



THE REFINERY DEVOTIONAL

a monthly devotional of The Refinery Church

FEBRUARY
2017

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: YOU ARE FORGIVEN!

TEXT: Ephesians 1:7

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"

The text above shows us something very crucial to our faith; we have forgiveness of sins. The word "have" shows only one thing to us: the forgiveness of sins is a believer's possession in Christ Jesus. Therefore, it is not something he will have in the future. Rather, it is something he has now. Now, in Christ Jesus, the believer has forgiveness of sins. He is the forgiven one. Jesus makes us know this in the book of Acts when he appeared to Paul on his way to Damascus. He emphasizes the same words in our text-verse.

Acts 26:18

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."

Jesus says that "forgiveness of sins" is received the moment people are turned from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God. The phrase "turn from darkness to light" is descriptive of believing. As soon as a man believes in the gospel of our Lord Jesus, he receives forgiveness of sins. It becomes his possession in Christ. It's not a forgiveness that lasts until the next sin the man will/may commit. It's an eternal forgiveness by the blood of Jesus.

Let not the devil incite thoughts of condemnation to you via the words of men who are rooted in deep ignorance about the grace of God. Lift your holy hands as you worship God with all boldness. Talk to God with all confidence, with no trace of fear in you. You are the beloved of God. You are the forgiven one!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 2

TOPIC: JUST SPEAK

TEXT: Matthew 7:8-9

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?”

Today's devotional is all about speaking. To speak is to take charge and be in control. As illustrated by the centurion in our text, a man placed in a position of authority has the sole obligation to give orders. He needs not keep quiet when things are being improperly done. He keeps his subjects in check just by speaking. If such a man keeps mute, it shows that he is ignorant of his position and authority.

The believer is seated far above principalities and power. He is in the place of authority. But, having authority is quite different from using the authority. The believer is to therefore use his authority by speaking. When situations arise, we are not to keep shut and 'accept fate', we are to enforce the will of God, which is good, over such situations.

The bible reveals that you are a royal priesthood and a holy nation (1Peter 2:9). Royalty is all about ruling. You are not a king on earth to just keep quiet while the devil keeps attacking. No, our kingship on earth is to rule, subdue and have dominion over the earth.

Today, know that Christ has made you both king and priest, know that your words are necessary in enforcing your victory in Christ Jesus. Do not shut your mouth, declare the goodness of God over your situation. For demons tremble when you exercise your authority by speaking.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 3

TOPIC: YOU HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE

TEXT: John 8:12

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

Jesus convincingly spoke in the verse cited above that, although He is the light of the world, only those that follow him will not walk in darkness. A man that follows Jesus is a man who has accepted to believe and trust Jesus. Here is Jesus assuring such a man that has chosen to follow him that at no point in time will he ever be left confused. He will always be informed about the “how”, “where”, “what”, and “when” of every matter that concerns him. This implies that a believer in Jesus will never be left without direction.

With this simple truth as our foundation for today’s devotional, it is therefore not ideal for a believer to pray that God should come and lead him. He’s rather supposed to pray so as to know what direction God is leading him to take. This is because God is constantly leading a believer has Jesus had earlier promised. In fact, Paul later affirmed the same in Romans 8:14

You see, that a man is led of God is proof enough that he is a son of God. A believer may at one point or the other appear confused or clueless in his mind but he is never confused in his spirit for he always knows what to do; he always does! In case you’re in a confusing situation today, all you need to do is to involve yourself in spiritual activities that will give your spirit a voice over your clouded mind. All of a sudden you realize that you have clarity.

Confession: Jesus is my shepherd; I am his sheep. I hear His voice; I follow his voice. The voice of a stranger I do not follow. I am in the light; I do not walk in darkness. There is clarity in my part, I am not confused! I function by the spirit of God and I am receptive to His leadings.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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Further Study: John 10:1-30

DAY 4

TOPIC: BE CAREFUL TO LISTEN

TEXT: James 1:19

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

‘Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:’

In our day-to-day interactions with others, the importance of paying rapt attention to people when they speak cannot be overemphasized. Most of the misunderstandings in human relations today often occur because many people fail to listen attentively. It is in listening that we understand what a man is saying and what he is not saying.

The world would certainly be a better place if people could be patient enough to listen to one another. The attitude of always wanting to be heard and not listening to others is not of God. God listens to us when we speak to Him. He allows us express ourselves. He cares that much. This same character of patience and love should be exhibited by the believer.

Today, make up your mind to exhibit your listening character. As parents, be patient enough to listen to your children. As a spouse, listen to your partner. As a leader, listen to your followers. Let us all listen to one another. It is not just about your own opinion. By this, we can curb misunderstandings and walk more in love just as we are in love.

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DAY 5

TOPIC: ANOTHER GOSPEL

TEXT: Galatians 1:6

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

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

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

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

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

1 Corinthians 15:3

We choose to be grounded in the original gospel, therein lies our assurance, our hope, our faith, our strength, we continue in the truth and our freedom increases unto all Godliness."

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DAY 6

TOPIC: BE FAITHFUL IN LITTLE

TEXT: Luke 16:10

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

‘If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities.’[NLT]

It is a very popular saying that ‘a walk of a thousand miles starts with a step.’ Many wish and desire to handle big tasks. They nurture the ambition to be the head in their various places of work and oversee several other departments under them. Yet, they neglect the seemingly insignificant assignment given to them.

One cannot be desirous of many tasks and not ensure to excel in the little tasks assigned to him or her. The key to being productive in life affairs is to be faithful. Faithfulness involves doing a task or an assignment the exact way it should be done. Being inconsistent with whatever work we do either in Church or our secular business will not bring the expected result. For there to be increase, there must be a consistent supply of efforts toward the task.

The believer is empowered by the Spirit of God in him to be faithful in all that is accounted unto him. He is to take careful steps and diligent efforts to ensure that he executes the work or assignment given to him faithfully.

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DAY 7

TOPIC: YOU ARE BOLD!

TEXT: Proverbs 28:1

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion."

Who is the righteous man? The epistles give us a clear-cut answer to that. It is that man who has believed in Jesus Christ. He is the justified man. He is the bold man. The epistles further clarify to us that we have not received the spirit of fear. In other words, we have a Spirit within us that has not a trait of fear. He is power. He enables us to be bold.

No wonder Peter stood up with all boldness on that day when he, alongside the other people in the upper room, had received the Holy Ghost to preach the word of God to the people. It was the Holy Ghost in him stirring him up to speak. We have that same Spirit within us today, and he stirs us always unto all boldness.

We, as believers, are bold men, for we have the Holy Ghost within us. We go forth into all the corners of the earth, we march on into all the regions of the world, we speak God's word to all peoples in every nation, every tongue, and every kindred, for we are bold men of a bold Spirit!

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DAY 8

TOPIC: GUARD YOUR HEART

TEXT: Proverbs 4:23

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life”.

The heart is the seat of the intellect, emotions and will. It is from the heart that actions are carried out. Our actions stem out of the contents of our heart; and as a result of this, there is the need for us to guard our hearts above all else.

We are to guard our hearts by keeping God’s word on center-stage in our hearts. Above all else, let the truth of God’s love and word fill your heart. We live in a world that is often opposed to the truth, but we must know the difference between facts and truth of God’s word. The truth of God’s word produces transformation. Let your mind be fixed on that.

Guarding your heart also involves renewing your mind continuously with God’s word. Whatsoever things that have virtue, we are admonished to meditate on them.

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Further Study: Philippians 4:8

DAY 9

TOPIC: IT'S MERELY AN EARTHEN VESSEL

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 4:7

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”

It is such a profound truth for every believer to always acknowledge that humans are frail entity without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Apostle Paul while penning down this particular verse was careful enough to use the word “we”. This means that he’s also included with those who are weak earthen vessels without the Holy Ghost.

As we minister by the power of the Holy Spirit; blessing lives with the gospel in our various localities and beyond, we must ensure that we consistently acknowledge that without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we amount to nothing. This alone reassures us that whatever is done through and by us is not of ourselves but through the self-generating power of God that indwells us. Hence, the glory is always to God.

Another important thing to note is that although God’s mighty treasure dwells in us, our bodies are still considered “earthen vessels”. Other versions render it as “fragile vase of clay”, “common clay pots”, etc. These are to make it clear to us that our bodies are ordinary fragile clay materials that are only opportune to carry the treasure of the gospel. This informs us that we must pay enough attention to ensuring that our bodies do not break down as it is required to carry God’s treasure.

Dear believer, what we carry inside us is “this treasure”; the good news. We must therefore ensure we do all to ensure that our body is always fit to carry this message such that at the end, all the glory may be of God.

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DAY 10

TOPIC: THE GLORIOUS COMPANY

TEXT: Acts 4:23

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

‘And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.’

In our text, there was an incident that happened to the Apostles. The healing of the lame man at the gate called beautiful brought about an opportunity to preach the gospel to multitude by the mouth of Apostle Peter and John. However, the Priest and Sadducees were dissatisfied and aggrieved by what was done by the Apostles. Hence, they flogged them and further threatened them not to preach in the name of Jesus. The bible records that being let go, they went to their own company. This company of theirs was the gathering of fellow saints who could lift up their voices and pray.

The believer is not hopeless. The believer is not a loner. He is a member of the body of Christ. The believer is accepted in the beloved. He is a full-fledge member of the family of Christ. When faced with circumstances, we are to follow the example of the Apostles. We are never to forget that we have a company where we can pour out our mind and get the right response to such challenges. After the apostles prayed, it ended with sound of victory and rejoicing.

Beloved, choose to maximize the company of fellow believers, for amidst them is rejoicing forever more.

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DAY 11

TOPIC: WE HAVE ACCESS TO THE FATHER

TEXT: Ephesians 2:18

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”

In the times of the prophets, access to the Father was only granted to the high priest. He offered sacrifices to God on behalf of the children of Israel. Just anyone couldn't approach the tabernacle anyhow; he could lose his life in the process. But glory to God, Christ came, died and resurrected that we might be reconciled back to God. His sacrifice on the cross granted us access to the Father by the Holy Spirit that indwells us.

It's so refreshing to know that we can approach the Father while in our closets, while walking on the street and even in the deadliest of times. We are not alone, for His Spirit lives in us.

Beloved, we have now boldness by God's Spirit to go before the Father. We, who used to be strangers, are now one with the Father. We are joint-heirs with the Son.

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Further Study: Romans 5:1-2

DAY 12

TOPIC: LEADING THE WAY

TEXT: John 21:16

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

‘He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.’

The instruction given to Peter in our text-verse placed him in the position of leadership. He was to feed Jesus’ sheep. Jesus shows us clearly that a leader is saddled with the responsibility of serving the people committed to his care. A leader is not the lord or boss over the people, instead a leader is to work for the good of the people, meeting their needs and bringing out the best in them.

Love is the greatest character that should be possessed and displayed by a leader. A leader having the love of Christ in mind would extend this love towards others. Jesus is a perfect example of a leader; he is the husband of the church, the leader of the church, and in his leadership we see love at play.

Also, from Jesus’ leadership, we see how much he invested into the disciples. We also see how he trusted them with the work of the kingdom. Therefore, as leaders, we must invest into the people we lead, commit works into their hands, not being judgmental but trusting them to do well as we show, guide and encourage them constantly.

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DAY 13

TOPIC: SING PSALMS

TEXT: Ephesians 5:19

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"

What are psalms? Psalms are songs sang out by the inspiration of the Spirit. We have an instruction in the epistles to sing psalms. We must sing psalms. It is non-negotiable. Psalms are actually one of the ways we make the savour of the victory of Christ known. In singing psalms, we proclaim the finished works of Christ on the cross. We declare his good will and goodness towards all men.

1 Corinthians 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."

The word rendered "sing" in the text above is "psallō". It refers to the act of making melody and singing psalms. The Apostle Paul was actually referring to psalms here. He would sing with the spirit (sing in tongues) and then sing a psalm (an interpretation of his tongues) out in understanding. It was a common thing in the early church to sing in tongues and give out the interpretation as a psalm.

It is important to note that as believers, we all have the ability to do this. Therefore, we must be given to singing psalms. Let us lift our voices, making divine melodies in our hearts, speaking words of edification, exhortation and comfort to one another with tunes that make the heart merry. Beloved, let us sing psalms!

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DAY 14

TOPIC: WORK; IT PAYS

TEXT: Ephesians 4:28

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

‘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’

Work is a very essential part of the human life; Adam was asked to tend the garden which he inhabited; therefore. Every human is to work so as to take care of himself and others with the provisions made available by God on earth. Work is neither an Old or New Testament nor Law or Grace issue, it is rather an earthly principle instituted by God himself being the first person to engage in work, as seen in the scriptures when he showed us an example by creating the world and everything in it.

It is obvious that things in the society are not as good as we hope for. The world is currently enmeshed in numerous economic crises. Due to these societal issues, many people have given up on their dreams, many people have been depressed and lost hope, and many have even delved into illegal businesses just to fend for themselves.

However, in this verse, Apostle Paul admonished us to work with our hands. He instructed he who stole to steal no more but work that which is good. We know that every good gift comes from the father of light; we are not to be lazy, giving up on our dreams and aspirations. This verse advises us to work, so that we can benefit others as we benefit ourselves.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 15

TOPIC: CHRISTIAN GIVING

TEXT: Acts 4:34-35

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid [them] down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.”

The way the early church lived in the respect of giving is so dumbfounding! They mutually contributed to one another such that it was very difficult to distinguish the financially rich from the poor in the church. Whatever material possessions anyone had was counted as the possession of all. This same disposition to meeting needs of fellow saints and giving for the course and cause of the gospel is seen in the apostolic teachings and the way the disciples lived subsequent to Acts 4 record of mutual giving.

At the moment, it looks almost impracticable to bring all our goods to church and start redistributing. However, we must always seek to achieve what the early church sought to achieve by meeting needs of the needy in our meetings. We should be quick to spot the materially needy in our gatherings and find it pleasurable to bless them from what we have, so that their needs are met through our benevolence. This we are to do knowing that we are stewards of God's grace blessing lives with whatever material possessions we have. This will help us not to condescend to these people as we offer them help.

As you step out today, make a decision in your mind to always help the needy ones around you, particularly those who have put their faith in Christ (Galatians 6:10). They are your brothers and sisters and they should be catered for. We are responsible one to another.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 16

TOPIC: HOLD FAST TO SOUND DOCTRINE

TEXT: Hebrews 2:1

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

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

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

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

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

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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Further Study: Jude 1:3

DAY 17

TOPIC: A STRONG CURSE

TEXT: Galatians 1:8-9

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

In our present world, civilization has been redefined. We live in a world that takes spiritual information with levity. We really do not care if a man preaches the right gospel or not. We really do not care if he rightly divides the word. Many times, men hide their ignorance in proper accents; they hide it in many principles of ministry; they hide it in the miraculous power of God. The Apostles didn't take it lightly that a preacher misrepresented the gospel; they didn't take it with joke or political correctness. They revealed a curse is attached to the one who perverts the gospel. Apostle Paul reveals in other texts that the one who builds people on the wrong theological strength will lose his labour as every man's work will be tried with fire.

We are to preach the gospel with verity and assurance of Jesus' sacrifice for sins. Any information outside this basis is not the truth, God has not asked us to preach how terrible people are; rather, we are to preach how loving Jesus is, how glorious, and forgiving Jesus is. We are to emphasize that He suffered in the place of all men and now His Spirit has been released to all who will receive Him.

As we preach this blessedness in Jesus, the bible describes our feet as beautiful upon the hills. We will say like Paul, that we have defended the faith and there awaits us a crown of righteousness. We will look on to the reward seat of Christ in assurance of rewards, not loss, for we have preached Him to the world, and not ourselves.

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DAY 18

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!

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DAY 19

TOPIC: TAKE NO THOUGHT

TEXT: Matthew 6:31-32

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“31 Therefore take no thought saying, what shall we eat? Or, what shall we drink? Or, wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 For after all these things do the Gentiles seek: for your heavenly father knows that you have need of these things.”

The Lord instructs that we be not unnecessarily overburdened with the cares of this life such as what to eat, drink and put on. He says our heavenly father knows we have need of those things.

Beloved, God is aware of the cares you have, and he will meet them. He says to cast all of your cares on him; tell it to him in prayers, for he cares for you (1 Peter 5:7). The instruction to ‘take no thought’ doesn’t mean that one just sits, folds his arms and not work. Rather, it refers to not being worried. You are to be rest assured that the Lord is able to meet all of your needs even as you work.

As you go about your day, let your mind be stayed on God and never forget that your heavenly Father still miraculously provides for his own.

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Further Study: Philippians 4:6

DAY 20

TOPIC: PRESS ON

TEXT: Philippians 3:13

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

‘Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before...’

Apostle Paul, a man who made great exploits in the walk of faith, showed to us one of the secrets to his successful living. He was such a man that was never caught up in the past occurrences of life. He lived in the present reality of life. This is worthy of emulation in our present world; many celebrate their past achievements, and would never move on to take up new tasks. Likewise, many still hold on strongly to the emotional trauma they suffered in the past. This is not healthy for living.

As believers, we must daily wake up to the reality of our present lives; Not holding on to past failures or celebrating past achievements to the extent of overlooking the new opportunities ahead of us. We must be deliberate about constantly letting go of the past and moving ahead with the present reality of life.

The ability to keep moving on is in us. By the power of the Holy Ghost in us, we have been bestowed the strength to press on and never fall by the wayside. Let us press forward, for with the break of the dawn comes a new opportunity to do things anew.

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DAY 21

TOPIC: GOD CARES

TEXT: 1 Peter 5:7

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

The word "care" in the above text is from the Greek word "merimna". It refers to one's concerns; our needs. A man's concerns or needs are the things that are really important to him; he wants them. Sometimes, he even gets anxious about getting them. The Apostle Peter lets us know something important here. He tells us to cast our cares upon God. The word "cast" as used here, means "to throw upon"; "to place something on someone". It's actually descriptive of allowing someone else bear one's burdens.

So, we are to place our concerns on God. We are to do this as a response to the care he has for us. Actually, the word rendered as "careth" in the text above is from the Greek word "melō". It means "to be of interest" or "to concern". This informs us that God is concerned about our concerns. He is interested in our lives. He is passionate about us. We matter to him.

Our response to this passion God has for us is to cast our cares upon him. It is to be fully persuaded that God wants the best for us. Much more, we must know that he will provide. For God is not one who exemplifies passive passion. Rather, he is active in his passion for us.

Beloved, go out today and beyond in full assurance that God cares for you. Be rest assured, he will provide for you.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 22

TOPIC: FLEE FORNICATION

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

As believers, it is very expedient that we realize that our bodies have been purchased with a great price. It has been purchased with the precious blood of Jesus. The value of any commodity is determined by how much it cost the buyer to purchase it. The value of every believer's body is the value of the precious blood of our Holy God. The body of any believer is therefore the most valuable physical thing on earth.

This simply implies that it is no longer ours. Hence, we are only caretakers of our body. Our bodies therefore now house the Holy Spirit. Hence, we are supposed to offer acceptable sacrifices unto God. Apostle Peter affirmed the same in 1 Peter 2:4-5.

Therefore, it is important to call our attention at this juncture to the fact that it is very ridiculous to use our holy and priceless bodies slaves to sex. Any sex done outside marriage is considered fornication. Fornication is clearly named as sin in the bible and we must always ensure that our bodies do not serve as a tool for fornication. We must always present it honourable and precious as it is. That is the will of God for our bodies and we must do accordingly.

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DAY 23

TOPIC: TRAIN UP A CHILD

TEXT: 2 Timothy 3:15

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which is able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”.

It was a norm with the Jews to teach their scriptures and bring them up in the way of the Lord. The above text lets us know that Timothy was taught the scriptures right from childhood. Acts 16:1-3 tells us a bit about Timothy's parents. His father was Greek; while his mother, Eunice, was a Jewess who had believed in the Lord Jesus. It can be inferred that she taught him the scriptures from an early age. He became conversant with the scriptures and gained a large understanding of them. Apostle Paul stated this fact.

It is of utmost importance that parents bring up their wards in the correction and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Teach them the truth of God's word at every opportunity you have. While you eat with them, teach them God's word. While you work with them, teach them God's word; and even while you play with them, do same.

The Lord intends to have a godly generation on the earth. People who will have reverence for his word at all times and foster peace and unity amongst themselves. All of these can only happen when children are properly trained at home.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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Further Study: Proverbs 22:6

DAY 24

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 saints is God's wisdom 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 laying of 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 the 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.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 25

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. Everytime 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!

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DAY 26

TOPIC: YOU ARE GOD'S TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 5:21

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“For he hath made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

One ideology common to most religions of the world is finding ways by which mortal men can be made pleasing and acceptable to whichever deity is believed to be God. However, none of these ways has ever pronounced any man righteous before any of such “gods” ignorantly considered as God.

The good news however is that long ago God came all by himself to make righteous the same men who were/are ungodly and even rejected/reject him. This is the end to this frustration that comes with religion. The Holy God has made himself to become man so as to receive the judgment that comes with the sin of man.

The amazing thing is that for those who accept this already done work, they are not just declared righteous; they are now made the embodiment of true righteousness. This is so perfectly done such that if any man ever seeks to know what the exact description of righteousness is, a believer in Christ is taken as the accurate sample of God's righteousness. Wow! What an honour we have; freely bestowed on us.

For all who have believed in Jesus, God looks at us today and gladly declares that all these treasured ones are my righteousness. They are the evidences of my true righteousness. What boldness! We are truly God's righteousness and Jesus is our righteousness.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 27

TOPIC: NO LONGER SLAVES TO SIN

TEXT: Galatians 5:24

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

Apostle Paul makes believers understand that they’ve been given the potential to overcome sin by their position in Christ in that, when Christ died on the cross, he died for their sins. He crucified the flesh and its lusts on the cross. His crucifixion became their crucifixion. God now identifies the believer with Christ’s death and resurrection.

Most believers try to punish themselves when they sin. They say they are crucifying their flesh, but they always end in frustration. Our text makes us understand that Christ has already done that for us. We do not pray to crucify the flesh; for in Christ, we have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts thereof. Jesus already settled the issue of our sins on the cross and we recognizing this fact helps us live a victorious life. The knowledge that we have been crucified with Christ and no longer have need to be slaves to sin gives us a reason to rejoice and walk in the newness of life.

Child of God, you have been made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. When sinful desires becloud your mind, declare that you are now Christ’s and the life that you now live, you live by the faith of the Son of God who gave himself for you. Hallelujah!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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Further Study: Romans 6:6

DAY 28

TOPIC: DRUNKEN MASTERS

TEXT: Ephesians 5:18

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”

The Apostle Paul instructs us to be filled with the Spirit. He juxtaposes that filling with drunkenness with wine in the same sentence. He instructs us not to seek the kind of high in the world. We are not to be addicted to drugs, alcohol etc. We are not to dwell in the midst of drunks, hoping to wear off our sorrows, hoping to feel good, hoping to feel super human; rather, we are to be filled (influenced) with/by the Spirit. The Holy Ghost is our place of influence. He is the unveiling of the supernatural divine high. We see the glory of the eternal king through Him, we see the power of the Godhead through Him, and we are high! We are to be submerged in the righteousness of God, swimming unending in his ability, walking unshaken in his strength.

Apostle Paul, in his writing to the Corinthian church thanked God He spoke in tongues more than the entire church. Having revealed to us that speaking in tongues edifies us, it goes to say that he was glad that he was always dwelling in edification by the Spirit. He admonished us to be filled with the Spirit; we are to be masters at this. We are to be professionals at this, and we are to speak the things of God’s Spirit at all times. We are to make our senses hundred percent vulnerable to the things of the Spirit; we must imprison our minds in the walls of God’s power.

As we do this, we live in a perpetual state of spiritual influence and power!

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