



THE REFINERY DEVOTIONAL

(A monthly devotional of The Refinery Church)

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



SEPTEMBER, 2016.

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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: BEWARE OF DOGS!

TEXT: Philippians 3:1 & 2

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

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

Just when Apostle Paul was done admonishing the Philippians to accept Epaphroditus who was sick, nearly unto death, for their sakes, he firmly cautioned them to beware of dogs. In the context with which he spoke, he went further and referred to the dogs as evil workers and the concision (those who are after the circumcision or mutilation of the flesh).

This sharp caution shows that it is harmful for a believer; if he or she does not avoid certain set or sect of people in his or her walk of faith. This is because every human being is a product of his or her relationships and influences. We soon get affected by who and what we pay attention to. In quite a number of passages, believers were cautioned about associating with certain people who are carriers of different messages apart from the doctrines of Christ as affirmed in His death, burial and resurrection.

In the context of today's teaching, we are to beware of folks who antagonize the finished works of Christ and boast in their own works. These folks boast in circumcision as the token of righteousness, they pride in self-efforts and not the grace of our Lord. They believe they can merit God, heaven and all that's in Christ by their own efforts. The bible calls them dogs, evil doers (they despise the offering of Jesus for sins once and for all, they despise our acceptance to God by Christ alone).

As a believer, we are to follow after this example. If any man denies the core of the faith in Christ and is not yielding to corrections, we are strictly instructed to avoid them. This instruction is apt and must be ensured as we go about our daily jobs.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

Further Study: Ephesians 6:10-18

DAY 2

TOPIC: NO FEAR IN JUDGMENT!

TEXT: 1 John 4:17

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world."

It's a wonderful thing to know that even though we are in this world, we are as Christ is. This reassures our hearts. As a matter of fact, this is the reason why we will be bold in the day of judgment. Many have been told that the believer in Christ Jesus will be afraid in the day of judgment. But, as we have already seen in our text verse, that's not true. We will be bold because we are as he is. Our boldness in the day of judgment stems from our identity; Christ's identity.

Hence, the believer sees himself when he sees Christ. He (Christ) is the mirror of the believer. This is why we must never take our eyes off him. If we do, we will lose track of who we are. We will begin to say things that are not true about ourselves. Consequently, we will end up speaking ill of the person of Christ. For instance, if a believer says to himself "I am not holy;" he speaks ill of the person of Christ. If he says "I just can't love that brother;" he speaks ill of the person of Christ. Statements such as these are made when the believer takes his eyes off Christ. He has taken his eyes off who he really is. In Galatians 2:27, we are told that we have put on Christ.

"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

The phrase "...baptized into Christ..." here is descriptive of believing. As many of us have believed have put on Christ. In other words, Christ is our identity. Thus, only a knowledge of Christ shows us who we are. When a believer knows Christ, then he truly knows himself. Therefore, where Christ is, there we are. What he has, the same we have. If he is righteous, so are we! If he is holy, so are we! If he is seated in the heavens, so are we! He is our identity! Beloved, do not let your heart drift away from this truth. Let your mind be totally fixed on it. As he is, so are we in this world!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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Further Study: 1 Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 2:5-6

DAY 3

TOPIC: THE GOOD SHEPHERD

TEXT: Psalms 23:1

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“The LORD [is] my shepherd; I shall not want.”

David, the writer of this text had always been on the field caring for the sheep since he was young. He was brave and strong. He fought wild beasts and killed them when they tried to destroy his sheep. From his experience as a shepherd, he declared that the Lord is his shepherd.

The Old Testament scriptures are the shadows of what is to be revealed in the New Testament. Jesus revealed to us in John 10:11 that He is the good shepherd who gives his life for the sheep. Our Lord Jesus is not just a shepherd but “the good shepherd.” His love for the sheep is manifested in His death and resurrection.

Surely, we have a good shepherd. He is our Lord Jesus Christ who gave himself as a sacrifice for our sins. He knows us. He will never cast us away. He will never give up on us. He gave us eternal life and we shall never perish, neither shall anything pluck us away from his hand. Beloved, you are secure in Christ. Nothing shall separate you from the love that the good shepherd has for you. The epistles also reveal this truth in Romans 8:35 [The Message Version]

‘Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ’s love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in scripture’.

Let this fill your mind.

Confession: The Lord Jesus is my good shepherd, I shall not perish. I believe; I rejoice.

Rejoice!

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Further Study: John 10:11-14, John 10:27-30, Hebrews 13:20.

DAY 4

TOPIC: THE ADORNING OF THE INWARD MAN

TEXT: 1Timothy 2: 9-10

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; “10- But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works”.

To adorn means to decorate or to be ornamented. Apostle Paul needed to address how a woman that professes godliness should adorn herself. He wasn't anti-fashion nor was he anti-adornment. He emphatically said “women should adorn themselves” in modest apparel. A person who puts on modest apparel portrays someone in control of his or her appetite and desires. In Romans 6:13, Paul admonishes believers to have mastery of their choices; we could also say that includes our wardrobe choices. We are to gain mastery in such a way that we will be free from demeaning ways of defining our worth and beauty.

He further explained that the putting on of apparel should be done with shamefacedness and sobriety, this has to do with showing respect to oneself and a regard for others. Our appearance should reflect a value system with God at the Centre.

Apostle Paul instructs that a woman's emphasis on the issue of adornment should be that of exercising the inner man unto good works. Scriptures say we are Gods workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works... (Ephesians 2:10) and we can exhibit these good works by walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16).

Beloved, we need not ‘dress to kill or to impress or to be accepted’. We have been clothed as the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:21) and through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we are accepted by God (Ephesians 1:6), thus our dressing is one that makes people honour us and not see us as objects of mere sexual gratifications when in fact we are wall to wall Holy-Ghost filled in our born again Spirits.

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Further Study: 1st Peter 3:3-4

DAY 5

TOPIC: DOES GOD PREDESTINATE SPOUSES?

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 7:39

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

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

In this present world, there are lots of controversies as to whether God destines marital partners for believers. It is often said that God has prepared a woman for every man and vice versa before the foundation of the world. Hence, we are just supposed to locate such predestined spouses. And if we cannot find the actual person, we are considered to have missed God's will. This is simply a fallacy; many simple thoughts nullify this mindset. For example, since many people die daily, this will mean that some 'destined' spouses will have to remain single for life since their 'destined' spouses may be dead somewhere. Marriage is particularly designed by God to serve as the figure for representing the union that exists between Christ and believers (Ephesians 5:32), it is considered a wise decision to check the scriptures and inquire if this mindset of predestined spouses is true.

Paul informed the women in the Corinthian church who have lost their husband of their liberty to marry whosoever they deem fit, 'only in the Lord'. It is clear from scriptures that the instruction for believers for marital choice is to marry another believer. This is because, a believer is light, and he or she cannot be joined to an unbeliever who is darkness. (1 Corinthians 6:15-20).

Thus, we are to find a partner in the lord and build a home to God's glory!

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Further Study: 1 Corinthians 7:1-40

DAY 6

TOPIC: DUE BENEVOLENCE

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 7:3

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

“Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.”

The scripture affirms that sexual intimacy is a right in marriage. It's one of many expressions of love in a home. Many care less about this instruction and thus ruin their marriages. The Apostle Paul, though unmarried, gave a clear instruction to couples; sexual satisfaction must be aimed at.

We are not to allow the devil infiltrate our homes by means of sexual infidelity. This often occurs when partners are left unsatisfied and proposals begin to emerge outside the home. It's God's will that we keep our unity and bond in our homes, and one of such means is sexual intimacy.

We are not to deprive our partners or even act over-spiritual as some do today, embarking on fasting and spiritual exercises without their partner's consent thus depriving them. Sexual intimacy is a show of love in the home and, as believers, this epistle admonishes that we take it seriously.

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DAY 7

TOPIC: THINK ON THESE THINGS

TEXT: Philippians 4:8

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things”.

Apostle Paul was giving a final exhortation to the Philippians. He explained that whatsoever things are inspired in the light of God's person and toward the goodness of people are to fill our thoughts. We could learn a great deal from his counsel.

Whatsoever things are true: Whatever is the truth of God's word, eternity, Jesus' death and resurrection; believers are to maintain them in our thoughts. Those realities of our born again spirits, eternal, forever more.

Whatsoever things are honest: Whatever is honorable, decent, reputable, venerable etc, a believer is to show respect to them. Whether in business transactions or laws and customs of society, as long as they do not violate one's conscience or distorts God's word, the believer is to honor them (1Timothy 3:7). It is pertinent that we manifest integrity in our dealings, if we are to make an impression on our fellow man that is favorable to our faith.

He mentions many more, which for the sake of the devotional would be lengthy to address, but one thing is sure, God sure wants our minds filled with healthy thoughts! This is the responsibility of a believer; we are not to allow our thoughts stray into negativity, despondency, hate etc. We fix our thoughts on such things which reflect goodness in Christ.

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Further Study: 1Timothy 4:12

DAY 8

TOPIC: DO NOT ERR

TEXT: James 1. 16-18

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

“16 Do not err, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. 18 of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

The word rendered ‘err’ in the text above is the word “error” today. The Apostle James warns us, he sounds it to us like a trumpet; we shouldn’t slip into an error. In Africa where I live, this error is prominent, it’s the reason many families are in horror, and it’s the reason for many poverty and death.

This error has eaten deep into us and we must rid ourselves of it. We must align ourselves with God’s personality only, not fables, not tales. Many still affirm God is the reason behind their sorrows and anguish. Some affirm God is the reason our country is poor, they say He has some secret plan for our sufferings. Apostle James, far back in history echoes to us today, **DO NOT SLIP INTO ERROR!**

God has no alliance with evil; He neither plans nor strategizes any wrong. Stand against any assault of the devil today, with full persuasion that God is not the orchestrator of your woes! Rebel against the devil today, align yourself only to God’s goodness and see his blessings overshadow you.

Do not err, my beloved brethren.

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DAY 9

TOPIC: WHAT IF?

TEXT: James 1:6-8

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

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

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

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

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

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

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Further Study: 1 Timothy 2:8; Genesis 49:4; Matthew 21:22

DAY 10

TOPIC: SERVICE

TEXT: Romans 12:1

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

There have been a number of misconceptions as regards the verse above. Some folks say that people have to make their bodies holy before they can present them. However, that's the exact opposite of what's conveyed in that verse. It already reveals to us that the presentation of our bodies can only be done by the mercies of God. It's not by the deeds of man. It's by God's mercies.

Furthermore, it tells us that by the mercies of God, our bodies are a living sacrifice, which is holy and acceptable unto God. In other words, our acceptance by God is through his (God's) own mercies. We are accepted by his mercies. We are not seeking for him to be pleased with us. No. He is pleased with us. What then did the Apostle Paul mean by "...present your bodies?"

Paul is saying, having seen all these things which you have been made by his mercies, presenting your body should be your reasonable service. The word reasonable is from the Greek word "logikos." It means "logical." It's like saying to a prince, "having known that you are a king's child, it's only logical for you to act like one." Dearly beloved, it's only logical for you to desire to serve. A life of service is what we have been born unto. We are about our Father's business. It's the logical thing to do. We give ourselves unto his cause. His cause is our cause. We're devoted to it. We are holy now. Hence, we present our bodies. To not present our bodies reflects a doubt or unbelief of who we are in Him. We take delight in service. That's who we are!

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Further Study: Romans 12:2

DAY 11

TOPIC: WEAKER VESSELS

TEXT: 1 Peter 3.7

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

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

A friend (Adebowale Ibukun) once gave an exegesis on this subject and I was blessed. I have never seen it that way until he made mention of it. He unveiled the word ‘weaker’, which infers the man is a weak vessel himself.

Apostle Paul unveils to us that we all possess an earthly vessel. He unveils to us how the glory of God in our born again spirits exists in our mortal bodies (2 Corinthians 4:7).

This is a truth we must regard, even though the resurrection of our bodies is promised us in Christ and we hold this hope dear to us.

We are however to keep in perspective the frailty of our bodies in this present time, both men and women. Thus, the Apostle Peter counsels men to give honour to their wives as one with a weaker vessel.

Men are not to abuse their wives, hit them, take wrong advantage of their vessels being weaker, men are not rape women, rather we are to give honour to them. Such honour births goodness and love in the home, as the woman maximizes her form for the prosperity of the home.

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DAY 12

TOPIC: PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

TEXT: 1Thessalonians 5:17

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“17 Pray without ceasing”

Praying without ceasing is a common theme in Apostle Pauls’ letters to the church. To pray without ceasing is to persevere in all kinds of prayers that is; intercession, supplication, petition, thanksgiving and adoration, etc. To pray without ceasing is to maintain an uninterrupted and constant spirit of prayer. A believer is to live in consistent communion with God, such that praying becomes easy and not burdensome. The believer does this by praying in the Spirit (1Corinthians 14:2).

When are we to pray?

At all times (Psalm 55:17),

In all conditions, in sickness, in little or plenty (James 5:13, 1Timothy 4:4-5).

In every business, civil or sacred (2Thessalonians 3:5).

How are we to pray?

With assiduous urgency, never quitting or desisting with assuredness that our desires and requests are being granted or accomplished. Luke 18:1

When you pray, believe that your requests are granted (1 John 5:14-15).

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Further Study: Philippians 4:6.

DAY 13

TOPIC: FELLOWSHIP (3)

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 1:9

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."

We established in previous devotionals that the believer has fellowship with the Father. We saw clearly that we came into fellowship with the Father the moment we received eternal life by believing in Christ Jesus. We will go on now to see how to enjoy this fellowship.

Contrary to popular opinion, fasting, prayer, studying and meditating on the word are not what initiates fellowship. We've already seen hitherto that God is the initiator of fellowship with man. However, fasting, prayer, studying and meditating on the word help us to enjoy the fellowship we have with the Father. They help us to profit from this fellowship. They make the benefits of our fellowship with the Father manifest in the physical. Therefore, we must engage them. Because when we do, we are edified through and through, and our minds are filled up with the realities of God in our spirits.

Hence, Paul's instructions to us on prayer, being filled with the Spirit, and studying the word. In the epistle of Jude, we also find such an instruction. Jude 1:20:

"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,"

Our faith is most holy. It will not be. It already is. However, we are to build up ourselves on it by praying in the Holy Ghost. We have fellowship with the Father always. But a man, though he is evermore in fellowship with God, may not profit from this fellowship because he doesn't engage it. Today, engage the fellowship you have with the Father. Pray, study, and meditate on the word. Make the benefits of your fellowship with the Father manifest in the physical.

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Further Study: 1 Corinthians 14:2-4; Ephesians 5:18; 2 Timothy 2:15

DAY 14

TOPIC: THIS OUGHT NOT TO BE

TEXT: James 3.8-10

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

“8 But the tongue can no man tame; [it is] an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.”

The above text reveals the wrong use of our tongues. It clarifies to us how we are to use our tongues; always to bless men and not to curse.

I once heard a preacher boast in his sermon, how he cursed a certain member who wronged him, he affirmed the man lost his job afterwards and evil befall his family. Such words are not to be found on the lips of a believer, talk less a preacher.

We are to master our tongues to bless only. This doesn't suggest we will never be wronged at certain times in our lives. However, we are to stick to our father's nature, for he is full of blessing only, from the very beginning.

We must resist such temptations that make us go on the leash and lay curses on people; this addresses parents too, as we invest words in our children. We must stick the blessing that exists within us!

This doesn't negate speaking the truth in love; the Lord Jesus called Pharisees names as fools, brood of vipers, sons of the devil, hypocrites etc. These are not curses but the realities of these certain individuals and when seen in the light of God's intentions, these words are to enable people repent and embrace a glorious reality.

We are sons of blessing and so we remain forever more.

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DAY 15

TOPIC: CARING FOR THE BRETHREN

TEXT: Galatians 6:10

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

The epistles are abundant with instructions on how we must treat fellow believers. We will often find in the epistles how believers ministered to one another's' needs. There is a certain way to treat fellow believers. It's with honour, dignity, and respect. In receiving fellow believers into our homes, we must be hospitable. We must not treat such with indifference. He or She is a saint; one for whom Christ died. He or She is of the household of faith. Hence, we must do good to him or her. Our text verse lets us know this in clear terms.

Moreover, to fall into the class James spoke of in James 2:15-16 isn't a good thing.

15 "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16 "And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?"

When a brother is in need of something we can give, we are not to say 'Rejoice! It is well!'. Of what profit are the words we say? Wouldn't it be much better to give them what they are in need of and then say those words to them afterwards? To care for the brethren is non-negotiable. It's an expression of the love we have received in Christ Jesus. It's a demonstration of God's love in our hearts. It bears witness to the truth that we have received the Father's love into our hearts. Let us care for the brethren. Let the well-being of the brethren be paramount in our hearts. Let us give expression to the love of God in us our hearts!

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Further Study: 1 John 4:21; 2 Timothy 1:16-18; Philippians 2:25

DAY 16

TOPIC: BUSINESS PROFITING

TEXT: James 4:13-17

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 14 Whereas ye know not what [shall be] on the morrow. For what [is] your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. 15 For that ye [ought] to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. 16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. 17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth [it] not, to him it is sin.”

The bible does not address specific business practices, but it offers some useful guidance on how to handle our businesses. In the above scripture, we are not to boast in our abilities without awe of God. Some believers do business without acknowledging God’s will for them in their endeavours, because they are boastful of their professionalism at such endeavours.

The scripture says we should trust in God’s will as we go about business. We do know for sure that God’s will is in all goodness, in all profiting, He taught the Jews of old how to prosper, King David affirmed same thing.

The epistle counsel that those who steal, should quit it and work, that they may have to give to those in need (Ephesians 4. 28). Many are not aware that God cares for our businesses and as much every area of our lives. He will guide us into profiting, there are days we would feel a restriction from our spirits as regards a business transaction or we feel such bubbles within us to go for certain business even when there are no physical evidences to it.

Let’s be conscious of God’s will in our business and boast in this!

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DAY 17

TOPIC: CONCERNING TEMPTATIONS

TEXT: James 1:13-15

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

Every believer is faced with one temptation or the other in his or her daily life. Hence, it is important that we understand what temptations are to a very good extent. This understanding will help us to understand how temptations come to believers and how best to avoid or overcome them.

It is consistent in the light of proper scriptural exegesis to know that the devil orchestrates temptations and seeks that believers fall into such temptations. This for example is seen in the earthly temptation of Jesus shortly after he was done with fasting Luke 4:1-13. However, believers ought to understand that we all are tempted only because we have a desire (Notice that James says ‘every man’). For example, it is pragmatically impossible for me to be tempted with eating a particular food, say rice, when I have a clear dislike for it. Hence, for anything to be a temptation, it must have the tendency of satisfying the desire of a man. Many times, our desires, though sensual are not sinful. Nevertheless, if caution is not taken, they may lead us into sinful acts.

While it is good that we acknowledge our temptations come via our desires, it is more profitable when we understand the way out. Apostle Paul gives us an instruction on how not to fulfill the desires of the flesh; he says that we should walk in the spirit. Jesus demonstrated this in His temptation by getting himself filled with God’s word so much that despite his desires, it interests him the more to obey God’s word. We must understand that the word and the Spirit are one and the same; we must deliberately live, meditating on God’s word till it overwhelms our soul. Seek to inculcate this habit from today and scale through temptations.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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Further Study: Luke 4:1-13

DAY 18

TOPIC: THEY ARE SERVANTS!

TEXT: Hebrews 1.14

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”

The bible is very much against some wrong spiritual practices which have taken footing in our world. This plague; that people worship angels, make supposed images of them, bow down to them, keep them in their homes, is not only wrong but demonic.

The text above is clear, all angels are ministering spirits, and they minister for us! They serve us. Not one angel is to be served or worshiped, it's a spiritual abomination. We have all seen men with body guards, the strength of the body guards is to serve their lords better, not the other way round, I doubt if I have seen any sane lord bow down to his body guard in awe of his body build.

Not one angel is to be worshiped. They are all ministering spirits, let's take advantage of this, sending them on assignments, using our words and expecting glorious results!

We are sons of the Father and this is our heritage.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 19

TOPIC: HIS GRACE BUILDS UP

TEXT: Acts 20:32

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."

Many believers attempt to be built up and established in the things of God with the wrong approach. This is a major reason for the seeming struggle that many believers face in their Christian walk.

The Apostle Paul reveals to us that the word of God's grace is able to build us up. The word rendered as 'able' is from the Greek word "*dunamai*." It refers to a capacity or an ability to do. It's the word of God's grace that makes growth possible. It has the capacity to build us up. Hence, Paul's stern admonition to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:1.

"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."

It was also what he (Paul) taught; the word of God's grace (Acts 20:24). All he taught was in the light of God's grace; of all God freely given us in Christ. Therefore, we must give heed to this. We must be strong in the grace which is in Christ Jesus. We must not take our eyes off his love for us. Our hearts must consistently be fixed on Him in us, who we are in Him, and all that we have in Him. For only therein are our hearts established, and our growth made possible.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

Further Study: Hebrews 13:9; Acts 20:24

DAY 20

TOPIC: HOW TO GOVERN IN PUBLIC POSITIONS

TEXT: Daniel 6:1-3

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

The Kings in the book of Daniel were heathens and they had no value nor regard for grace, piety or God. But Daniel did; he prayed consistently to God and studied the scriptures tenaciously. The king set Daniel over his entire kingdom because he had an excellent spirit. In the preceding verses, it was stated that there was no error or fault found in him, he was not chargeable with treachery and dishonesty. He dealt fairly between the sovereign and the subject and took care that no one was maligned.

An outstanding administrative ability, good knowledge of civil affairs, integrity and prudence in managing resources at ones disposal were the prerequisites that the king needed for anyone that was to oversee his realm. Daniel possessed all of these qualities and he was selected to occupy the position.

Scriptures like this were recorded for those in places of public trust, admonishing them to be careful, conscientious, free from any fault, error and crime. There's need for us to be walk in wisdom with those who are without (Colossians 4:5).

Beloved, amid the allurements and enticements of a godless age, let us propose in our hearts to be deal in political offices as people who sanctified in Christ.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

DAY 21

TOPIC: YOU HAVE AN EMPOWERMENT

TEXT: Ephesians 5:8

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:"

Most times, when people see instructions such as the one above, their hearts melt. They say to themselves; "Oh, I can't do this. I don't have the ability. I will fall." It's because they have been taught wrongly. They do not realize that we are given instructions in the epistles because we have been empowered to do them.

Every instruction that we find in the epistles comes with a reaffirmation of an inherent ability in us to execute it. We are first told who we are in Christ and consequently, we are told how to respond to that information. We must understand that there is nothing lacking in us in Christ. We have the ability to do all that's instructed in the epistles. We can love others. We can forgive others. We can serve others. We are servants of righteousness (Romans 6:18). We are able to present our members as instruments of righteousness. We are able. We can. If people know they can, they will. They only need to acknowledge the ability within them. Philemon 1:6 tells us that much:

KJV: "That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus."

An instruction is actually to our advantage. It's a reassurance that we have every good thing in us in Christ Jesus. It makes us know we have an ability in us in Christ Jesus. Thus, when we see instructions, our heads are not bowed in the fear of the unknown. But, our heads are raised with boldness and in full assurance of the known: "we have an ability to do these things in us in Christ Jesus!" When we see instructions, we are joyful; our hearts are glad. For again we know that we can do those things.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

Further Study: Ephesians 5:8; Philemon 1:6

DAY 22

TOPIC: NOT EATING AND DRINKING

TEXT: Romans 14.17

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

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

Many churches today are filled with inactive members. They are insulators to the things of God's Spirit. They spend whole services discussing issues of eating, dressing, tattoos, hair styles etc. They go over and over conscience issues, asking and judging the kind of dressing and food a believer should eat. They pride themselves in these things. They raised a church where people are fully non-responsive to spiritual things.

The Apostle Paul clarifies to us, that eating and drinking are not issues that pertains to the reality of the Spirit within us, rather we are to stay focused on God's righteousness in our Spirit, exercise ourselves towards peace in the midst of all evils and turbulence, we are to be filled with Joy that flows from God's Spirit, always rejoicing and be drunk in the Spirit.

Glories to God, our lives are beyond carnal stuffs, we are way up in the Holy Ghost, full of rejoicing and power!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

DAY 23

TOPIC: HONOURING MEN OF GOD

TEXT: 1Timothy 5:17

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.”

Very many times, we believers can subtly be drifted to think like the world especially if we do not renew our minds with God’s word. We must be able to place a firm dichotomy between spiritual services and secular services. We must understand that while both the teachers that teach us in academic institutions and those that do so amidst believers (particularly in local assemblies) impart us with knowledge, the former is just a secular service while the latter is strictly a spiritual service with an eternal significance. This implies that whatever is our belief system about this spiritual service must be shaped by the word.

We need to understand that men of God are stewards of God with a great responsibility of reaching out to us and watching over us Hebrews 13:17. This demands a whole lot of sacrifice and dedication! To disregard them is simply to treat God’s means of watching over our spiritual welfare with disdain. We are to honour men of God, particularly those who commit themselves to the responsibility of teaching us God’s word as they being obey the truth they teach us from God’s word. This is easier when we see such words as God’s and not theirs, 1st Thessalonians 2:13. We should also honour them by consistently praying for them Colossians 4:2-3. Moreover, we need to show them love and support by being committed to them in all good things and particularly materially. This is very important. It is widely taught in the bible. *“Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.”* Galatians 6:6.

Honouring men of God in the long run will not only help them to minister better and do their jobs with more delight, it will also help us tremendously in getting blessed the more by their ministry. Do well to make a decision today and be more committed to honouring men of God which have oversight over you, particularly in your local church.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS.

DAY 24

TOPIC: NO IDOLS

TEXT: 1 John 5.21

Written by: HARRISON AYINTETE

“Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.”

Idols are manmade images or objects used in worship and reverence. The scriptures give stern warnings against this, yet many are caught in the web, addicted to these demonic practices, they burn candles, worship water, some worship their pastor's images, some worship handkerchiefs, some clothing given from a spiritual meeting.

While it's valid that the anointing of the Spirit can be carried in earthly materials, we are not to worship those materials, God inhabits us already, we got the power source on our inside, we are in awe of this, we reverence God in this, that in our mortality, his divine power is seen.

Beloved, get rid of idols, they are not of God, we the temples of God's Spirit, let us be awe of this, rejoice in this, glory in this and not images or objects.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

DAY 25

TOPIC: HE WENT ABOUT

TEXT: Acts 10:38

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”

The anointing of the Holy Ghost and power in a man causes a physical reaction. Our Lord Jesus Christ being anointed with the Holy Ghost and power did not sit only in the temple to teach, he went about healing those who were sick and oppressed of the Devil.

The believer is God's workmanship, saved unto good works (Ephesians 2:10). There are enough scriptures that affirm the power of God is dwelling in us. We have the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Our response to this is not to be complacent but to be active in doing good works. No one lights a candle and puts it under the table. The intention for the light is to illuminate. The believer is the light of the world. He cannot afford to be hidden.

One thing that is very profound in our text is that Jesus went about doing good works. What birthed His move is the consciousness or the awareness of the anointing on him. Doing good works requires us going about. We must be deliberate and intentional about it. One cannot afford to sit and just watch people being oppressed with sickness or diseases. We must know that anything that is not of God is oppression (sickness, diseases, unbelief, depression etc). Hence, as believers, being conscious of the power of God in us, we must seek to put an end to the works of the devil on earth. Jesus delivered all that were oppressed of the devil. This is our mandate also.

Confession: The power of God is at work in me. So, I go about doing good works. I am deliberate about it. By the power of the Holy Ghost in me, I bring deliverance to men!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

Further Reading: Acts 10:9; Acts 13:2; Acts 12:5

DAY 26

TOPIC: SPEAK WITH TONGUES!

TEXT: Mark 16:17

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;"

Many believers have been made to think that speaking with tongues is for some selected group of people. They have been told that one would need to have spent many years in the faith before he or she can speak with tongues. Some have even been told to fast and pray for the ability to pray in tongues. As a result of this wrong information, these people never dare to speak with tongues. However, the text above tells us something quite very different: *"...these signs shall follow them that believe;"*

Therefore, we see that speaking in unknown tongues doesn't require prayer and fasting. It's a norm with believers. The ability to speak with tongues comes alongside salvation. Everyone who has believed the gospel can (and should) speak with tongues. It's wrong information that makes many believers not speak with tongues. Some even ask; 'how do I know I am not talking gibberish?' See what the Apostle Paul reveals to us in 1 Corinthians 14:2.

"For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries."

When you speak in tongues, you speak unto God. You are not speaking unto men. In fact, no man understands what you speak. The phrase 'No man...' also includes you! No man understands what the man speaking in tongues says! Paul tells us this about himself. His mind couldn't understand what he prayed in tongues. However, he said his spirit prays when he prays in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:14).

Speaking in tongues edifies us. It builds us up. It emboldens us. Therefore, we must be given to it. We must consistently speak unto God. We can speak with tongues because we have believed. God's word tells us that, and we believe it! Hallelujah! We thank our God, we can speak with tongues! Beloved, get to it today. Speak with tongues! Edify yourself!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

Further Study: 1 Corinthians 14:4; Jude 1:20

DAY 27

TOPIC: THE GOSPEL

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

"Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also ye have received, and in which ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached to you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all, that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"

It is both amazing and saddening that many things have been misunderstood to be the gospel of Christ. In fact, many believers are not really sure what the message of the gospel is and what it is not. It is important that we pay attention to the fact that though the word 'gospel' literally means 'good news', the gospel of Christ is not just 'a gospel', rather, it is 'the gospel'. It is definite and constant. It cannot be altered by time, situation, audience, preacher's emotion, etc.

The gospel of Christ is the truth that Christ died and rose to save humanity from the wrath of sin; hence providing salvation to all who receive this message by believing. This is the only message that provides salvation. It is not about physical frivolities that are subject to change from one culture to the other, in fact, the gospel is not about the second coming of Jesus. It is about what Jesus did when he was laid as the sacrifice for the world the first time he came. The message must be the same everywhere; this is because it is the sender's message and not the preachers' message. This for example implies that if a believer is to preach to an unbeliever who is always fond of drinking to stupor, such a believer is not to go about dwelling on the unbeliever's addiction; rather, he is supposed to talk about what Jesus has done. This is because the message is about the sender and not the receiver.

Charge yourself today and be more decisive about reaching out to the lost. Be sure you preach the gospel alone!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

Further Study: Romans 10:1-21

DAY 28

TOPIC: FEAR NOT!

TEXT: Isaiah 41:10

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Fear thou not; for I am with you: be not dismayed; for I am your God: I will strengthen you; yea, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness”.

The Scripture is replete with God’s unconditional love for man, His assurance of provision and protection. In the above text, God commanded the Children of Israel not to Fear. Fear is against His nature. As believers, we can derive strength from God’s words in that verse. He said “Fear Not; for I am with you; and now for the new creation in Christ, He lives in us by His Spirit (Romans 8:15). Sometimes we could be discouraged, but we must constantly reflect on the truth of God’s word and be strengthened in Him.

‘I will strengthen you and I will help you...’ This speaks of certainty of promise. The scripture in Jeremiah 32:27 affirms that He’s the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for him? When God gives us a sure word of promise in His word, then we got to believe it, He’s to be relied upon. When He says He will strengthen and help you, then be rest assured that he will enable you in all your ventures (Psalm 29:11, Ephesians 3:16-21).

Beloved, God is too faithful to deny Himself (2 Timothy 2:13). He cannot lie because He’s not a man. You got nothing to fear! Rejoice!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GODS GOODNESS

Further Study: Numbers 23:19; 1 Corinthians 1:20

DAY 29

TOPIC: WE ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT

TEXT: Romans 8:14

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

Apostle John made it clear that as many that receive him are the sons of God (John 1:12). In other words, as many that believe that God came in the flesh and received the sacrifice of Jesus for their sins have become sons of God, hence they have the Spirit of God. They are the sons of God because the Spirit of God dwells in them. Apostle Paul also acknowledges this truth while writing to the Galatians. *“Because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father”* (Galatians 4:6).

The natural man may be controlled by a particular temperament which determines his attitude or character. But the Believer is led by the Spirit. He exhibits the fruit of the Spirit. The believer is not bound to the character or attributes he inherited from his earthly father. He is born of God. He is a new creature. He exhibits the attributes of God.

Beloved, you have the life of God and you are not controlled by any kind of temperament. As you step out today, choose to yield more to who you truly are in Christ. The scripture admonishes that we be not conformed to this world but be transformed; change by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2). The change comes through the renewing of our mind as we feed on the word of God. You have to agree that you are born of God. This agreement is done by the confession of our mouth. By confession, we acknowledge the reality in our Spirit and thus, we renew our mind and our body acts accordingly.

Confession: Glory to God, I am born of God. I am led by the Spirit of God. I make the right decisions. I relate well with people. I love people. I exhibit God's character in me.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

Further Study: Galatians 5:21-25, Colossians 1:10

DAY 30

TOPIC: ENJOY!

TEXT: 1 Timothy 6:17

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;"

Our focus today is that God gives richly. We must be confident about this. It must infiltrate our entire beings. We must know that God wants us to have sufficiency in all things. Many live without this consciousness. Some even think that God is the one who brings lack into their lives. Such thoughts negate the character of God. The Apostle Paul makes a profound statement in the first book of Timothy.

1 Timothy 6:17

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;"

In the text above, Paul instructed Timothy to charge those who are rich in this world not to put their trust in riches but in the living God. In doing this, Paul gives us a very clear understanding of God's character. He says God "giveth us richly all things to enjoy." That's the way God gives. The word rendered as "richly" is from a Greek word which means "abundantly." God wants us to have in abundance. Thus, he gives us abundantly all things to enjoy.

Beloved, as you go out today, be aware that God is able to make all grace abound unto you. Be aware of his favour upon you. Be aware of his abundant provision. God is able! He is able!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS.

Further Study: Philippians 4:19