It becomes as though we are in a limbo; unable to move forward. Such times always come our ways in this fallen earth. However, our disposition towards these negative conditions must not be that of one who is helpless.

Such times are times to speak the word of God with all boldness. We are not helpless people, for we have the Lord. He is our help. We are not hopeless people, for we have Christ Jesus. He is our hope. At such difficult times, we must not stop running worth God's vision in our hearts. We must not give up on what the Lord has committed into our hands. We must run ahead, with our memories lightened up by the prophecies we have received of the Lord.

If there's anyone to learn relentlessness from, it is God. God is relentless! He gave up his son to die for the world even when there was no assurance that anyone would believe in him. The bulk of the very people he came to save rejected him. He didn't have so many disciples save some twelve who were very doubtful. He should have given up. Yet he didn't. He kept walking with God's vision. Now, look where we all are because Jesus didn't give up on the will of God! We are believers because of this singular reason.

Are you going through hard times in that thing which the Lord spoke to you to do? Do not give up! Keep going on. Go! Go! Do not relent. Do not give up on that which God has spoken to us in his word. Neglect not that which was given you by prophecy! Go!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 31

TOPIC: IS ANY MERRY?

TEXT: James 5:13

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

“13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.”

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

The correct expression of happiness or gratitude is not to be drunk with excess wine, as some do. Many, in the rave of the moment, outstep their sanity, get drunk and run into a vehicle that kills them. Many others begin to boast of how powerful and majestic they are. Many also boast in the vessel through whom their needs were met instead of rejoicing in the Lord that gives all things freely, for it is God that gives bread to the eater and seed to the sower (2 Corinthians 9:10). Psalms are inspired words, declaring God's glory. Psalms are our utterances declaring the power and the glory of the Lord; our boasting is in Him. Thus, when we merry, let us rejoice in the Lord more and more as His joy fills our hearts and we are drunk in the consciousness of His Spirit. As we do this, we reinstate God's goodness to us more and more, now and forever more, Amen.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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