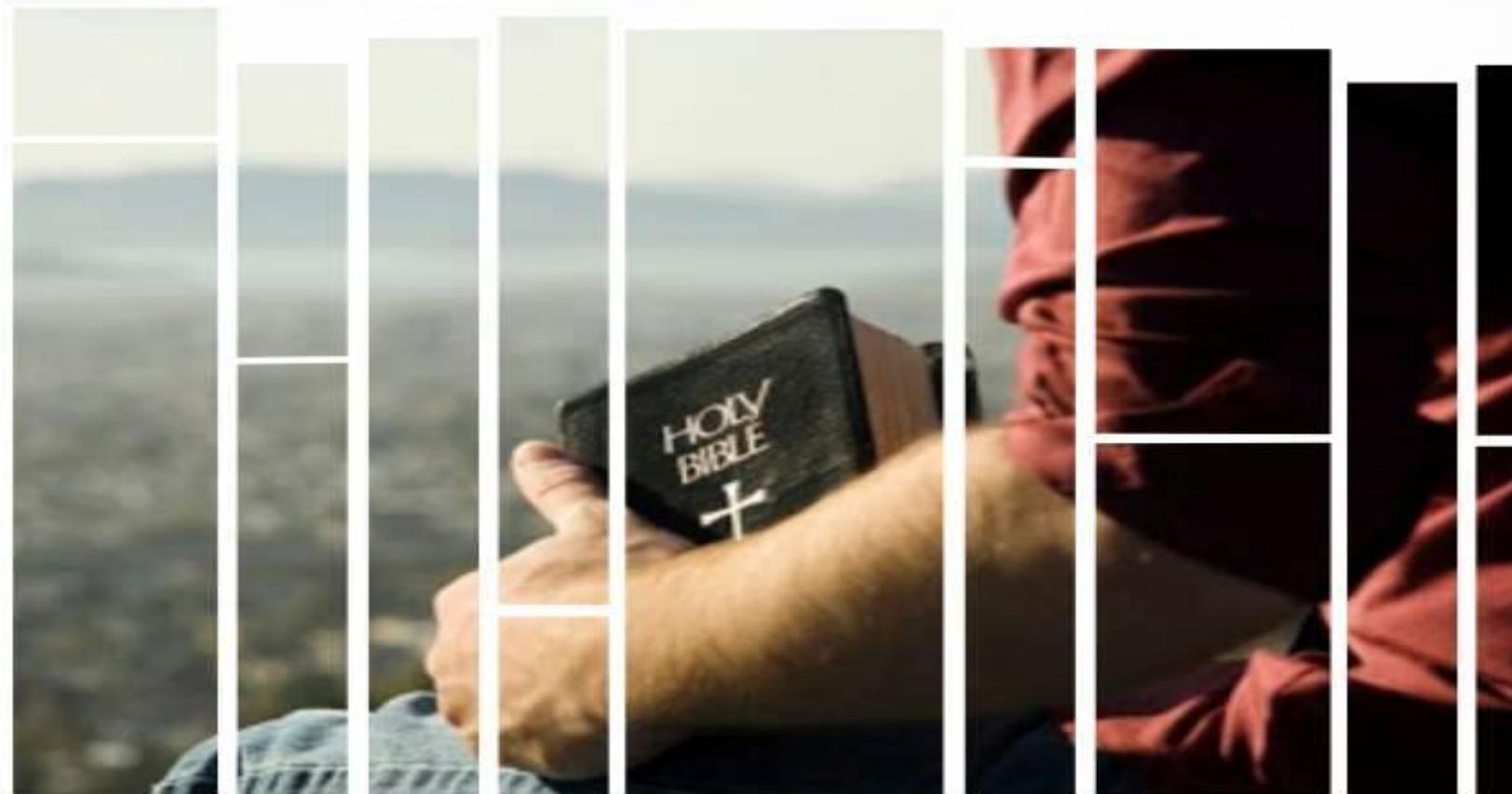




The

REFINERY DEVOTIONAL

September, 2017



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

www.therefinerychurch.net

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Blessings.

DAY 1

TOPIC: THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST

TEXT: Hebrews 10:7-8

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. [8] Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law.”

In the above verses, we find a certain truth in Christ that is of utmost significance to the body of Christ. We can ascertain from the above verses the identity of the person who was to do God’s will. It is definitive and therefore conclusive that Jesus Christ was the only one who was to God’s will. The will of God in the above context is in the regards of taking away sins.

In the aforementioned verses, we will discover that God had no pleasure in the sacrifice for sins made under the Old Testament (The Law). This means God had no delight in it or God never approved of it; this is because sacrifice for sins in the Old Testament was none of his will.

God’s will was that Christ will be the sacrifice for sins; it therefore means that God’s approval for the sacrifice for sins was not through any other means but Christ. From the aforesaid, we will discover God’s intention; his intent was to make us perfect through Christ’s suffering such that he will put an end to the remembrance of sins as seen under the Law.

This means God will offer (has offered) for us one perfect sacrifice for sins in the person of Jesus Christ so that we will never again make sacrifices for sins which never took away sins.

God’s will was (is) one sacrifice through Christ and not many sacrifices. This means that God’s one sacrifice in Christ made perfect forever what many sacrifices couldn’t. This means God’s sacrifice for sins is enough for eternity; we never have to make any more sacrifices for sins.

This is because by virtue of Jesus Christ sacrifice, our sins are fully paid for, we have no more sins charged against us; there is now no more remembrance of our sins in Christ Jesus.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 2

TOPIC: LIVE A WORRY-FREE LIFE

TEXT: Matthew 6:25

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor yet for your body, what you shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?”

Many times, questions arise in our hearts such as, how to feed, clothe and meet various needs of ours. Sometimes, one may even conclude that God does not understand how or where it “pinches” us. But Jesus says to take no thought about the issues of life because our heavenly Father knows our needs and He desires to give us more than we ask or even think (Matthew 6:32-33, Ephesians 3:20).

Most people have made it a habit to worry over every single thing. They feel that when they are anxious or perturbed about a thing, then the solution comes. So they worry instead of praying to God about their needs. We are to be constantly conscious of the truth that our God is a provider. He cares for every area of our lives; our desires, feeding, clothing and health. Our text instructs that we “take no thought”; that is to not be worried or anxious or perturbed about life. Take note; we are not to sit idly and lazy about. The epistles instruct that we work that which is good that we might have to give (Ephesians 4:28). Hence, we are to trust God to bless the works of our hands.

If God could provide manna and quail for the children of Israel for 40 years in the wilderness, and neither was any feeble amongst them nor were their shoes or clothes ever worn out, then He can meet that need of ours. In the accounts in the four gospels, it’s recorded that Jesus fed the 5000 and 4000 men, women and children inclusive, with just a few loaves of bread and some fishes, and there were basketfuls of leftover. He healed people of sicknesses and diseases that had lingered for years. He even brought back to life people’s loved ones who were dead.

So beloved, whatever issues you have got, God’s more than capable to supply the help that you so desire. Relax in His able hands and trust Him with your life.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 3

TOPIC: NO CONDEMNATION!

TEXT: ROMANS 8:1

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“There is, therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

The word “condemnation” in this text goes beyond a sense of blame or unworthiness. The Greek word translated as condemnation here is “*katakrima*” which means “an adverse sentence, verdict or eternal damnation.”

Condemnation here is a legal statement which is used when an accused has been tried and convicted for his or her offences.

The reality of the believer is that he cannot be eternally damned for his trespasses. Jesus has forgiven all of his trespasses. He has passed from the condemnation of death and he has received justification unto life (*John 5:24*). This truth is not conditional.

The latter part of our text is not to say that that the man in Christ will not be condemned if only he could walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh. It only explains further that the man in Christ walks not after the flesh but after the Spirit. In verse 9 of that same chapter, Apostle Paul emphasized more that the believer is not in the flesh, but in the Spirit.

Thus, we are in Christ Jesus, and we are not condemned.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 4

TOPIC: BRIDLE YOUR TONGUE

TEXT: Proverbs 17:28

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: [and] he that shutteth his lips [is esteemed] a man of understanding.”

There is a popular saying that human beings have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen more than we talk. While this saying seems to be used in secular relationships or organizations, the same thought is found true in scriptures and more importantly given as an instruction to the believer in Christ.

In the text above, King Solomon suggests that one of the ways to recognize a fool is from the words of his mouth. By this, he says that not until a man has spoken, you really may not be able to say assuredly if he is a wise man or a fool. It is therefore a great wisdom for a man to know when to either talk or keep quiet. In fact, James dedicated a whole chapter, the third chapter of his epistle, to address the use of the tongue. He calls a man who has mastered how to tame his tongue a "perfect" man. He clearly suggests that if the tongue is not bridled, it is possible of causing strife amidst believers.

Every believer must note the fact that his mouth is supposed to be for blessing and blessings alone. We are not supposed to curse with the same mouth with which we bless. In fact, this is the point that James was trying to make. We therefore must learn to tame our tongue when it is capable of causing more bad than good.

Dear believer, it is a wise decision to master the act of taming your tongue whenever you are angry. You will save yourself from the havoc that wrong words can cause and the possible strife that it can generate.

Further Study: James 3:1-18

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DAY 5

TOPIC: PRAY ALWAYS

TEXT: Ephesians 6:18

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”

One really needs not know the Greek word for “always” to understand that what the Apostle Paul was communicating here was that the man in Christ must be given to prayer. The born again man must understand that he is a prayer house. He must be fully aware that he is to pray at all times. Prayer is not negotiable for the believer in the Christ. It is a must! Instructions on prayer are replete in the epistles. In all the instances where these instructions, were given, we find a reoccurring word; “always”. This means that the apostles placed a lot of emphasis on prayer, and rightly so. Through prayer, we are able to enjoy and maximize the fellowship which we have with the Father, we are able to make to bring to the fore the reality of the power ever at work in us.

Apostle James lets us know something very profound in His epistle. The book of James 5:16b says: *“...the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much.”*

Of course, all the early apostles taught that every believer is righteous by faith in Christ Jesus. Here, James is letting us see the enormous power the believer has and how he is to put that power to use. The phrase “availeth much” means that the prayer of the believer (who is the righteous man) makes tremendous power available.

Brethren beloved, let us pray with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit. To pray in the Spirit is to pray in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:14). Let us be given to tongues. Let us labour fervently in prayers, making power available, causing effectual doors to be opened to the gospel, causing events to be orchestrated unto our favour, causing mighty deliverance to be wrought in many places. Brethren, we can pray. We don’t need to “feel like praying” or for the “Holy Ghost to move us” before we pray. Observe that Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:14 that *“If I pray in an unknown tongue...”* This means that prayer is within our will. If we pray, we will pray. Dearly beloved, since we can pray, let us therefore pray!

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DAY 6

TOPIC: DO NOT ERR

TEXT: James 1:16-17

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“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.”

The Apostle James admonishes believers not to go unto error. In verse 13 of this same chapter, he made known to us what the error was. This error was in affirming that God tempts and that he tempts with evil: *“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:”*

The Apostle reveals to us clearly from his above writings that when we infer that God tempts us, we are in error. In the body of Christ today, it is not unusual to find believers who say outrageous things like “God is tempting my faith” in order to sound spiritual or in the name of trying to show discipleship or in the face of certain issues. Some even say they are being chastised or that God is punishing them for their sins. Apostle James tells us that this is not true; God never tempts any man with evil. He lets us know that what God gives is good and perfect. This means God never gives something sorrowful, bad, or painful to any man. God gives good things. We can say conclusively, that bad circumstances, pains, sorrow and the likes are not from God. It is with this understanding that we can pray against every pain, sorrow and negative situation we find ourselves in, knowing full well that they are not from God. Thus, we can be sure He will relieve us from any negative situation because He gives good gifts.

Beloved, never go into the error of believing God tempts, does bad to you, or persecutes you with evil. God does none of this. He gives good things forever. Therefore, for perpetuity, our expectation is that anytime we pray in God’s name, good things happen. We are certain of this because God never changes at any time.

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DAY 7

TOPIC: THAT WHICH MATTERS

TEXT: Galatians 6:15

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.”

Apostle Paul makes us understand that whether we be circumcised or not; it profits us nothing. By observing laws and certain dos and don'ts, most people think they have a right standing with God. They feel that their piety and moral conduct is enough to make them acceptable before God. But alas! Apostle Paul says such an one is only a debtor to do the law and has entangled himself with the yoke of bondage. To such a person, he says he makes light of Christ's sacrifice for sins and has fallen from grace (Galatians 5:1-4).

What avails (counts for anything, is enough to produce results, is of any importance), before God is righteousness by faith in Christ Jesus. This righteousness is predicated upon Jesus' sacrifice. It is this righteousness that's perfect before God.

What matters is the man who is in Christ; the new creature. What matters is the man who keeps God's commandments by believing that Jesus died to save the world (1 John 3:23).

Beloved, no man is justified by the law but only through faith which is in Christ that. It is through faith in Christ Jesus that any man is justified in the sight of God. Faith in Christ Jesus; this is all that matters!

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DAY 8

TOPIC: A POWERLESS CHRISTIAN? (1)

TEXT: EPHESIANS 1: 18-19

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power”

Today’s devotional topic poses a question of whether a believer could be powerless. I remember sometimes ago in a prayer meeting, in order to spur people to pray, someone said “a prayerless Christian is a powerless one...’ This conclusively infers the notion that a believer can be powerless. Many even add to this by saying “Christians must always ask God for power... Before we can heal the sick and work miracles, we must first ask God to send us power from on high.”

Without mincing words, the opinion that a Christian is or may be powerless threatens the right and inheritance of the believer in Christ. It must be noted that all that the believer has received in Christ is not of himself but of God. The believer does not have the power of himself; rather he has the power of God. This is a most profound and salient truth about every believer in Christ. The ability to heal the sick, raise the dead and work miracles has been given to every believer in Christ. The fact that a man does not manifest power does not mean he is powerless.

Apostle Paul writes to the church in Ephesus and he says that there is power resident in them. He describes the power of God in the believer as effective. In other words, the power of God is active in the believer always. The power of God can never be inactive. To say a believer is powerless is a denial of the truthfulness of the word of God. One of the impossibilities of the believer in Christ is for him to be void of the power of God.

We must never be caught in the web of fables, clichés and unsound doctrines. Beyond feelings and mental persuasions, our conviction of a spiritual reality must be from the written word of God. As a matter of fact, the Spirit of God in the believer bears witness to the truth that the power of God is active in the believer. Brethren, having the power of God is our inheritance in Christ, let us therefore walk in the consciousness of the power at work in us and manifest same always.

**Confession: I am a believer in Christ.
The power of God is always at work in me.**

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DAY 9

TOPIC: WHAT SHOULD ABOUND IN US

TEXT: Colossians 3:16-17

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

The text above is an instruction; Paul instructs us to allow the word of Christ dwell in us richly. The word “rich” here means “abundant”. Hence, Apostle Paul tells us that what should gain ascendancy in us is the word of Christ.

The Apostle identifies that in teaching, in admonition, in all spiritual songs and all we do in words and deeds, the word of Christ must be predominant in our actions or speech. The word of Christ is that which is of faith and of thanksgiving in Christ Jesus. The Apostle Paul reveals this in the manner with which concludes; he wrote: *“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”* So the word of Christ is therefore an expression of faith in His person; thus, the conclusion of the whole matter is that in all that we do or say, we must do so with the consciousness of all we have received through faith which is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In furtherance of the above, we can say in affirmation that our words or actions should be devoid of doubts or fears. Instead, we should find conviction in Christ; our words and actions should be in the full assurance of faith in Christ Jesus by which we can give thanks.

Beloved, be full of faith in Christ in all that you do and wherever you are. Let your word and action demonstrate an assuredness of faith in Christ Jesus; never giving place for doubts or fears but of thanksgiving in Jesus Christ.

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DAY 10

TOPIC: WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP

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.”

The text above needs no haggling; we have been called unto the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ. In other words, we have fellowship with Christ Jesus. Notice that this statement was predicated on God’s faithfulness. Thus, our fellowship with Christ is a child of God’s faithfulness. It is not by reason of our deeds or faithfulness or steadfastness. In other words, our fellowship with Christ cannot be broken or neutralized or destroyed by any man because it is based on God’s faithfulness. God is faithful, and he has called us unto the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Some erroneously purport that a believer can lose fellowship, but that is not true. That can only happen if fellowship with Christ was based on man’s faithfulness; but thanks be to God, it is not so. The Apostle John lets us know in his epistle that we have fellowship with the Father (1 John 1:3). To have implies that it is ours. It means we have it. He lets us know that our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. To have fellowship with Christ is to have fellowship with the Father. We are joined to the Lord and we are one Spirit with Him (1 Corinthians 6:17). This means that we are in an eternally irreversible union with God.

Hear our Lord Jesus in the beautiful gospel of Saint John: John 17:22-23:

“22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”

This is fellowship! We have His glory; we are in Him, He is in us, and we are forever one. Say this out loud: “I am His, and He is mine!”

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 11

TOPIC: DO YOU HAVE A BUSINESS? (1)

TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; 12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and [that] ye may have lack of nothing.”

Apostle Paul did not hesitate to reiterate the need to be hard-working in one's business. He often ensures that he mentions this in many of his epistles. To the Roman Christians, he admonishes them not to be slothful in business (Romans 12:11). Furthermore, he warns repeatedly against being idle and encourages anyone involved to stop being busybodies and get involved in noble jobs (1 Timothy 5:13, 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12).

To further buttress the fact that Paul took this admonition very seriously, he didn't just teach it; he practiced it despite his tedious ministry involvement and encouraged his disciples to emulate the same attitude. In fact, he stated that anyone that does not work should not eat. This is the apostolic injunction given to believers.

Having known this, the believer is often in between the choice of what job is good enough for him. Clearly from what we have seen so far, a noble job is that honest job that doesn't distract your full attention and commitment to the work of ministry. If you are not actively involved in a noble job at the moment, it is high time you got involved in one so as not to allow idleness, which the Bible clearly warns against.

Further Study: 1 Thessalonians 3 & 4

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DAY 12

TOPIC: A POWERLESS CHRISTIAN? (2)

TEXT: JAMES 5:16

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

It was established in the first part of this devotional that the believer is not powerless and that, there will never be a time when the power of God will be inactive in the believer. We shall thus go further to illustrate how the believer is to manifest the power that is readily at work in him.

Truth be told, it is one thing to possess something and it is another thing to make use or maximize what has been possessed. When the scripture says the believer has the power of God, this is not a conditional statement but a truthful one. The challenge could be how to appropriate what has been given to us freely and see it manifest.

Apostle James in our text laid strong emphasis on prayer as a means to expressing or manifesting power. The Amplified version (classic edition) of the latter part of our text says thus;

“...The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].”

Hence, when the believer prays, he makes tremendous power available to meet the present need.

We must note that the Apostle James did not say that it is by our prayers that we become powerful but that we manifest and express the effective ability of God in us when we pray.

Rather than praying to have power, we pray with the assurance of the power at work in us, and we see the power in manifestation.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 13

TOPIC: JESUS: THE AUTHOR OF SALVATION

TEXT: Hebrews 5:9

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

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

The term “perfect” carries the idea of completion or fulfillment. Jesus was “made perfect” in the sense of completely fulfilling the sole reason he came to earth; to reconcile man back to God. Upon completion of that, He became the author of salvation unto all that believe in Him.

The word “author” can be described as “one who leads a cause; one who’s the source of a thing, or one who procures and is the administrator of a project.” That is to say, for everyone that believes in Jesus, He became the cause of eternal salvation unto them; He caused eternal salvation for them. He became the source, procurer and administrator of eternal salvation unto them.

God’s plan of salvation was for everyone to have a right standing with him, and glory to God, we rejoice because Jesus’ sacrifice has brought about that right standing for us. Our works had nothing to do with it. The supposed “righteousness” that comes with the keeping of the Law and ordinances could not save us and make us blameless before God. Jesus’ finished work did and He became the author of eternal salvation unto us.

Now we stand before God, holy, filled with all of his goodness, sanctified and justified because of Jesus.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 14

TOPIC: WE HAVE FORGIVENESS

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;”

A very careful observation of the text above reveals that the believer in Christ has forgiveness of sins. The word “have” as used in the text above implies a possession. In other words, forgiveness of sins is the believer’s possession in Christ. He will not have it at a later date; he has it right now. Forgiveness of sins is in Christ, and it is the believer’s possession in Christ. Paul reiterates this truth in Colossians chapter 1:14: *“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”*

It looks almost as though this verse was lifted from our text. This is because it is true. Truth is always consistent. It does not have any variations. This was what Paul and every other apostle taught in their epistles about forgiveness of sins. The apostles never taught that believers do something to receive forgiveness of sins. They did not also teach that it is received via crying, and wailing and shouting. So, away with such ideologies and old wives’ (silly) fables! They taught forgiveness of sins as a gift freely given us in Christ by God. If we have observed our text carefully, it would not then be difficult to notice that forgiveness of sins is through the blood of Jesus, according to the riches of His grace. We do nothing of our own to qualify for this; we only receive it at salvation. It is a gift. It is by grace.

At salvation, what we received was remission (forgiveness) of sins (Acts 10:43; Acts 26:18). We received it, and now, it’s ours in Him. The believer isn’t supposed to be caught in the web of transgressions and offences. However, if by any means he sins, he must not feel condemned. Condemnation is not of God but of the devil. God is not the accuser of the brethren; the devil is. The believer must know that we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, who is the propitiation for our sins and that of the world too (1 John 2:1-2). We have forgiveness of sins. It is ours in Him. We rejoice greatly in this truth!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 15

TOPIC: WE HAVE ALL POWER

TEXT: Acts 1:8

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Jesus Christ makes something profound in the aforementioned verse; he stated that we will receive power the moment we receive the Holy Spirit. This means therefore that what happens the moment we were born of the Spirit is that we receive power.

This makes something very clear: one of the realities of the man in Christ is that he is full of God's power. This means that believers never have to ask for power, for they are never in short of it because the Holy Spirit indwells believers forever. Rather, believers are to exercise the power they already have in the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2, when the Holy Spirit was given, believers spoke in tongues via the ability of the Holy Spirit. The fourth verse makes it clear: *“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

It is clear from the verse above that the ability to speak in tongues is seen in the giving of the Holy Spirit. They spoke in tongues because they had received the Spirit. This therefore means that power (in the Holy Spirit) is resident in the believer to do the things of the Spirit. Every believer can make use of the ability resident in the Holy Spirit. In furtherance of this, it is good to know that the same ability to speak in tongues is the same ability to raise the dead; it is the same ability to heal the sick; it is the same to exemplify the fruits of the Spirit. Therefore, believers are not lacking in either of the fruit or the gifts of the Spirit. We are just to exercise ourselves in that ability. Beloved, we are not lacking in power. Thus, we can demonstrate all that Jesus says we can. We can exercise ourselves unto all good works because we have received in full the ability of the Holy Spirit.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 16

TOPIC: GIVING PRIORITY TO TONGUES

TEXT: Jude 1:20

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

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

One of the core things taught and practiced by Jesus is the act of praying. Jesus instructed his disciples without any iota of ambiguity that they ought to always pray and not to be weary of prayer. Moreover, shortly after the resurrection of Jesus was the birth of a new set of people. They are the new creatures; believers in the death and the resurrection of Jesus! They also continued in this instruction, however in a more effective manner.

Their first gathering was started with a remarkable event; praying in tongues. They had been taught the act of praying before then, but much more than that was a promise given to them by Jesus Himself that they were going to speak in other tongues after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Little wonder it wasn't strange to them when they witnessed it. Amazingly, they prayed in tongues for a period of three hours despite being their first experience. From that time, they made it a practice and the Apostles wrote about praying in tongues in their epistles.

Just as the early church gave full attention to praying in tongues in their meetings, every believer will be doing excellently well to make a practice of prayer, and more importantly tongues, in their personal devotions and church meetings. Praying is one of the primary ways in which a believer builds up himself or herself. Make it a habit to pray in tongues more than ever before!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 17

TOPIC: THE THINGS THAT OUGHT NOT TO BE

TEXT: James 3:9-10

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“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 Apostle James makes it very clear in the text above what we are not to do with our mouths; we are not to curse men. The Apostle explains to us that it is out of place for believers to place a curse on any man. To curse is to pray that harm or evil may befall someone; therefore Apostle James brings to our knowledge that believers are never to pray that evil befall any man. Any man, in context, refers to every man either male or female, boy or girl, believers or unbelievers.

In the body of Christ today, it has become a norm to find some believers proclaiming curses upon men during supposed prayers. It is not unusual to find some parents (who are believers) curse their children; the Apostle James makes it clear these things ought not to be. It is not ideal for believers to curse any man.

We are to grow in this consciousness. We are never to curse but to bless all men; this is what is ideal. This should come out of our mouths at all times; we must give heed to this admonition at all times. We are never to get provoked that we curse any man; all that should ever come out of our mouths is all that is good.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 18

TOPIC: YOU ARE NEVER ALONE

TEXT: 2 KINGS 6:15-16

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? 16- And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.”

There is a lot to learn from the Old Testament Prophets. It is not a lie to say that they were conscious of the power of God and they manifested same. Prophet Elisha in our text today made a remarkable statement as he was faced with a host of enemies on chariots and horses who gathered round about him to harm him. He said to his servant *“Fear not for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.”*

This is awesome. Jesus makes us understand this more as he reveals to us that greater is he that is in us than he that is in the world.

The believer should never be held bound in fears of the enemy. He has innumerable company of angels working for him. He has an ability that is greater and exceeding the impending difficulty.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 19

TOPIC: IT IS GOD'S JOB

TEXT: John 6:39

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.”

There are numerous certainties for the man that believes in Jesus. The realities of the born again man are irreversible ones, eternal and never-ending. From the text above Jesus lets us know that it is the Father’s will that those who believe in Him, he loses none of them but raises them up at the last day.

The phrase “all which the Father has given Him, I would lose none...” means that it His sole responsibility to keep as many that believe in Him. To keep is to properly maintain, preserve, reserve and to watch over. Beloved, it is God that watches over the salvation He gave to you. It is He that preserves it and maintains it until his coming. Your works are not one bit enough to preserve God’s own salvation that He gave you.

It’s worth rejoicing about that by just believing in Jesus, eternal life is irreversibly bestowed unto us. This eternal life can never be taken away nor can it be lost. It is forever. Most people are of the school of thought that the believer can lose his salvation when he sins; hence, he can be “left behind” at the rapture. The question they are yet to answer is; “how can one lose a salvation that wasn’t his in the first place to keep, not to talk of a salvation that is spiritual?” And how could Jesus have said he will raise us up at the last day when we are the ones to keep our salvation? The answer is simple; Jesus is the sole custodian of salvation and at the instance of receiving Him, he gives eternal life. This eternal life He gives is His own very life and as a result of that eternal life, He’s able to raise us up on the last day.

So beloved, whether the believer likes it or not, he has eternal life and Jesus will surely fulfill His word to raise him up on the last day.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 20

TOPIC: DO YOU HAVE A BUSINESS? (2)

TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; 12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and [that] ye may have lack of nothing”

We have examined how that the Bible admonishes us to work with our hands in the first part of this topic. In the same line, it is also very essential for us to know the reason for such admonition. In the text above, Paul gave a clue to the reason for having a noble business or job.

Paul wanted the Thessalonians to have their own jobs so that they will be able to walk honestly towards those who are unbelievers. By this act, they will not have any reason to be dubious in their relationship with the outside world. This will be possible because they already have their basic needs met by their work.

In other places, he stated that he actually worked so that he will not be a burden to other believers. Now, Paul himself taught at different instances that believers ought to give to other needy believers and most importantly their pastors and other ministers over them. In fact, he counts it to be the scriptural right of such assembly pastors, yet the same Paul will want such believers to work so that there will scarcely be the needy among them. By that, he seeks that their giving will be more directed towards the furtherance of the gospel.

Dear believer, now you see more reason why you must have a noble job. You wouldn't have to be a liability and much more, you will be able to actively participate in taking the gospel to the ends of the earth by your financial commitment.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 21

TOPIC: BRETHREN!

TEXT: ACTS 19:17

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.”

Prior to the incidence of Saul encountering Jesus on his way to Damascus, Luke, the writer of the book of Acts, had already given an information about the manner of Saul’s life in the Jewish religion and this was corroborated by Paul himself in several of his epistles, most especially in his epistle to the Galatians. According to records, Apostle Paul persecuted the church before he believed the gospel. He was so zealous about this that he sought permission to persecute the Christians in another region (Damascus). His persecution was with so many killings that people feared him.

As seen in our text, despite Saul’s (Paul’s) brutal social image to the early Christians, when Ananias a certain disciple in Damascus was to minister to him, he addressed him as ‘Brother Saul’. The word “brother” is a strong word that denotes being a member of the same family. In the Greek originals, it means “from the same source or womb”. It is also noteworthy that Apostle Paul made a replica of this when he referred to Onesimus as a brother in his letter to Philemon despite the atrocities Onesimus had committed before meeting Paul (Philemon 1:15&16).

It is crystal clear from the two examples above that once a man receives the gospel, he becomes a member of God’s family. He is therefore addressed a brother or sister as the case may be. Christians referring to themselves as “brothers or sisters” is not a cliché or some archaic practice. Rather, it is a way of reminding ourselves that we all belong to the same family. We have all been accepted into the beloved. In spite of our past stories or bad image, we are brethren in Christ. This is the premise of our relationship with one another in the body of Christ.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 22

TOPIC: A NEW COMMANDMENT (1)

TEXT: John 13:34-35

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

The disciples of Jesus grew up to know that a man ought to love his neighbour as himself. However, the Laws of Moses by which they lived did not permit them to extend such love to their enemies or anyone seen as “God's enemy”. In fact, King David had this to say Psalms 139:21: *“21 Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? 22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.”*

It was not uncommon for a typical Israelite to hate his perceived enemy and love his neighbour as himself. Jesus came into the scene and declared God's intent about how love is to be demonstrated among humanity. He calls it "a new commandment". For Him to have referred to it as new, it must mean that such commandment had neither been known nor practiced by anyone before he mentioned it.

In the gospel according to Matthew, Jesus informed the multitudes that heard him that they are not to just love their neighbours alone. They are supposed to love both their neighbours and their enemies (Matthew 5:43-44). I could imagine the multitudes wonder how on earth that would be possible. But then, Jesus rounded up that topic by saying that any man who acts in such way will be doing exactly like God; the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. This indeed was (is) a new commandment on love.

Further study: Matthew 5:43-48

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DAY 23

TOPIC: BE IMITATORS OF GOD

TEXT: Ephesians 5:1-2

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.”

The word translated “followers” in the original Greek manuscript is the word “mimētēs”; it means “an imitator”. To imitate someone is to emulate the person's character and actions. It could also mean “to reproduce exactly what a person does”. Believers have been called to be imitators of Christ. As imitators of Christ, we are to emulate and show forth all that we find in Christ. We are to walk in love as He did and gave himself up for us that we might be saved.

As imitators of Christ, we are to forgive others when they offend us even as Christ forgave us (Ephesians 4:32). We have been made holy by God's Spirit that dwells in us; hence, as imitators of Christ we should live like people who have been set apart for God.

As imitators of Christ we are to show mercy even as God is merciful (Luke 6:36). It is worthy of note that this imitation is predicated on the truth that we are in Him and He is in us. It is premised on the unchangeable truth that we are His dear children, born of His very own Spirit. Thus, His identity is ours. His nature is ours. By God's Spirit that's in us, we have His ability, His character and His power at work in us; hence, we can exhibit His very nature and character as we go about our everyday lives. Hallelujah! We are followers of God!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 24

TOPIC: WALK IN THE SPIRIT

TEXT: Galatians 5:25

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit”

The Apostle Paul is addressing believers here; he is telling us to walk in the Spirit. Paul's admonition to walk in the Spirit is premised on the fact that we live in Spirit. The phrase “if we live in the Spirit” does not in any way imply that there are some believers who don't live in the Spirit. Rather, he is saying “since we live in the Spirit...” For, we are all new creatures in Christ Jesus; that's where we have our roots. It's our place of origin; our abode and dwelling place. Every believer lives in the Spirit. He reiterates this in the book of Romans.

Romans 8:9

“9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

Apostle Paul then admonishes us, after stating clearly that we are in the Spirit in our text, that we should walk in the Spirit. To walk in the Spirit is to take heed or yield to the promptings of the Spirit. It's to give ourselves over to the biddings of the Spirit. To walk in the Spirit is to busy ourselves with exercising and making full use of the things of the Spirit.

We are in the Spirit. We must take a step further to walk in the Spirit. When we do this, we make our dwelling in the Spirit much more evident for men to see. When we do this, we make the savour of the glory of Christ manifest in every place. Dearly beloved, since we are in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 25

TOPIC: A NEW COMMANDMENT (2)

TEXT: John 13:34-35

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

We have seen how that Jesus introduced a new commandment; the commandment of love. Jesus admonished His hearers to go beyond just loving a set of people who are good to them unto loving everyone; irrespective of their disposition to them. This was a particular commandment that Jesus gave, unveiling the Law of the Spirit in Christ to men.

Apart from speaking to the multitudes about love, Jesus gave an instruction to his disciples on how they ought to love one another. They were to love one another just as Jesus had loved them. This was how Jesus loved them: while they were still sinners, Jesus came to lay down his life for them. Actually, this new commandment is the law for the new creation in Christ. He's not just supposed to love people to the extent of his love for himself, he's rather supposed to love people as Christ has loved him and would love to display His love to such people.

As believers, we have been brought into this new commandment by the power of the gospel that saved us. We are expected to love both our friends and enemies. Moreover, we are supposed to love them as Jesus loved us. By this, men will recognize that we are Jesus' disciples, as this can only be done by the power of the Holy Ghost. More than ever before, we are to demonstrate Jesus' love to the world.

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DAY 26

TOPIC: QUIT JUDGING YOURSELF

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 5:19

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”

God’s plan of salvation is fulfilled in Jesus. God sent his Son Jesus to be the propitiation for our sins. He came to die in our place that we might be alive unto righteousness. Many preachers have portrayed God as one who is on a sin-hunt to condemn and destroy men for all of their atrocities, when in actual fact God is on a righteousness-hunt to dispense forgiveness of sins through his Son’s sacrifice on the cross.

The death, resurrection and glorification of Jesus was (is) for our redemption, sanctification and justification. God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing our trespasses unto us! Hallelujah! There is therefore now no condemnation for us because we are in Christ Jesus. The judgment for sins has been laid on Jesus.

Beloved, you are no longer going to bear the judgment for sin. God does not judge you for your sins. Jesus has already borne the judgment and punishment for them (your sins) in his body. God calls you righteous, holy, blameless, and unproveable because of Jesus’ finished work. As you go about your day, be conscious of this truth that God is not against you, that He is for you, with you and in you. He is on your side. He loves you and has your best interests at heart. So quit judging yourself every time you do a wrong, because Jesus has paid for your sins.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 27

TOPIC: NEVER NEGLECT PROPHECIES

TEXT: 1 Timothy 1:18

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“This charge commit I unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;”

Apostle Paul gave Timothy a charge in the text above. The word “charge” implies “a firm commandment”. This lets us know that what Paul gave Timothy here was an instruction that was to be adhered to by all means. He lets Timothy know that he must war a good warfare. Some people have made a mischief of the word “warfare” in the text above, saying it refers to “slaying some enemies in one’s village”. That is quite very mischievous. It is an echo of their Bible illiteracy, and never the correct interpretation of that verse. Contextual reading easily reveals to us that the word “warfare”, as used here, was referring to “doctrine”. Paul’s charge to Timothy was that he should keep the faith, and not veer away from that which he had been taught by him (Paul).

Paul brings something to the fore in giving this charge. He tells Timothy to heed this instruction according to the prophecies which went before on him. In other words, Paul was calling those prophecies to his remembrance. He was letting him know that it was very important for him never to forget those prophecies. This informs that prophecies are very important to the believer.

In the New Testament, prophecies are for edification, exhortation, and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3). They are never given to scare or frighten or condemn the receiver. This lets us know what a correct prophecy would sound like. When we receive prophecies, we are not to take them as mere words and forget them. Prophecies are utterances inspired of the Spirit. They are to edify, exhort and comfort us. We must never forget them. Rather, we must always put them to remembrance, for in them we will find strength, encouragement, edification, exhortation, and comfort when things seem tough for us. They will form the tarmac upon which we will run; they will let us know that what we have set out to do was received via prophecy; that God is in and with us; that we have received the ability to do the things we do. Brethren beloved, never forget prophecies! Never neglect prophecies!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 28

TOPIC: WHO IS OUR ADVERSARY?

TEXT: 1 PETER 5: 8-9

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

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

The word “adversary” literally means “an enemy”. The text above throws at us some bit of shocker: the believer in Christ has an adversary. One would have thought that now that the believer is in Christ, he/she should be without an enemy. But, the bible says we have an adversary, and that is the devil.

Again, we must pay attention to the fact that the Apostle Paul did not write that our adversary is a human being in form of our relatives or co-workers in our respective workplaces. Rather, it is emphatic that our adversary is the devil, who influences men to act against us. Dear believer, the devil is not pleased with you. You have no allegiance with the devil. You have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light.

The premise stated above is not to make us frightened and cower in fear. Rather, it is to make us rejoice because the enemy that we have is a defeated one. There is no power, authority or glory accorded to him. All the power in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus and the same power has been given to the believer in Christ. We have an instruction to resist him steadfastly and he will flee away from us. We can resist the devil because we have authority over him. This is the victory we have in Christ.

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DAY 29

TOPIC: YOU ARE CONFIGURED FOR GOOD WORKS

TEXT: Ephesians 2:10

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

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

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

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

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

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 30

TOPIC: YOU HAVE AN EMPOWERMENT

TEXT: Ephesians 5:8

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“8 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 to execute it. We are first told who we are in Christ and then, 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: *“6 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 in us in Christ Jesus!” When we see instructions, we are joyful; our hearts are glad. For again we know that we can.

Confession: I have an ability to do in me in Christ Jesus. Therefore, instructions do not scare me. Rather, my heart is reassured by them. Amen.

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