



The Refinery Devotional

NOVEMBER
2017

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

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You are FREE to make your contributions and praise reports via my inbox on Facebook @ Harrison Ayintete.

Blessings.

DAY 1

TOPIC: RICH IN GOOD WORKS

TEXT: 1 Timothy 6:17

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

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

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

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

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

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

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 2

TOPIC: GOD DOESN'T IMPUTE SINS!

TEXT: Jeremiah 31:34

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Amidst all the prophetic scriptures concerning the coming of the Messiah and the establishment of the new covenant is the prophecy of Jeremiah. In the thirty first chapter of the book of Jeremiah, he spoke about a people who will enjoy the gift of a recreated spirit upon the forgiveness of their sins. He prophetically spoke about the character of God under the new covenant; God will forgive sins and will not remember them!

This promise of the new covenant is not predicated on the fact that God had been remembering sins for long but will change under the new covenant. Not at all! God is eternally the same. He has never imputed sins and will never do. However, the law system upon which the old testament was founded was responsible for imputing sins.

***Romans 5:13** “For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.”*

Therefore, by establishing a new covenant, He abolished the Old testament and the law upon which it was formed so that sin will no longer be imputed to man. Hebrews 8:6-13.

Christ has established the new testament today. Hence, God doesn't impute sins unto any man. Moreover, every man can stand assured of the reality that God does not take record of his or her sins (2 Corinthians 5:19). Hallelujah!

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DAY 3

TOPIC: YOU ARE BOLD!

TEXT: Proverbs 28:1

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

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

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

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

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

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DAY 4

TOPIC: GIVE THANKS IN EVERYTHING

TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

The Apostle Paul reveals to us when and why we should give thanks in the above text. The Apostle, by writing that we give thanks in everything, educates us that giving of thanks should be always. The words “in everything” means “at all times”. Hence Paul did not say we should limit the giving of thanks to only when things are fine. Rather, what he instructs is that regardless of whatever situation we face, we should always give thanks.

The Apostle Paul tells us why we should always give thanks in spite of situations; he explains that it is the will of God in Christ concerning us. We can therefore say that giving of thanks is the will of God. Thus, it is outside God’s will for us not to give thanks. You may ask: “Things have been very bad, what is there to give thanks for?” Hush! Paul did not say give thanks for everything; he says give thanks in everything. For example, he did not say give thanks for sicknesses, for sicknesses aren’t the will of God for us. What he says rather is that we are to give thanks in spite of the sickness.

The instruction to give thanks always is for a reason. Giving thanks means we are in charge; it means that we haven’t succumbed to that situation; it means we maintain a positive disposition regardless of the situation; it means we maintain a victorious mindset despite the situation. Hence, we can always pray against it; we can yet fellowship with the saints despite being in it; we still minister to others and we expect something good though we are in that situation.

Beloved! We are to give thanks always. It is an instruction and it is also the will of God for us to. Never say there is nothing to give thanks for! You actually have many things to give thanks for; you are eternally saved; you are accepted in the beloved, you are a citizen of heaven; you aren’t going to hell. All these are very good reasons to give thanks for. Much more than that, God cares for us, God heals all sicknesses and diseases, He always sends help, and He also provides. So, for example, rather than be sad that you are sick, give thanks because God heals us of every diseases.

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DAY 5

TOPIC: WE LAUGH!

TEXT: Psalms 2:1-4

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision.”

The text above is quite a very profound one. David, in his second psalm, lets us know that God (who seats on the throne) laughs. This means, God who is our Father, does not seat on His throne sad, sorrowful, and gloomy. He who seats on the throne laughs! In the epistles, we discover that the believer in Christ Jesus sits on the throne of God. He has been made to seat in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6).

Moreover, the believer in Christ Jesus has the very nature of God, since he is born of God. What this very vital information about our identity communicates is that the characteristics of God are also the inherent characteristics of the believer. In the book of Galatians, the Apostle Paul lets us know that joy is a fruit of the Spirit of God (Galatians 5:22). In 1 Corinthians 6:17, Paul also lets us know that the spirit of the believer is one with the Spirit of God. Thus, it won't be wrong to say that joy is a fruit of the believer's spirit (since he is one Spirit with God). Joy is a component of the believer's spirit. It is an essential detail of his identity.

We do not look for comedians to help us laugh when we gather in church or in our respective closets. A comedian can at best make one happy for a fleeting moment. However, the joy resident in our spirits is eternal. There is a well of joy within us that never runs dry. So, when contrary winds blow as we sail through life, we don't give up or let down or roll under the carpet, but demonstrate the joy within. We drink of the well within, by speaking boldly about who we are in Christ Jesus, and then we burst forth into laughter as people full of new wine. We laugh because the greater one is on our inside. We laugh because we are the ones with power, dominion, and victory. We laugh because our all-conquering King has made us more than conquerors. So, what is a gathering of rabid winds before the believer in Christ? It is but as a toothless dog that barks. We laugh! We are on the throne now, where all authority domiciles. Our God laughs, and we laugh too, for the victory is ours, and the conquest is truly sure! Hallelujah! We are a people of laughter and so we laugh! This is how we demonstrate our victory and assurance in God: we laugh!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 6

TOPIC: PART OF THE BODY!

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 12:12

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.”

One of the elementary lessons one gets to learn in life is the structure of the body and how each part functions. The human body is structured in such a way that although there are different parts which perform different functions, all the parts are fitly joined together to make one whole body.

Apostle Paul used the whole chapter of our scripture text to explain to the Corinthian church the use of spiritual gifts in church gatherings and more importantly, the role of every individual in the church. He elucidated this by using the structure of the human body. He went further to say that just as the body is one and has different parts so are we in Christ.

The church is the body of Christ and believers make up parts of this body. Being part of the body means that we function in different roles. This is the will of God and it is pleasing to him (*1 Corinthians 12:8*). It is expedient to emphasize that there is no part of the human body that is irrelevant or unimportant. Even the parts that seem less honourable in their forms perform important functions and thus, receive the utmost care and attention as a damage in that part would affect the whole body. Hence, all the parts of the body work together for the growth and sustenance of the body.

Dear beloved, you are a part of the body of Christ. The church is where you function and administer your role as a member of this glorious body. You have to see yourself as important to the body of Christ. You are not born again to be nothing. Membership in the body of Christ is so important that no one can be ridiculed. We are not to give a lackadaisical attitude to the things of the Church. We are part of the church and the church is part of us.

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DAY 7

TOPIC: GOD IS ALWAYS WILLING

TEXT: Matthew 8:2-3

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“And behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, though canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth His hand and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.”

The leper in our text must have heard and seen the wondrous miracles of God. He had no doubt that Jesus had the power to heal. That was what gave him the boldness to go to Jesus. But one thing was clear from the question he asked Jesus. And it was that he was not sure that Jesus would agree to heal him.

Throughout the bible until Jesus' time, leprosid people were never allowed to mix with other people in the cities and towns. They were seen as unclean people because of their conditions. That might have been the reason for the man's question to Jesus. But Jesus, in response to the leper's question, put forth His hand to touch him. That being a sign of His compassion for the man and a pointer to let him know that against all that the society says of his condition (leprosy), He's able and willing to heal him.

Many times, we behave like the leper did. The same God who healed the sick, raised the dead and fed people who were hungry; we feel our issues are too big for Him to handle and that He might not be willing to help us out of troubles.

Beloved, God is willing to do much more than you can ever think or imagine. His love for you is unconditional and He displays it by always doing good to you. Let your heart be certain on this truth that your heavenly Father loves you and is willing to meet your needs. You are His beloved, purchased by the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. If He could give up His Son to die for your sake, how shall he not with him freely give you all things? Be assured of this always! Hallelujah!

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Further Study : Ephesians 3:20

DAY 8

TOPIC: DO GENTILES HAVE A PART IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

TEXT: Romans 9:25-26

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“25 As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. 26 And it shall come to pass, [that] in the place where it was said unto them, Ye [are] not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.”

Many have argued that most of the prophecies concerning the new testament and salvation in Christ is towards the Jews. They have argued that non-Jews are not supposed to be beneficiaries of the new testament. Well, such thoughts may appear true on the surface, but a detailed study of the bible as a whole proves such arguments as false.

The ninth chapter of the book of Romans is Paul's detailed argument of how the promise of the Messiah came through the Jews but is not limited to the Jews. He went further to explain that the common ground for both Jews and Gentiles is to believe in the sacrifice of Jesus. The text above shows a portion of Paul's argument. He made reference to the prophecy of Hosea;

***Hosea 2:23** “And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to [them which were] not my people, Thou [art] my people; and they shall say, [Thou art] my God.”*

Hosea had earlier prophesied that those who were not Jews will be engrafted into the new covenant. This is why Jesus instructed that the gospel must be preached to every nation upon His resurrection. Based on Jesus' instruction, the gospel which is the way by which people come into salvation is not limited to the Jews. Little wonder that Paul affirmed that circumcision or uncircumcision doesn't matter; what matters is faith in Christ. Today, any man can come into Christ irrespective of his culture, tribe or nation. Hallelujah!

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DAY 9

TOPIC: IT IS IN CHRIST

TEXT: Philemon 1:6

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

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

From the above text, we discover that the reality of every believer is in Christ Jesus. We find out also that all that we have in us in Christ Jesus are good things. The phrase “which is in you” in the text above implies “ownership”. Therefore, believers are in possession of all good things in Christ Jesus.

The above isn't what is popularly taught in the body of Christ today, what we find are messages emphasizing the believer's inadequacy in Christ Jesus. You might have even heard statements inferring that you may have the gifts of the Holy Spirit but not the fruit of the Spirit. Some others infer that you may have some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and not all. Any message which infers in the faintest manner that you lack one (1) of or all the characteristics of God's nature and character of God is utterly false! Believers are not inadequate in Christ Jesus! We all have the fullness of every good thing in us in Christ Jesus.

Furthermore the phrase “which is in you” infers that the good things we have in us in Christ cannot be lost. In other words, all the good things believers have in them Christ Jesus remain their inheritance forever. As a matter of fact, the Apostle Paul makes use of the word “acknowledging” in the above prayer for the saints. The word “acknowledging” is in continuous tense, meaning that in context of the above text, believers should always acknowledge the good things they have in them in Christ, never stopping and never doubting at anytime. This is because believers don't lose them. Every good thing in Christ remains theirs forever.

This is amazing! There isn't going to be a time as a believer you lose being God's son; neither is there going to be a day you lose the indwelling of the Holy Spirit or lose citizenship of heaven or lose the ability to function in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Why? These things are yours forever! So, Apostle Paul says keep acknowledging your realities in Christ; they are all yours by sonship and by so doing your communication of faith become effective.

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DAY 10

TOPIC: MAKE REJOICING A HABITUAL ACTION!

TEXT: 1 Peter 1:8

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:”

Rejoicing is a physical demonstration of the eternal joy in the recreated spirit of the man in Christ. The man in Christ is a joyful being. The word “unspeakable” in our text verse was translated from a Greek word which implies “unutterable”. In other words, this joy (which is full of glory) cannot really be spoken out or described with our mouths. It is best demonstrated with the action of rejoicing. The word translated as “rejoice” is the Greek word “agallio”. It literally means “to jump for joy”. It is to give an action to the joy within.

Worthy of note is the very fact that our Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated this while he walked the earth bodily.

Luke 10:21 *“21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.”*

The word translated as “rejoiced” here is the same word “agallio”. A close observation would help us to see that it was Luke who gave this commentary. He wrote *“In that hour, Jesus rejoiced in the spirit...”* Obviously, he must have seen something. He must have seen an action. What did he see? He saw Jesus jump for joy! Jesus rejoiced! He leaped and twirled with reckless abandon! This is rejoicing! It’s an action. You don’t sit still, looking calm and collected when you rejoice! No; that’s not rejoicing.

That is mere sitting down, and nothing more! Rejoicing means that there is an action! Why do we rejoice? We rejoice because of the benefits we have as a result of salvation! We rejoice because now are we the sons of God! We rejoice because the supernatural has become natural to us; we rejoice because we now live in a realm alien to uncertainties! Moreover, rejoicing in an instruction we have in the epistles. We have been instructed to rejoice always!

Philippians 4:4 *“4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”*

Rejoicing keeps us in the consciousness of whose we are, who we are, and what we have. It fills us with boldness. It spurs angels into action, as they excel well in their service for saints in an atmosphere of joy that emanates from salvation and its attendant benefits (Luke 15:10; Luke 2:9-10; Hebrews 1:14). It enables us to walk through life as the overcomers that we truly are. Brethren beloved, rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice!

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DAY 11

TOPIC: EYE-SERVICE

TEXT: Colossians 3:22-23

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye-service, as men-pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.”

We live in a world where people often do things for selfish reasons. Many lack the diligence to be faithful to whatever has been committed into their hands. As a matter of fact, some would prefer to carry out a work assigned to them effectively when they are being monitored and be negligent about it if otherwise. It is no longer strange to see people who prefer to be late to their place of work whenever their employer is not around. This character is not of God.

A believer in Christ who is employed to serve under another person in a business or venture is not to discharge his/her duties with eye-service. Again, eye-service seems to be prevalent in the world today. This is because the intent of working for most people is to please men.

The character of the believer is that he does things with diligence and singleness (sincerity) of heart. In other words, rather than working with eye-service and seeking the praises of men, the believer works faithfully and in all sincerity in reverence of God.

Whatsoever is committed into your hands must be done in sincerity and not with eye-service. You are empowered to do this.

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DAY 12

TOPIC: IT IS GOD THAT JUSTIFIES

TEXT: Romans 4:5

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.”

God does not want you to be afraid to come to Him. He doesn't want you feeling unworthy because of your past and present sins. He desires that you come boldly to Him, knowing that it is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, His Son, that's justified you and qualified you to receive from him. The above text talks about the fact that faith in Christ is what justifies the ungodly. When you believe that it is God that justifies the ungodly, you will have boldness to come to Him, even when you feel unclean because you have just done a wrong.

The above text is to gear us on to approach God boldly knowing that we are justified by the blood of Christ and not by our good behaviors. When thoughts run through your mind as to if God can forgive you of all your numerous sins. Just thank God for the blood of Jesus and the gift of no condemnation (Romans 8:1) If God justifies the ungodly, how much more you, His child? You are beloved of the Father, no sin, however small or big in the sight of men can snatch you away from the Father's love.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 13

TOPIC: WE ARE CITIZENS

TEXT: Philippians 3:20

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“But we are citizens of the state (commonwealth, homeland) which is in heaven, and from it also we earnestly and patiently await [the coming of] the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [as] Savior,” AMP

Paul's words concerning the heavenly citizenship of the church at Philippi is very affirmative. A keener look at such a profound statement makes us see how Paul didn't segregate certain members of that local assembly as being unworthy of being called citizens. In fact, Paul included himself in the statement.

Many believers today have such erroneous belief that they are merely candidates seeking admission into heaven. Hence, they have some level of uncertainty of their entrance or access into heaven. This thought is alien to the bible. The bible affirms that every believer is a citizen. A citizen suggests someone who has his origin from that particular place. A citizen is not someone hoping to enter his or her place of origin. Rather, he or she is someone born in that particular place. Little wonder, Paul reaffirmed this fact in another epistle:

***Ephesians 2:19** “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;”*

All believers (saints) are already citizens of the state; which is heaven. We are not on a mission to make heaven. No sane person attempts to make his state of origin; he's rather licensed to live there. For the man in Christ, his joy is not in the future; it is from the day he accepts Christ. It won't be heaven at last; rather, it is heaven from the outset! We are citizens, right now!

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DAY 14

TOPIC: TERRIFIED OF GOD?

TEXT: Romans 8:15-16

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”

Several believers live their lives terrified of God; this is often because of the very many wrong messages about the nature and the character of God which they have heard. In the above texts, it is an anomaly to be terrified of God because we haven't received the Spirit of bondage to fear repeatedly but the Spirit of adoption whereby God became our father and we became his sons.

The reality of sonship births boldness in us. The word cry in the above verse is the same as “to exclaim for or call aloud”; hence, the reality of sonship makes us confident that we can exclaim that God is our father. From the above verses, we will discover that the reality of sonship takes away fear completely. Thus, believers are never to be afraid of God because they are His sons. Now contrary to what is popularly affirmed, that the Holy Spirit convicts believers of their sins, we find otherwise that the Holy Spirit convicts and confirms to the man in Christ that he is a son of God.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 15

TOPIC: SANCTIFIED ONCE FOR ALL!

TEXT: Hebrews 10:10

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

In contrast with what many have erroneously believed today, that sanctification is the end point of a series of stages which involve some sort of sanctimonious living after salvation, we see that Jesus’ sacrifice sanctifies once for all. The word “sanctifies” is from the Greek word “hagiazō”, which means “to make holy”. In other words, the sacrifice of Jesus has made us holy once for all! The word “once” in the Greek is a word which implies “something that has happened and will not happen again”! Thus, those who have been sanctified by Jesus have been sanctified once for all. Hence, they cannot be sanctified again. To try to sanctify them again and again would mean that Jesus has to die again and again, and that is as impossible as impossibility can get.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 “13 But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:”

The word “and” was translated from the Greek word “kai”, which means “that is” or “which is”. Unlike in the English Language, this word is not always used as a conjunction. Often times, it is used as an explanation of the aforewritten. So, what the Apostle Paul was saying here is this: “...*sanctification of the Spirit which is belief of the truth:*” From the explanation of the text above, we find that what many have said about the subject of sanctification/holiness is false! Sanctification is not a result of a series of processes. There are no stages or levels in/to holiness! We are all holy in the sight of God, and no believer is holier than the other believer. The point of belief in Jesus Christ is the point of sanctification. Sanctification is simply by faith in Christ. Jesus said the same thing in the book of Acts:

Acts 26:18 “18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”

Those who have believed have been sanctified by Jesus’ blood once for all. Thus, the believer in Christ is holy forevermore. The strength of his holiness is a function of the strength of Jesus’ sacrifice. Beloved, any time someone tries to allude unholiness to you, ask him “Will Jesus ever die again?” And when he or she answers “no”; tell him or her: “so also can I never be unholy again!” Hallelujah! We have been sanctified once for all by the sacrifice of Jesus!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 16

TOPIC: A COMPASSIONATE GOD

TEXT: Matthew 14:13-14

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities. And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.”

Prior to Jesus meeting the multitudes, he had just received an information that John was dead. John the Baptist was not just the forerunner of Jesus Christ, he was also his relative. John was beheaded by King Herod upon request by the daughter of Herodias. The news of John's death must have been a sad one for Jesus and his disciples to bear.

Just after receiving this news, Jesus travelled by a ship to a desert place but a multitude followed him on foot. When Jesus saw this great multitude, he was moved with compassion. The word “compassion” means “deep awareness of the suffering of another, coupled with the wish to relieve it”. In other words, Jesus had pity on them due to their illnesses and he healed them all of their diseases. He did not refuse them due to the fact that He just lost his relative, John. He cared for them selflessly by healing them because His nature is love.

The Bible reveals that Jesus is the express image, representation and profile of God (*Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3*). When we see Jesus, we see God. The nature of God is that he is compassionate. He cares about his own. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. The same way he is compassionate to the multitude as seen in our text, he is to us. He does not have the ability to be cruel. There is no hatred in Him. This is our God, He is full of love and compassion.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 17

TOPIC: EFFECTIVE PRAYERS IN THE SPIRIT

TEXT: James 4:16b

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“...the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much”

When we pray in the Spirit, our prayers are effective because they are in line with the will of God. There is no fear of praying amiss because the Holy Spirit makes intercession for us (the saints) according to the will of God (Romans 8:27). Most people hold the ideology that it's absurd to pray in tongues when for all they know, they could be shooting themselves in the foot especially after they've committed a sin. They feel it's more sane to pray in understanding because they'll pray what is on their hearts, such as confessing their sins, rather than praying in tongues and incur God's wrath.

The believers prayer is effective, that is; results are certain when he prays in the Spirit because he prays according to God's will. The Spirit of God knows the mind of God and those things that are freely given to us. He also knows how to make them manifest in our lives.

Beloved, we have the indwelling of God's Spirit and results are certainly made manifest when we pray in tongues. God is for us at all times and we are able to prove this in prayers, because He always hears us.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GODS GOODNESS!

DAY 18

TOPIC: EVER ABOUNDING JOY

TEXT: 1 Peter 1:8

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see [him] not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:”

Peter's first epistle was purposely written to encourage believers who were scattered abroad and were facing various trials of faith. He wrote to strengthen their hope in Christ and to have enough strength to pull through such persecutions.

He commented on their disposition in such situation. The receivers of his epistle were people who in the midst of perverse trials of faith were given to active rejoicing with great joy which is full of glory! Such act of rejoicing doesn't follow reason. It sounds stupid to be given to rejoicing in the midst of such circumstances. Nevertheless, this ought to be the attitude of believers every time. Every believer ought to be actively given to rejoicing in times when things are physical going well or otherwise.

Peter made it clear that such act of rejoicing is based on the reality of the salvation that such believers have and the hope of the resurrection of their bodies. This is the major reason why rejoicing will be always, since the reality of our salvation is forever. Little wonder the bible instructs us to rejoice forevermore and always. Cultivate the habit of rejoicing always.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 19

TOPIC: YOU ARE SEALED

TEXT: Ephesians 1:13

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.”

Believers we were sealed with the Holy Spirit. The word “sealed” is same as “to stamp, to secure or to preserve”. Hence, in other words, we can say believers are secured or preserved by the Holy Spirit. Now, the reality above isn't an aftermath of salvation such that you have to pray to be sealed; neither is being secured by the Holy Spirit a promise to be fulfilled. No! The reality above happened the very moment you were saved. This means salvation is being sealed with the Holy Spirit.

In essence, salvation is not something that can be lost. The word “sealed” in itself infers a reality that exists eternally, for the Holy Spirit is eternal. It is not a reality that is ongoing, neither is it a reality that stops to exist. It is a reality that happened once for all time. Beloved, you are secured eternally, you never lose this reality, you have been sealed for all time.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 20

TOPIC: WE HAVE OVERCOME!

TEXT: Revelation 3:5

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”

Many who have misunderstood the text above think that it means that those who overcome are those who act in some pious way till the end that will overcome. Some others think that it means that the believer's name can be blotted out from the book of life. Nothing could further from the truth than notions such as these. First, settle in your mind that piety cannot make any man overcome. An unbeliever, however pious he may be till the, who rejects the gospel till he dies has not overcome. He abides yet in darkness and will perish. Moreover, the text didn't say *“he who overcomes till the end”*; it rather said *“he who overcomes”*. This is because he overcomes has overcome already. This overcoming is once! It is not a continuous process!

The book of Revelation, which was written by Apostle John, is full of allegories, as it is an account of a vision seen by the same person. The book can only be understood in its proper context by using the clarity we have in the epistles. For instance, John lets us know the one who overcomes in his first epistle.

1 John 5:4-5 ***“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”***

Who is the one that overcomes? It is the believer in Christ Jesus! He has overcome; his name will never be blotted out of the book of life! Moreover, the clause *“I will not blot out”* is an allegorical statement to show that the impossibility of a believer's name getting out of the book of life. Actually, anyone who ever has his or her name in that book (by believing in Jesus' sacrifice for sins) will never have it blotted out! We know this because John had earlier written in his gospel account about Jesus' reassuring words to us in John 6:37 that all who believe in him will in no wise be cast out by him!

Philippians 4:3 ***“3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.”***

Beloved, this is the truth about all believers; our names are in the book of life. It can never be blotted out, for we have overcome. We have believed the gospel of Christ!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 21

TOPIC: PEACEABLE LIFE

TEXT: Romans 14:19

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”

One of the characters that are inherent in the believer in Christ is peace. It is listed among the fruit of the Spirit which is freely given to the man in Christ at the point of salvation. (*Galatians 5:16*). As believers, we are enabled to live a peaceable life here on earth. This is possible because the believer is dwelling in an eternal state of peace in Christ Jesus. God is at peace with the believer with or without his good or bad doings. As a result of this, the believer lives in peace both with himself or herself and others.

Only the man who has received the peace of God can live a peaceable life. Hence, the believer is not a destroyer of peace but a giver of it. The believer is not one that causes troubles, divisions and hate or prejudice. Rather, a believer stands for peace amidst the brethren and all that surround him.

The clause “follow after” in our text is from the Greek word “*dioko oun*” which means “to press toward or given to accordingly”. In other words, we are to give our consciousness and efforts to ensuring that in our dealings, the things that make for peace must ensue. For it’s God’s will that we live in peace with one another, that we flood the earth with His nature and that love may grow and unity may abound.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 22

TOPIC: JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST

TEXT: Galatians 4:7

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”

The believer becomes a son at salvation. He is no more a servant of sin. And not only is he a son, he's also an heir through Christ. That is to say the death, resurrection and glorification of Jesus made the believer a joint- heir with Christ. Therefore, all that Jesus is before God, is what and who the believer is before God also. The believer has inherited all that Jesus has, and is. The way the Father loves Jesus is the way the Father loves the believer. Just as Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father far above principalities and powers, so also the believer is also seated in a place of authority with the Father.

The believer is not to struggle to be accepted of God. He already is. Not by his own works but by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. All that Jesus is in heaven, the believer is in this world (1 John 4:17). The believer has an enormous inheritance in God through Christ and as such, he is not to live as one who's without hope, or live as one who's empty; rather, he's to be constantly conscious that he's got the life of God in Him which is eternal, and he's now the residence of God's Spirit.

Beloved, we are to be conscious of this truth at every time and in place, that we are heirs of God, and are now joint -heirs with Christ. Therefore, in order to walk in authority here on earth, we are to find out all that our inheritance in Christ entails and start walking in them. Therein lies our victory.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GODS GOODNESS!

DAY 23

TOPIC: AVOIDING STRIFE

TEXT: Proverbs 26:20

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

“Where no wood is, [there] the fire goeth out: so where [there is] no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.”

One of the possible attributes that come up almost naturally with a growing human population is strife or conflict. In fact, once we have at least two human beings, there are possibilities of strife. This is not uncommon amid Christian gatherings as well. It is therefore essential for believers to understand the possible causes of strife and how to deal with it.

In the text above, King Solomon points to one of the major causes of strife amid people. He juxtaposes this particular cause with the importance of wood in sustaining the kindling of fire. Just as there must be wood (a combustible object) in a place for there to be the sustenance of fire, there must of course be a talebearer or a backbiter for there to be strife. By this, he suggests that once there is backbiting amid people, there is a high chance of strife. Most times, people result into talebearing when they are offended.

Jesus admonished his disciples in Matthew 18:15-17 on the way to settle offences. He instructed that once there is offence, the offended should privately meet whoever has offended him. He is only permitted to inform other believers if only his meeting with whoever offended him isn't productive at the first meeting. Hence, as believers, we are not expected to result into backstabbing whenever there is offence. We are supposed to seek peace always. This is the sure way to stay off strife.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 24

TOPIC: CONCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 12:1

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

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

From the Apostle Paul's letter to the Corinthians, it is obvious that it is not good for believers to be ignorant of spiritual gifts. This means believers should be cognizant of what spiritual gifts are. Owing to the aforesaid, the ideal thing is for believers to be willing to learn and demonstrate spiritual gifts.

On this note, it is imperative for every church to make the teaching and demonstration of spiritual gifts a compulsory activity. Also, every believer should desire to gather with a local church where spiritual gifts are consistently taught and demonstrated. In 1 Corinthians 12:7, the Apostle Paul lets us know that why the manifestation of the Spirit was (is) given is for the common profiting of every believer. Thus, teaching and demonstrating the gifts of the Spirit is for the good of the saints. No believer therefore should be left of this goodness. We should all flow in the demonstration of the Spirit and enjoy the profiting of it.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 25

TOPIC: WE ARE HERALDS OF THE GOSPEL

TEXT: Mark 16:15

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

This was the instruction given by the Lord upon His resurrection from the dead. We are to go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. The words “every creature” here refer to “human beings”, and not “animals”. We have been charged with the responsibility of preaching the gospel of Christ. The word translated as “preach” here is from the Greek word “kerusso”, which means “to herald (as a public crier)” or “to proclaim”. In other words, every believer is to act as a town crier, proclaiming the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Of course, one who has been sent with a message must understand the message well, lest he goes ahead to say the wrong things and present a totally different message from the original message that was committed unto him. What is the gospel? It is that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day for our justification (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). This is the gospel! Any information asides this is counterfeit! It is another gospel! The import of the facts of the gospel, as seen above, is that sins are not imputed unto men anymore, because someone has paid for their sins (2 Corinthians 5:18-21). So, as we preach, we let people know this. We present them the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ, and whosoever receives it by believing is saved and passes from death to life in that same moment! We have a commission from the Lord. We are messengers with a message, and our message is the gospel of Christ. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16). In other words, God will appear powerless to save men if we don't preach the gospel. We release the power of God to save as we preach the gospel with its clear facts (i.e. the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus).

Dearly beloved, ensure you get back on track if you haven't been doing this. Many lives will perish if you don't preach the gospel. It's a serious business! Salvation is the will of God for mankind. Remind yourself that you are a herald of the gospel today, and go out to preach the gospel. You will see men saved, and translated from the kingdom of darkness into His marvellous light as you do this!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 26

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 were the shadows of what is now 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 was 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!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 27

TOPIC: GOD IS YOUR FATHER

TEXT: Romans 8:5

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“For ye have not received the Spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of Adoption whereby we cry, Abba Father.”

The true image of the Father is revealed in Jesus Christ. No man knew the real identity of the Father until Jesus came. He came to show us who the Father really is (John 1:16 & 18). Prior to this time, God was referred to as an unloving entity by men who did not really know Him. He was portrayed as one who wanted things to be done His way and anyone who defied His ways and didn't keep His commandments was doomed for destruction immediately. But alas! When Jesus came, He declared unto us that the Father is full of grace which is truth (John 1:16-17).

Jesus made sure that He showed to the world that the Father is gracious and plenteous in mercy such that He went about doing good and healed all that were oppressed of the devil (Acts 10:38). He declared that everything the people saw him do, was (is) exactly what the Father does or can do.

Child of God, God put His Spirit in us so that we can know that we are now sons and He is our Father. Fear doesn't exist between us and Him any longer as it used to be in times past when we were in our sins and trespasses. His Spirit within us enables us to call Him nothing other than “Abba Father”. That is the Hebrew word for “THE FATHER”.

Beloved, God is not “some father”. He is “THE FATHER”; OUR FATHER!. As you go about your day, carry this image of Him in your heart as your “Abba Father”. By that, you are declaring that He is your supplier when you're in need, that He is your keeper from now till the end of age, that He is your preserver, your lover and master. Be rest assured that there's nothing too insignificant for the Father when it comes to His own(the believer).

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GODS GOODNESS!

DAY 28

TOPIC: DON'T STOP PREACHING!

TEXT: 2 Timothy 4:2

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

The above is a charge; an instruction to continue preaching the word. The word “preach” means “to herald or proclaim something”. Therefore, in context, the Apostle Paul’s instruction is that we should herald the gospel. The phrase “in season and out of season” infers “at all times”. So, Paul instructs us to preach the gospel at all times. Hence, we are not to stop preaching; we are to continue in it.

We are to remain persistent in the course. We must stay faithful in this course; go for evangelism, discuss the gospel with many, rebuke wrong doctrines and exalt sound doctrine. It is our responsibility as believers to do that.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 29

TOPIC: CHRISTIAN GIVING

TEXT: Acts 4:34-35

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

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

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

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

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

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 30

TOPIC: SEE YOURSELF AS GOD SEES YOU

TEXT: Ephesians 1:4

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:”

The truth of our identity is how God sees us. We are to know, live and remember daily who we are in Christ. We are not to strive for approval and perfection from any other source because, we've already been accepted into the family of God and at the same time made perfect by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Seeing ourselves through the eyes of betrayals, rejection, hurts and sinful addictions isn't how God intends for us to see ourselves. Those are simply lies that have their source from this world.

As believers, you are to constantly feed your mind with who you are in Christ. God sees you as holy, righteous, spotless and without wrinkles because He's made you so (Ephesians 5:25-27). He sees you as His workmanship, created unto good works. He sees you a victor because of His love which He's showered upon you. He sees you as a co-heir with Christ. He also sees you as royalty, and His special possession which was bought with the precious blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. Time will fail me to continue stating all that we are in Christ.

Beloved, God sees you as all of the above and more because He's blessed you with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ. So as you go about your day, endeavour to feed your mind with all that God's word says about your identity in Christ and see yourself live a victorious life.

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Further Study: Ephesians 1:3, Romans 8:37, 1 Peter 2:9, Ephesians 2:10