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CHRIST:
OUR EXAMPLE

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God bless you.

DEDICATION



To God who makes all things possible. When the Lord is purpose to do a thing, nothing can stop Him. I'm grateful that He made his Will possible in my life.

To my wife, for her support and believe in the grace of God upon my life.

To all members of Good Wine International Christian Church who stood by us and believed in the Calling.

INTRODUCTION



Grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon you,
Amen.

Wine press devotional as with my calling came out of a vision from the Lord, rather than a desire to write. I am convinced that there are devotionals rich enough to bless everyone in the body of Christ. Presently, I still follow some men of God through their devotionals. So the question is, why do a devotional? Simple; to obey God and to cause others to partake of the living water I drank from the Lord in that vision in 2018. So when you read, you are not just reading one of the devotionals, but actually partaking of that vision. See yourself drinking living water flowing out of a Bible in the hand of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As you partake of these messages, may you be refreshed, renewed and reenergized for the journey ahead. My hope is that every line will help sharpen your focus and strengthen your resolve to win on earth, and make heaven gracefully.

Welcome to a daily walk with the Lord Jesus Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit.

God bless you.

OLISE OMEDE

Introductory Text, Acts 4:13-21

CHRIST: OUR EXAMPLE



Opening verse: *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him [Acts 10:38].*



Every New Year always come with the thought or question; "How is it going to be this year?" Well, for the world that may be an issue, because they're bound in darkness; but for you a believer, it shouldn't. Why? Because Colossians 1:27 concludes, "**...Christ in you, the hope of glory.**" What this means is that, no matter the situation you find yourself, it will always end in glory. So don't be afraid of 2023, it's going to be a great year for you.

Thus, one of the strategy to survive and thrive every year is to be like Christ. If you ever wondered how a Christian should live, then look to Jesus; He is our perfect example. Though everything was against Him, yet from a hostile and poverty stricken background, He rose to become the Saviour of the world. Thus, for the first twenty nine years of His life, He worked as a carpenter, providing for His family; but at the dawn of ministry at thirty, He surrendered all to the Father, walking by faith. In the midst of a dark world, He became the Light; where wickedness thrive, He manifested righteousness. To the weak, He became their strength; to the hopeless, He gave hope; to the sick, He healed; to the hungry, He fed; and the blind, deaf, dumb and dead, He gave life, etc.

Don't expect the year to be like the previous one, because every year comes with its own peculiarities. Prepare to walk by faith as Jesus did, because this is what overcomes the world (1 John 5:4). Get ready to give your best shot in hard work, prayer, faithfulness and godliness. Don't look for short cut, short cut always cut men short. Follow Christ's example who said, **"My Father worketh hitherto, and I work"** (John 5:17). With hard work and righteousness you will beat poverty; and with prayers, your enemies will fall.

There's so much loaded in the year; so don't give your ears to those who talk fear and preach impossibility, if Jesus could break out from a disadvantage position, you can. He told the disciples that the man who dares to believe Him, **"...greater works than these shall he do, because I go to my Father"** (John 14:12). See yourself in a vintage and vantage position, because Christ is with the Father, interceding for you (Hebrews 7:25). This is the mindset that will deliver the year to you. Praise God!



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

This is my time and season to rise and shine; I am winning all the way. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalm 2:1-9, Psalm 110:1-7, Isaiah 43:1-7.

Introductory Text, Romans 7:8-24

THE WORK OF GRACE



Opening verse: *For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ [John 1:17]*



One of the advantage of a New Year is that it gives you another opportunity to restart, recalibrate and refire. Did you make mistakes last year? Learn your lessons and move on to a new beginning. If you don't drop thinking of those mistakes and you keep dwelling on them, they will stop you from entering the new opportunities ahead of you. **"Brethren I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"** (Philippians 3:13). What is ahead of you is too big to be sacrificed at the altar of last year mistakes; get up and move on.

However, to enter the new things available to you in the year, you must understand the work of grace. Many at this time will begin to make resolutions of what to do and what not to do. Well, there's nothing wrong with setting standards and goals, but you must understand that what qualifies us for God's blessings are not what we did right but what Christ did, **"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be the righteousness of**

God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Christ paid the full price of sin, and made us qualify. Your effort to stop every evil vices, moral shortcomings and character failures will end in futility if you don't surrender to the grace available in Christ.

Without Christ, you cannot defeat sin. Every effort you make, will keep you falling again and again, because sin is spiritual. Sin is a person that enters you and arrest your will. Example, anger, hatred, malice, unforgiveness, etc. are all spirits in nature. To deal with these spirits, you must carry a higher spirit. This is where grace comes in. Grace is the Spirit of Christ working through you. When Grace enters you, it shuts down the power and activity of sin; and then enables or gives you power to obey God. It creates a godly consciousness in you, making it difficult for sin to take hold of you.

The work or operation of grace is what Christ came with to make us qualify for God's best. So, don't try to redo what is already done, just genuinely surrender to Christ and let His grace take over your struggles. This year, you shall rise above your shortcomings and enter your blessings.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Father for another year, I accept and submit to the work of your Grace. No more struggles.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Ephesians 3:1-10, Philippians 3:8-16, Romans 10:1-10.

Introductory Text, Romans 6:1-14

WHAT GRACE TEACHES



Opening verse: *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lust we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world [Titus 2:11-12].*



Scriptures has shown us that grace came by Christ (John 1:17), However grace is not the freedom to do as you like, but to do what is right. Grace is the Spirit of Christ working in you to obey God and do His will. Thus, grace should make you fear God and run away from sin and not a licence to sin. It is like when your child keeps failing his exams, and you go ahead to get him a home teacher to enhance and help his understanding. If after all the investment, the child still fails, would that make you less angry? No of course. Rather his failure has made him qualified for chastisement. That is exactly what grace is. It was given to make it easier for us to live above sin and the world (Romans 6:14).

Thus as the home teacher was employed to help your kid, so is grace. Grace comes to teach us how to live soberly, righteously, godly, holy, etc. so that we might be partakers of God's blessings. Grace will teach you how to pray, to walk by faith, be led by the Spirit, to study the Word, meditate, worship, etc. all for the purpose of making you strong and standing. **“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in**

psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, sing with grace in your heart to the Lord” (Colossians 3:16).

When revival came to the Church in Jerusalem, the numerical growth that followed also came with the problem of food distribution. But grace taught the disciples how to handle that crisis; **“But we will give ourselves continually to prayers and to the ministry of the word”** (Acts 6:4). When James was arrested by Herod, the Church kept mute and that led to his death. But when Peter was later taken, grace taught the Church to pray until Peter was released (Acts 12:1-10). Paul after his arrest in Jerusalem, was being transported to Rome for his final judgement. In the middle of the sea, they came across a storm that threatened their lives, but grace told Paul to go on a long fasting in order to secure his life and others (Acts 27:21-25).

Grace principally comes to show us the ways of God; He comes to guide and help you overcome the troubles and challenges of life. Don't frustrate or abuse grace, use it to rise.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

With the grace of God, I shall not be less but better this year. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Galatians 2:20-21, Galatians 5:13, 2 Timothy 2:14-26, Romans 5:12-21.

Introductory Text, Colossians 2:8-23

CULTURIZED CHRISTIANITY?



Opening verse: *But now that you know God – or rather are known by God – how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? You are observing special days, and months and seasons and years. I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you [Galatians 4:8-11]..*

The greatest danger to your Christian faith is mixture; not the devil. When you mix a liquid or any substance with another, it will no longer be like the original. It would lose its original taste, texture or quality and takes up another form. An alloy is a metal that is neither here or there, because it's a mixture of several elements. For instance, an alloy of gold is not gold, because the chemical composition has changed. Same is our Christian faith. The moment you mix it with other practices, it is no longer Christianity. When the Jews went to Samaria, they got mixed up with other cultures, and became what is today known as the Samaritans - a people of lost Jewish identity.

First you must understand that every culture has its root in or has affinity with idolatry. **“But I say, that the things which the gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not wish that you fellowship with devils”** (1 Corinthians 10:20). Why is culture linked with idols? Because it was the creation of the fallen man, searching for a way of life outside God as Cain did (Genesis 4:16-17); but Christianity is God's way of bringing back lost men. **“To wit that God was in Christ reconciling the**

world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them..." (2 Corinthians 5:19). Thus, at salvation, Christ becomes our culture and way of life. When you are born again, and you still observe all the culture and customs of your place, you are not different from the Samaritans who lost their original Jewish identity. Yours may come observant of marriage rites, baby naming and dedication, female circumcision, village festival, tribal markings for your kids, etc. These are all signs of a man given to culture rather than Christ. When you fear what your culture demands, as against what the Bible says, you have not yet encountered Christ. No wonder, there's a dearth of healing and miracles in the Church. Thus the Church has become weaker because of the culture of men. But if you are going to experience God, it has to be through Christ; **"For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell"** (Colossians 1:19).



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Jesus Christ has become my culture and way of life. Through Him, I grow into perfection.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Isaiah 1:22-28, Galatians 2:11-19, Colossians 1:26-28, 2 Timothy 2:19-21

Introductory Text, Matthew 14:22-32

STEP INTO IT



Opening verse: *The Lord gave the word, great was the company of those that published it [Psalm 68:11]eternal*



The Bible is nothing other than a paper until you engage with the written Word. Whether you carry a big, small, pocket or electronic Bible, it profits you nothing, “...**for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life**” (2 Corinthians 3:6). Thus until the letter - the Word - is read, it will not produce life. The Word of God was meant for you to speak, memorise, declare, confess, affirm, etc. until it is seated in your spirit man. It is the Word that has entered your spirit man that produces Christ and make you a winner. Nothing will happen in your life, if all you are saying is, “I’m a Christian”. So many have spoken this way, yet they ended up as meat in the mouth of their enemy. “**Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? Who eat up my people as they eat bread...**” (Psalm 14:4).

Christianity is not so much about bearing the name 'Peter' or 'Paul', etc. It is even beyond going to church. Christianity is warfare, and it is those who engage with the Word given to them, are the ones that will triumph. Looking at our introductory text; all the disciples saw Jesus walk on water, yet it was only Peter that requested for the same experience. And when the Lord said, “Come”, Peter quickly

stepped into the Word that was spoken to him. God has also given you a Word, unless you step into it, you will remain at the level of ordinary men. **“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness...”** (2 Peter 1:3).

God will not do more than the Word, because the Word is the highest in the Kingdom (John 1:1). When Peter first met Jesus after an all-night fishing expedition with no single catch, it was the Word acted upon by Peter that brought the overflow; **“...never the less at thy word, I will let down the net”** (Luke 5:5). The same experience was repeated after the resurrection. The disciples had fished all night with nothing to show. But at dawn, Jesus appeared and seeing their frustration, said, **“...Cast the net on the right side of the ship and ye shall find”** (John 21:6). Again, as they acted upon the Word, they drew in multitudes of fishes.

Your greatness is tied to the Word. Just as the Psalmist said in our opening verse, “The Lord gave the word, great was them that published (used) it”. Go and use the Word, and step into your greatness.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, through thy word I gain entrance into the treasures of the Kingdom. I am rising.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

2 Corinthians 4:13, Psalm 119:89, Psalm 119:49-50,
Acts 20:32,

Introductory Text, Luke 12:13-21

BREAKING THE POVERTY MENTALITY



Opening Verse: *A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man, out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh [Luke 6:45].*

Success and failure starts from the mind. The way you think, is what you will eventually become. If you think poor (small), you will act poor and get poor results. Same thing happens when you think success (big), you end up that way. We are a product of our thought processes. This is the summary of our opening verse. The man that produces good is as a result of the good stuff stored inside of him. So is the man that produce evil. The way you think, affects your word, and your words affects your work. Thus, what you think, you confess, and that which you confess, is what you manifest.

As a believer, you can't continue to think impossibility, walk in fear, doubt or suspicion and expect to succeed. The difference between you and the successful person is that he or she is ever ready to venture. His mind is constantly telling him to try again and again, and this he does until he hits a jackpot. But the poor mind is always thinking about his safety, position and securing what he has, until he is consumed. This was the case of the story of the rich fool as told by Jesus. The man was physically rich, but had a poverty mentality; **“And I will say to my soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years;**

take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry” (Luke 12:19). He eventually lost everything including his soul.

There is no situation that cannot produce wealth. Even in war situation, millionaires are made. If you are going to succeed, you must throw-in everything rather than to hold back. Throw in intelligent gathering of information, planning, sleepless night and execution. Give yourself to fervent and consistent prayers, and with faith and hard work, you will come out on top. **“He becometh poor that dealeth with slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich”** (Proverbs 10:4). Don't allow your mind to tell you things will not work, that's where failure starts from.

During the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, while most entrepreneurs treaded with caution, Jeff Bezos, the richest man in the world and the owner of Amazon, threw-in everything and made humongous profit from the same pandemic. Let your mind go to work, opportunities abound everywhere. Start now.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I have a renewed mind in Christ. I will not be held back by fear, but be propelled by faith.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Romans 12:2, Proverbs 24:1-10, Proverbs 24:30-

Introductory Text, 2 Kings 6:8-23

CALL THEM OUT



Opening verse: *As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nation, before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead and calleth those things which be not as though they were [Romans 4:17].*

Many of us want to know how God looks, but surprisingly the Bible already gave us the answer. **“And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea; and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them”** (Genesis 1:27-28). Nothing can be more specific than this. Take a good look of yourself at the mirror, you will see how God looks. We are God's carbon copy

Beyond the physical, we also share the same nature, spirit and power, making us the “God” of the earth. **“I have said, ye are gods, and all of you are the children of the most high”** (Psalm 82:6). This automatically confers on us the same ability to do what God the Father can do. Thus, everything we see today were called out from nothing, until the whole heaven and earth were filled with His glory. If you are going to amount to anything relevant, you must have to do same. Through faith, you must begin to call things out as you want them. Nothing will

appear until you call them. Your health, strength, success, victory, joy, peace, etc. are all stored in the heavenly realm waiting for your command.

In the story before us, Elisha was to be arrested by a battalion of soldiers who came from Syria and surrounded the city. When the servant of Elisha saw them, he became afraid and screamed, “.... **Alas master, how shall we do? And he answered, fear not, for they that be with us are more than they that be with them**” (2 Kings 6:15-16). Unknowing to the servant, the armies of the Lord were all over the mountain waiting for Elisha's command, until his eyes were opened to see beyond the physical. It is the same thing with you, your angelic armies, victories and glory are waiting for your command.

There are things that are your own, but you must speak and act faith for you to have them. For faith is what pleases God, and every call by faith will always receive divine answer. You won't lose out this year.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Henceforth, I call out those things that be not, let them manifest in my presence. Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 John 4:4, 17, Hebrew 11:3, Psalm 33:6-9,
Romans 8:16-17

Introductory Text, Acts 3:1-10

ENFORCE THE KINGDOM



Opening verse: *And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force [Matthew 11:12]*



That the devil is in charge of this world is not contestable, for we can see his hands in virtually every culture, institution, organisation and nations, etc. From sport to education, fashion, science and technology, agriculture, trade, music and entertainment, etc. the devil holds sway. No wonder Jesus called him, “the prince of this world” (John 14:30). Thus, the Church is the only institution the devil is yet to fully take hold of, because the power and authority to defeat him resides in the Church, as Jesus declared, “**...I will build my church: and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it**” (Matthew 16:18). This account for why there's so much attack on the Church.

Who is the Church? It is you and me, and everyone that has confesses Christ as Lord and Saviour. We are the target of Satan's attack, thus he will come after your family, health, finance, marriage, work, dream, and everything that will give you joy and fulfillment. The only way to get things done is to use force; outside this you're going nowhere. Isaiah describes the devil thus, “**The man who made the world a wilderness, who overthrew its cities, and would not let his captives go home**” (Isaiah 14:17 NIV).

Everything on earth is a captive of the devil, and they've been wired to resist the believer. Even basic things like prayer, fasting, Bible study, evangelism and attending fellowship, etc. have all become a burden to us.

Enforcing the Kingdom is simply putting the Word of God to work until it produces result. You are to declare, confess and act out the Word in every way. When Peter prayed for the lame man at the beautiful gate, the man remained on the ground, until Peter took hold of him and jacked him up. If Peter had not forced him up to his feet, the man's faith would not have been enough to do the job, having been in that state for over forty years (Acts 4:22). In the same way, your miracle, healing, breakthrough and joy will be resisted, if you don't force them out by the Word and prayer, you will remain "lame".

The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the Kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it" (Luk 16:16). The reason why we are called to press (force), is because we have an opposing force daily working against us. If you don't press, you won't enter your "kingdom".



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, thank you for the power I have in Christ. I will enforce the Word and win daily. Amen

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Jeremiah 23:29, Jeremiah 51:21-26, Isaiah 28:5-6.

Introductory Text, 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

GOD'S LEADING



Opening verse: *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness [2 Timothy 3:16].*



In the Old, God led His people through dreams, and the reason was obvious; the Holy Spirit had not yet come to stay. Similarly, the Old Testament Law that was meant to temporarily carry them, could not be obeyed, because they didn't have the Spirit. Thus, the Holy Spirit was only given to priest, prophets and kings momentarily. What this meant was, the Holy Spirit came upon individuals for a specific assignment, and immediately that task was accomplished, the Spirit departs. One of Samson's encounter is recorded thus, **"The spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle....."** (Judges 14:19).

The book of Matthew has several accounts of how Joseph the father of Jesus was led by dreams, but after Christ's ascension, the equation changed, and the Holy Spirit came down to reside in men; **"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterances"** (Acts 2:4). If your actions, decisions and choices are still dependent on dreams, you will miss God's perfect will. God's primary way of leading His people is by the Word and by the Holy Spirit. Psalm

119:105 says, **“Thy word is lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”**. And Jesus testified of the Holy Spirit in John 14:26; **“...He shall teach all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you”**

Dream is the lowest form of communication of spiritual things, it is only given to men that are sleeping (Job 33:15). That is, men whose spiritual life is very low, hence God is forced to speak to them while sleeping. However, the dream world has been heavily infiltrated by the devil, hence he can alter a lot of things. The devil can take other people's faces and voices to attack you in a dream. It will take a lot of spiritual maturity and knowledge to be able to differentiate a dream from God from that of the devil.

Thus, true knowledge of the Word and the leading of the Spirit remains your best way of escape from the devil. Yet God can sometimes lead you through genuine prophetic voice, vision, trance, etc. So, rise up spiritually, and you will not fall to the wiles of the devil



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I chose the Holy Spirit to lead and guide me in the way of the Lord. I will not fall or fail.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

2 Timothy 3:14-17, Acts 10:9-16, Acts 13:2-4, Acts 16:6-9.

Introductory Text, 1 Kings 19:1-8

TAKE WORD



Opening verse. *Take words with you and return to the Lord, say to him, forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips [Hosea 14:2].*



In physical warfare, men carry machetes, guns, grenades, bombs and machine guns, etc. but in spiritual warfare, our most potent instruments are Words. Every battle, both the ones you lose and the ones you win, are all connected to how you use words. Right use of the word will give you victory, and ignorance or wrong use of the word will attract defeat. This is why you are admonished to **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”** (2 Timothy 2:15). The more you study, the more you gain mastery of the Word, and the stronger your faith. This is where our victory comes from.

After the slaughter of 350 prophets of Baal, Ahab came and told Jezebel what Elijah had done. **“Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, so let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time. And when he (Elijah) saw that, he arose and went for his life...”** (1 Kings 19:2-3). It took just words to dislocate Elijah from town. Elijah was so afraid that he threw-in the towel and preferred to die. Similarly, when Jezebel was to be overthrown, it

took just words from Jehu, **“And he lift up his face to the window, and said, who is on my side? Who? And there looked out of the window two or three eunuchs. And he said throw her down...”** (2 Kings 9:32-33). The same eunuchs who were Jezebel's body guard obeyed Jehu because of the power behind his words.

In the spirit realm, words are both creative and destructive, depending on how you use them. For by it the heavens and the earth were created, and by the same word, they will be destroyed. **“But the heaven and the earth which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgement perdition of ungodly men”** (2 Peter 3:7). Today, everything rise and fall at the release of words. Thus, when your spirit man is loaded with the right knowledge and application of scriptures, you can withstand the storms of life and prevail (Matthew 7:24-27).

Similarly, every issue that bothers men, from marriage, sickness, sorrow, failure, etc. all have words already written to handle them; locate the Word for you and prosper.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Through thy word O Lord, I will be a victor and not a victim. Praise God.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 33:6-9, Proverbs 25:15, John 6:63.

Introductory Text, Luke 22:1-6

YOU HAVE CHANGED CAMP



Opening verse: *This is what the Lord says to me with his strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people. Do not call conspiracy everything this people calls a conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it [Isaiah 8:11-12 NIV].*

Being born again places some demands on us, unfortunately not many of us know or practice this. First, you must understand that you have changed camp, from the kingdom of darkness into that of His son Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:13). Many of us still want to be like the world, even after receiving Christ; when in fact we should be changing the world around us. To change camp means, we are not to think, talk, act or dress like the world; we are now a completely different people. If after receiving Christ you still follow the pattern of the world, you will also suffer what they suffer. This was the Lord's warning to Isaiah as seen in our opening verse.

The world uses lies, deceit, evil, wickedness, and all forms of corruption to run its works; if you use the same ingredients, you won't escape from the devil, but if you follow righteousness, truth, faith, godliness, etc. to be your way of operation, you have secured your life. Jesus said, **"Hereafter I will not talk much with you; for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me"** (John 14:30). For instance, lying is a property of the devil: if you keep lying to run your life and business, very soon the devil will catch up with you because he has right and

power over liars.

Take the case of Ananias and Sapphira, the couple who lied so as to gain prominence among the fold of believers. Peter while interrogating him, did not lay a curse, neither did he pray that Ananias should die, he only said, **"...Ananias why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land....And Ananias hearing these words, fell down and gave up the ghost..."** (Acts 5:3-5). When you use what belongs to the devil, he will come after you. When Judas was stealing from the purse of the disciples (John 12:4-6), he did not know he was laying a good ground for the devil to gain entrance into his life.

Having received Christ, you must drop everything that resembles the world. Your dress, talk, thoughts, motives, goals, and the ways of living must all change to reflect your new camp. Let Christ be seen in you.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Jesus for the price you paid for me,
hence I choose the way of righteousness.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Matthew 5:13-16, Colossians 2:6-7, Ephesians 4:17-32, 1 Corinthians 6:15-20

Introductory Text, Mark 7:24-30

PRAYER CREATES A SPACE FOR YOU



Opening verse: *And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint [Luke 18:1].*



The power or efficacy of prayer can never be fully known until when we get to heaven. But a man of God once said, “Whatever God can do is what prayer can do, and whatever prayer can do is what God can do”. In summary, Prayer and God are the same Spirit or Force. When Jesus spoke of the parable of the persistent widow, it was also to make us know how far we can go or achieve when we pray. Thus, when the widow pressed on the wicked judge who himself confessed, “**Though I fear not God or regard man**”, but the pressure of persistent asking (praying), eventually broke the judge's resistance. Jesus concluded by saying, “**Shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?**” (Luke 18:7).

The first thing we learn from here is that prayer will always create a space for you in the heart of men. Initially, the judge didn't have any space in his 'tight schedule' for the woman. He consistently ignored her and brushed her case aside, but the woman continued until the judge gave her attention. Prayer will break every and any resistance. The story of the Syrophenician woman is not any different. She came

to Jesus to receive healing for her sick daughter, but the disciples stood her way. When Jesus eventually gave her attention, she breath the sigh of relief, but to her surprise Jesus said, “...**It is not meet to take the children's bread and to cast it to dogs**” (Matthew 15:26). To be called a dog, is the worst way to demean a man, but the woman kept her cool and continued until she got her miracle. Thus her coming was a distraction, but her persistence paved the way.

Prayer will always break protocol for you and get you attended to. Until you pray, you will not find a space in the programme of your would-be helpers; for the devil is an expert in crowding every avenue that would lead to our breakthrough, it is prayer that will break those invisible and invincible walls. When blind bartimaeus was to get his sight back, it was a crowd that withstood him, until he shouted his way through (Mark 10:46-48). The same happened with Zaccheus; a crowd was also there to resist him, until he started running (Luke 19:3).

Pray by speaking, groaning, shouting, running, crying, etc. just go ahead, until you get your space.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Father for the spirit of prayer. I won't stop praying until my case is settled. Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Genesis 32:24, Nehemiah 2:1-8, Esther 4:15-17; Esther 5:1-3

Introductory Text, 2 Chronicles 33:1-13

PRAYER CREATES A SPACE FOR YOU{ PART 2}



Opening verse: *Pray without ceasing [1
Thessalonians 5:17].*



The story of the persistent widow as told by Jesus was to specifically teach us how much prayer can get done. It is for this reason you must take prayer seriously. Earlier, we saw that though the wicked judge didn't have any space for the poor widow, but prayer broke his resistance. Just as prayer can break men's resistance and create a space for you, so does the same with God. Prayer can create a space for you with God. Thus, as high and mighty as God is, prayer affects God. This was Jesus' conclusion on his teachings, **"And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?"** (Luke 18:7).

To bear long simply means "to put off". But Jesus' admonition was that, God will not continue to put you off when you keep praying, even if you've messed up really big. **"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For He knoweth our frame, he remembereth that we are dust"** (Psalm 103:13-14). This is not in any way a licence to sin, but prayer is such a strong force and personality that God doesn't ignore it. This is the only way you can explain the case of Manasseh, a king in Judah who committed grievous sin, but when he repented and prayed, God forgave him.

One would think that after all that the Lord said, Manasseh would not be spared, but God honours prayers. Same thing happened to Ahab after he humbled himself before God and prayed (1 kings 21:27-29).

When we look at the case of Jabez, we see the same effect of prayer. Though he had no sin to his account, but the weight of his mother's curse could not let him rise to the place of destiny. He was meant to enjoy honour and riches, but they all eluded him until he came before the Lord in prayer. At the end, scripture noted, "**....And God granted him that which he requested**" (1 Chronicles 4:9-10). What no one could solve, Jabez found a space with God through prayers and settled his destiny once and for all. The power of prayer is again made obvious when God's entourage was stopped from entering Sodom by the prayer of Abraham (Genesis 18:16-22).

Your prayers can move heaven, just as Elijah, Daniel and Samuel did, etc. When they stood their ground, the heavens buckled under the weight of their prayers. Get back to your prayer altar and change things.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I take back my place in prayers. I bring down every stronghold standing in my way.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Isaiah 41:21, Revelations 5:8, 1 kings 17:1, James

Introductory Text, Mark 14:1-9

PRAYER CREATES A SPACE FOR YOU{ PART 3}



Opening verse: *Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving [Colossians 4:2]*



Prayer is beyond an activity or a command; prayer is life. Thus, every time we pray, we draw life afresh from the Lord. And the less you pray, the lesser life you will have. This is clearly captured in Revelation 5:9, **“And when he had taken the book, the four beast and the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of the saints”**. Unless you pray, you have nothing to represent you before the Throne of God, where life is given.

Thus, as it is in heaven, so it is here; prayer creates a space for you on earth. This was Jesus' conclusion on the story “men ought always to pray”, saying; **“I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth”** (Luke 18:8). Prayer is the primary sign of your faith in God. If you do not pray, you are simply saying, “I don't need God, I can sort myself out”.

Take Hannah for an example (1 Samuel 11:1-20). Though she was greatly loved by her husband, but as long as she was barren, her place both in marriage and in the community was taken by Penninah the

second wife, who had children to show for marriage. However, as Hannah engaged in rigorous prayers, her quest for a child was eventually answered by the birth of Samuel. With Samuel around, she had created a space for herself. No more would she be forgotten, Samuel was her signature on the earth.

There were others also who left their foot print on the earth through the instrument of prayer. Simeon a devout man and Anna a prophetess were two instruments used by God to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. They were in the temple fasting and praying until Christ was delivered. Without a lifestyle of prayers, no one who have heard about them, but through the prayers they created a space for themselves both in the Bible and among men. When Mary Magdalene broke the alabaster box and poured the ointment on Jesus, it was a form of prayer. No wonder Jesus said, **“Verily I say unto you, where so ever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her”** (Mark 14:9). Through prayer you can make a mark in any area of life.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Through prayers, I am making great strides and impacting my world daily. Praise God!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Samuel 1:20, Luke 2:25-40, Luke 6:12

Introductory Text, Luke 14:15-24.

COMPEL THEM TO COME



Opening verse: *And the lord said unto the servant, go into the highways and the hedges, and compel them to come in that my house may be filled [Luke 14:23].*



Everything about the Kingdom of God here must be intentional. Why? Because we are in a kingdom (world) that is against us. If you're not intentional you will not have any result to show for your work and faith. The patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, etc. were all very intentional, that was why God could commit kingdom treasures, mysteries, wisdom and power into their hands. Jesus too was very intentional, thus in one occasion, scripture said of Him, **“And in the morning rising up a great while before the day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed”** (Mark 1:35). Jesus knew that the secret of victory was prayer, so He gave himself fully to it. God will not commit anything significant into your hands if you're not intentional.

Similarly, everything about the Church must be intentional, otherwise the devil will stagnate her. Thus the reason many Churches are stunted, is not because the man behind the pulpit is not called, but because he's still operating as a “gentleman”, when we are against a devil that is not gentle; and his mission is to steal, kill and destroy (Romans 10:10). In the story of the great supper, the king declared a feast and invited his friends, but everyone came up with

excuses. Furious by their response, he sent his servants out, giving them a clear mandate, “...**go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled**” (Luke 14:23). This is the attitude you must carry if you're going to grow a business, family, relationship, fellowship, church, etc. You are to compel things into your life spiritually, otherwise the devil will make you look stupid in the midst of your peers.

Nothing will be thrown at your laps just like that, you will have to go for it. Paul declared to the Philippian Church, “...**work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**” (Philippians 2:12). Nothing will work out until you work it out, wake up! Evangelism, soul winning and invitation to church service must be intentional, if you don't, the devil will engage the people with entertainment. Thus, as you do the spiritual by praying, you must also hit the road searching for new customers for that business, new members for your church, new friends to build a relationship, etc.

Get back to work, and compel your blessing, healing, and prosperity, etc. That's the way the Kingdom works. Hallelujah!



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I will no longer take a back seat, but will compel things my way. This is the will of God.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Genesis 18:16-19, Matthew 8:18-22, Mark 1:21-27.

Introductory Text, Genesis 30:25-43

WHY YOU MUST WORK



Opening verse : *But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work [John 5:17]*



Working is not just a necessity, but it is part of what makes us human. Can you imagine yourself waking up every morning and not having anything to do other than eat and drink? You will almost die of boredom. So those who are not working shouldn't be envied but pitied. You were created to work, that was why scripture noted concerning Adam; **“And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden, to dress it and to keep it”** (Genesis 2:15). This verse shows the first picture why God wants you to work; so that you can sustain (hold) what is put in your hand. If you don't work, even that which is given to you, will be lost. Solomon declared, **“Because of laziness the building decays, and through idleness of hands, the house leaks”** (Ecclesiastes 10:18 NKJV).

Going by our lead story, while the children of Laban were at home eating and drinking, Jacob was in the bush day and night working; they thought they were enjoying, until all their fathers wealth, skill and knowledge was transferred to Jacob. By the time it dawned on them, it was already too late, Jacob had become richer than the entire household of Laban

put together (Genesis 31:1). If you don't work, you will not only lose what you have, you will also lose the future. **"The sluggard will not plow by reason of cold; therefore shall he beg in the harvest and have nothing"** (Proverbs 20:4). The harvest represents the future, and that's where your result is waiting for you.

It was just a five minutes laziness that took away Esau's future. He got home that day from the field hungry, but because he thought it was too time consuming to go and prepare his meal, he chose to trade his inheritance for a plate of pottage (Genesis 25:29-34). When he finally came to his senses, scripture noted, **"For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears"** (Hebrews 12:17). Esau did everything to get his inheritance back, but it was too late.

This New Year, don't go around grumbling and complaining; there is so much to be done that can secure you a great future. Don't let the devil tell you there's nothing to do, it's a lie you must not buy. Your greatness is out there waiting for you, go ahead and explore the world.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord, thank you for the greatness planted in me.
I step out and step up into it. Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15, John 9:4, Proverbs 18:9,
Proverbs 24:30-34

Introductory Text, Romans 6:1-14

THE SPIRIT IS LIFE



Opening verse : *But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by the Spirit that dwelleth in you [Romans 8:11].*



When Jesus died on the cross, He lost every blood; that was why water came out of him after the flow of blood ceased as the soldiers pierced his side with the sword (John 19:33-34). The implication is that after the resurrection Jesus had no blood running in His veins. What then was fueling His life? The Holy Spirit. The same One that raised Him up from the dead, gave life to Him. In the same manner, when you get born again, your life no longer depends on blood but on the Spirit. This is what our opening verse explains.

The work of the Holy Spirit is to give you life, that is, eternal life; the life that Adam lost when he sinned in the Garden of Eden. Being ignorant of the Life of God, the devil deceived Eve, telling her she would not die. But God was not talking about the physical life, but eternal life. So when they ate the fruit, eternal life ceased and they died; though physically they were still alive. The life that comes from the Spirit is what we get through Christ. **And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness**" (Romans 8:10). While the blood gives you life that can be terminated by sickness and other human frailties (Lev. 17:11), the

life of the Spirit cannot be extinguished.

Thus, to be born again simply means to receive a new life outside the flesh. **“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. Which were born not of the blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God”** (John 1:12-13). When you are born of God, the things that conquer men will have no effect on you. It is the life of victory, triumph, joy unspeakable, unending glory, success upon success, etc. This was the story of the disciples after the Pentecost; for from as little as 120 men and women, they grew and became a multitude because the Holy Spirit was running through them (Acts 4:32).

The life that comes from the Spirit is the unstoppable life, which is why the word “born again” is used to describe those who receive Him.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

By the Spirit of the Lord, I prevail over every carnal and sinful life. I am a winner in Christ.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

2 Corinthians 4:8-12, Romans 8:14-17, 1 John 5:11-13, John 3:35-36.

Introductory Text, Acts 19:1-7

THE SPIRIT IS LIFE {PART 2}



Opening verse: *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness [Romans 8:10].*



The resurrection of Jesus shows that the life of God is imparted on us by the Holy Spirit, **“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you”** (Romans 8:11). Outside salvation, what you carry is the spirit of the fallen man. This is the spirit that came through the sin of Adam, and the result is instability, failure, fear, sorrow, poverty, sickness, etc. Unless you receive the Holy Spirit and engage Him, your result in life will not be any different from the ordinary man on the street.

The Holy Spirit comes into us at three levels. First, at creation. **“And the Lord formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul”** (Genesis 2:7). The breath represents the Spirit, and we were made perfect, fulfilling the will of the Lord until the devil came. Immediately man ate the fruit he was asked not to, the tendency to sin and disobey God entered him and corrupted the spirit. When every effort to rescue man failed, **“Then God said, I'm not going to breathe life into man and woman**

endlessly. Eventually they are going to die; from now on they can expect a life span of 120 years“(Genesis 6:3 The Message).

The second level of receiving the Holy Spirit is at salvation. **“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word”** (Acts 10:44). This was the experience of Cornelius and his brethren as they receive the Word. This is God's ultimate plan of redemption for every man. If you reject salvation through Christ, you cannot be part of God's third level of the Holy Spirit impartation. Thus, the third level comes after death or at rapture. The Holy Spirit is the one that will give life back to every believer to rise up when Christ comes, **“And God will raise us from the dead by his power, just as he raised our Lord from the dead”** (1 Corinthians 6:14 NLT). While those still alive at Christ coming will be caught up to meet the Lord in the sky.

Thus every of our experience from creation to resurrection, is by the Holy Spirit. Outside the Spirit, you will only be existing, with no life of God in you.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Holy Spirit for giving and sustaining my life in Christ. I shall live for His glory.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Ephesians 1:19-20, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Peter 3:18.

Introductory Text, Romans 4:13-25

FAITH: OUR REPORT CARD



Opening verse: *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report [Hebrews 11:1-2].*



Just as the school system is set up to build men, so is the Church the school of the Kingdom to build believers. Thus, at the end of every term or session, a child is expected to come home with a report card showing his or her performances. In the same manner, the Church presents a report card to the believer to show the world what he or she has learnt. Faith is our report card in the kingdom of God. It is the instrument that will show both to God and men what we have been doing or learning all the while you've been in the Church. Without faith, you are not seen, you are not known or appreciated. Faith is what gives your Christianity life and beauty.

Faith is your testimony. When you get a job or promotion, it is your faith that has spoken. When you buy a car, it is faith that bought the car. When you receive healing, it is faith that spoke. When you triumph over a major trouble or obstacle, it is also faith. Faith is your report card that will show the world that you are not a failure but a success. Consider the case of Abraham and Sarah, who proved they were not barren through faith; **“And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred**

year old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God. And being fully persuaded that what he had promised, he was able also to perform" (Romans 4:19-21). Abraham and Sarah kept pushing their faith until Isaac was birthed.

Until and unless you have something to show the world, you will suffer mockery. Hannah kept going to Shiloh from year to year, and each time Penninah tormented her. But the year came when faith propelled her, and after meal, she went to pray. Her faith finally broke through, when she submitted to the prayer of Eli the priest; **"So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad"** (1 Samuel 1:18). Samuel became the report card of that faith.

Even God had to show His report card through His creations (Hebrews 11:3). That same power to produce result was handed over to you on the day you accepted Christ. Go use your faith, it always conquers the world.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Through faith I enter into the season of divine results, and the end of failure. Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 John 5:4, Hebrews 4:1-3, John 1:10-12,
Matthew 9:27-30

Introductory Text, 1 Corinthians 2:1-11

COMFORT YOURSELF



Opening verse: *Wherefore comfort one another with these words [1 Thessalonians 4:18]..*



When Paul spoke, “Wherefore comfort one another with these words”, he was referring to the event of rapture for the living and the dead in Christ. This he did to give hope and assurance to the believers in Thessalonica who were already getting weary of their faith. In the same manner, there will be many events in this last days that will wear out believers if they are not careful. The devil will come in different ways through delay, failure, sickness, fear, barrenness, etc. to wear out Christians. If your focus is on the physical events around and within you, you will be tired of life. **“And delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked. For that righteous man dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day, by seeing and hearing lawless deeds”** (2 Peter 2:7-8 NKJV).

But if your focus is on Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Word and the promises of redemption, etc. it will be easier to go through life without losing your joy, peace, or salvation. The plan of the devil is to keep you worried, unhappy and unstable through myriads of unpleasant events; yours is to make him mad through continuous walk by faith, trust, hope, etc. **“While we look not at the things which are seen,**

but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:18). This is how we win our battles.

Take the case of Hannah in Shiloh for an example. When she arrived that very year, she refused to continue in the old pattern, but went straight before the altar to pray. And as Eli the priest sited her, he thought she was drunk, but when she was done explaining herself, Eli prayed, **“Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou has asked him”**. Hannah accepted this prayer as a word from the Lord, and comforted herself by it; **“So the woman went her way and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad”** (1 Samuel 1:17-18). This attitude of resting (believing) in the Lord was what brought the breakthrough. You can't deliver yourself through worrying, thinking or playing the blame game, it never works.

Stop harming yourself through much sorrowing, rather comfort yourself daily with everything God has said through the written word, or that which He said to you personally. They will eventually become your escape route from every trouble and pain. Praise God.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I will not be moved by what the devil says, but what the Word says. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalms 119:49-50, 1 Peter 5:7-11, Habakkuk 3:17-19, Colossians 3:1-4.

Introductory Text, Genesis 11:1-9

BUILDING WITHOUT GOD



Opening verse: *And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bare Enoch; and he builded a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son Enoch [Genesis 4:17].*



Do you know it is possible to build without God and be very successful? Many of the big companies today were built by men who have nothing to do with God. But that should not be the same with you. For a Christian, success is not in bank account, buildings or landed properties, etc. Our greatest success is to be in fellowship with God and be accepted by Him. Thus, when it was time for Abraham to die, scripture noted, **“And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac. But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave them gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country”** (Genesis 25:5-6). Isaac was a child of promise, his place was to stay at home with the father and inherit the estate. Just as Isaac, we are children of Promise, our place is to be with the Father and inherit the Kingdom.

Cain was under a curse and was rejected by God, yet he built a city. By human standard, he was very successful, yet he had no place or record with God. Thus, in the renumbering of the descendants of Adam, Cain was omitted. He was still alive, but not before God (Genesis 5:1-4). Watch how you're building and what you are building, is God

involved? That business, company, church, estate, relationship, or family, etc are they of God or of self? Is it not surprising that God demanded that Abraham send all the other children away from Isaac his son? Simply because they did not come by the promise but by Abraham's fleshy desire.

In the story of the tower of Babel, the same scenario repeated itself. They all came to build, but did not want God to be involved. They were driven by the flesh, and when God came to look at their work, He had no pleasure in it but to terminate the project. **“So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city”** (Genesis 11:8). Everything that is done without God will eventually come to desolation. The city built by Cain has long being buried under the sand, but Abraham's estate is still standing. That estate is the Church; **“For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God”** (Hebrews 11:10).



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

By the Spirit of the Lord, I will locate God's will and build a life that shall not be destroyed.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

2 Chronicles 25:1-2, Matthew 7:24-27, 1 John 2:15-17, Philippians 3:12-16

Introductory Text, Isaiah 43:1-20

EASY OR POSSIBLE



Opening verse: *And Jesus looking upon them saith, with men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible [Mark 10:27]..*



Carefully check through the Bible, you will not find where God promised an easy life, rather what He said was, “...if thou can believe, all things are possible to him that believeth” (Mark 9:23). God has promised us a possible life, not an easy life. So, when you believe God, then “...all things are possible”. What is the difference between these two? A possible life is a life based on faith and trust in God; the individual is ready to take a step by faith and enter into what God has promised. But an easy life is all about looking for short cut, thus the individual is one that is ready to compromise to get what he or she wants. The result of seeking for an easy life is that, the individuals' always end up in a greater trouble than the one they were avoiding.

Thus, because men love easy life, they always fall to the trap of the devil; whose work is to flash the good, and hide the consequences. Achan wanted an easy life, so he went to take the accursed things that God warned Israel not to take in Jericho. The end was that he died for his disobedience, Joshua 7:20-26. Gehazi wanted an easy life, so he went after Naaman to collect the gifts his master Elisha had rejected having being healed of his leprosy. Thus, Gehazi ended up with the same leprosy, as white as snow (2 Kings

5:20-27). Judas Iscariot wanted an easy life, so he went and negotiated with the chief priest and the Pharisees on how to capture Jesus, and they gave him thirty pieces of silver. But having lost out at the end, Judas “**....departed and went and hanged himself**” (Matth 27:5). Watch that easy life.

But when the devil presented an easy life to Joseph through Potiphar's wife, he ran for his life, and scripture described Joseph's move thus “**...he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out**” (Gen 39:12). Joseph flee and ended up in the prison, but got rewarded for his faith in God. Thus, all those who walked by faith always get the possible life they desire. The woman with the issue of blood, the shunanmmite, the syrophenician, and blind bartimeaus, etc. all entered the possible life as they took a step of faith.

Faith is what delivers the possible life God promised. There's no easy life anywhere, don't be deceived by the lie of the devil.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I step into the possible life by faith; every of my dream shall come to pass. Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Hebrews 11:6, Mark 5:25-34, Mark 10:46-52.

Introductory Text, Daniel 5:1-5

GATES OF HELL



Opening verse: *And I say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail [Matthew 16:18].*

Many of us have thought that the “gates of hell” is the place where Satan seats and marshal out his forces of evil against the kingdom of God, though this is implied, but not really so. The gates of hell is simply the different outlets or portals through which the kingdom of darkness or the devil enter into the human realm to distort God's purpose. That is why it is called “gates” and not “gate”. Thus, when you use your smart phone to watch pornography, it has become a gate for the devil to enter your life and home. When you sit in front of the television to watch an unwholesome film, that television has become a gate. The novel your read, the radio message you listen to, the friends you hang out with, etc. They all constitute gates of hell when used to disseminate evil, violence, and immorality, etc

A “churches” can be a part of gates of hell when they use mediums like divination, sorcery, exorcism, enchantment, necromancy for ministrations. When a man climbs the altar and from weeks to weeks, all he does is to be prophesying; even if he is genuinely called, but as long as he's not using the Word (Bible) to minister, Satan will soon hijack his gift and assist

him. **“But there was a certain man called Simon, which before time in the same city used sorcery and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one. To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying this man is the great power of God”** (Acts 8:9-10).

When as a believer you use your mouth to troll, gossip, backbite and destroy other people's homes, family, business and relationship, it has become part of gates of hell. When any part of your body, office, house or property is used for any form of unrighteous acts, it is part of the gates of hell. This was what Belshazzar, king in Babylon in our introductory text did, when he used the cup of the Lord to drink and praise his gods. In the same way, the fashion industry, film and entertainment, cinemas, casinos, betting & gaming centres, night clubs, etc. are all gates for the devil.

Be wise, and don't allow the devil use you as a gate; **“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”** (1 Corinthians 3:16)



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I choose to be an instrument of righteousness and not evil. I am God's portal on earth.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Corinthians 6:12-21, 1 Corinthians 10:21, 2 Samuel 16:20-22.

Introductory Text, 2 Chronicles 20:1-25

ALIVE IN CHRIST



Opening verse: *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive [1 Corinthians 15:22].*



When scripture says, we all died in Adam, it means a whole lot. This is because five major killers of the life in man came through Adam. They are fear, curse, nakedness, the devil and death. When Adam sinned, these five forces entered the human realm. **“And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was AFRAID, because I was NAKED; and I hid myself”** (Genesis 3:11). The other scripture includes, **“And the Lord said unto the SERPENT, because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle...”** (Genesis 3:14). And **“because thou... hast eaten of the tree of which I commanded thee, saying, thou shalt not eat of it; CURSED is the ground for thy sake...”** (Genesis 3:17).

These five forces wrecked the human life and proved unstoppable until Christ came into the scene. The first thing Jesus did was to preach the message of FAITH in the Father, and this was so that He might destroy the hold of fear (John 14:1). And then He gave us His GLORY to be a cover for our nakedness; **“And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them”** (John 17:22). When He went to the cross, he broke the curse and gave us the BLESSING, **“...for it is written, cursed is every one that hangeth on a**

tree" (Galatians 3:13). On the third day, He rose from the grave, and destroyed spiritual death that kept men in bondage (Hebrews 2:14). But He has also promised to destroy physical death as noted; **"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death"** (1 Corinthians 15:26).

Everything to make us live life to the fullest has been given to us by Christ, what is left is to go ahead and walk into it. This was the case with Jehoshaphat and the three nations that came against Judah. While these nations came to the warfront with their armies and weapons of war, Jehoshaphat came with the weapons of praise. As Judah began to praise God, the Lord moved until **"...everyone helped to destroy another"** (1 Chronicles 20:23). In the same manner, the battle is not yours but obedience and righteousness is what the Lord demands of you.

Step into life with boldness, the full price for your redemption has already been paid. Joy, peace, divine health and prosperity are all part of the package. No wonder Colossians 2:10 says, **"And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and powers"**.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Jesus for the work of redemption.
Now I am free to live life to the fullest.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Peter 1:3-5, 2 Peter 1:3-4, John 15:5, John 6:53-59

Introductory Text, Psalm 139:1-14

KEEP SAYING IT



Opening verse: *We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believe therefore have I spoken; we also believe and therefore speak [2 Corinthians 4:13].*



A man of God once said, "The Kingdom of God is voice activated". By this he meant, whatever you want can be triggered by your words. Until you say things, you can't have them. **"For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith"** (Mark 10:23). Your words will either work for you or work against you, depending on what are you saying.

Are you trusting God for a job, healing, a stable relationship, promotion, etc. you have to keep saying it. When Israel kept doubting God's ability to take them to the Promised Land, but chose to confess their fears repeatedly; the Lord eventually answered them; **"....as truly as I live, saith the Lord, as ye have spoken into my ears, so will I do unto you"** (Numbers 14:28). We become a product of what we say. If those that saying negative things could be given what they confessed, what do you think would happen to you, if you remain on the positive sides? For the woman with the issue of blood to be healed,

“...she said, if I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole” (Mark 5:28). According to her confession, she was made whole. Whatever you are going to get in the Kingdom, your mouth will play a major role.

You must keep saying what you believe and what you want, otherwise the devil will force his own on you; for there's vacuum anywhere, spiritual or physical. Keeping saying you are healed by his stripes, when your ailment is still very obvious to all. Keep saying you will marry, when there are no signs or relationship to fall back on. Keep saying I am blessed, full, victorious, rising, restored, etc. and with time your spirit, body, atmosphere, work, etc will start adjusting to your confessions. Keep your spiritual atmosphere busy with words of hope, **“...because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour”** (1 Peter 5:8).

Don't be ashamed to speak, even when friends and colleagues choose to laugh at you. You have nothing to lose saying positive things about yourself. Keep loading your cloud, it will give her rain in due season. Praise God!



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I am not afraid to declare, “I'm blessed”. The Lord has given me the right to do so. Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Ecclesiastes 11:1-3, Revelations 12:11, Psalm 89:1, Hosea 14:1-7.

Introductory Text, Luke 17:11-19

WE RECEIVE BY FAITH



Opening verse: *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear (Hebrews 11:3).*



Isaiah describes the workings of God thus, **“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heaven are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts”** (Isaiah 55:8-9). This gives us a glimpse of how far apart we are from God. In other word, you can't understand God except by faith; the mind of man was not designed to figure out the intricacies of God. We are to simply obey and believe Him, and that's how the job gets done. Ecclesiastes 11:5 noted, **“As thou knoweth not what is in the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh it all”**

If you keep asking how you will get healed of that infirmity, when doctors have already said there is no solution; or how you will get pregnant without a womb, etc. you may have to wait for a long time. The disciples of Jesus saw a man blind from birth and asked, **“...who did sin, this man or his parent, that he was born blind”**. Jesus answered, **“...but that the works of God should be made manifest”** (John 9:2-3). Thus, Jesus wants us to see every situation as an opportunity for God to show His power and not to

ask question. This is how faith works; because every question will lead to another, until you're completely drained of the faith to receive from God.

Look at the case of the ten lepers. When they met Jesus and cried for help, He asked them to go show themselves to the Priest. But by the Old Testament law you only go to the Priest at the early stage of leprosy when you're not yet sure. This is for the priest to confirm your state (Leviticus 13:1-11). The other time you go to the Priest is when you have been completely healed of leprosy, so he can give you permission to get back into the community. But this was not the case here, the ten lepers had full blown leprosy, and they risked been stoned to death if they enter the city. But they chose to believe Jesus, and as they went, they were healed.

Stop asking how; that is not your job. Your job is to believe, His job is to get it done



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER
MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I stand on the ground of faith and receive my
healing and breakthrough today. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Acts 14:8-10, Mark 10:46-52, Hebrews 11:4-11

Introductory Text, Genesis 1:26-31
**BUYING WHAT YOU
ALREADY HAVE**



Opening verse: *Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices [2 Corinthians 2:11].*



Everything that we see today were created by God (Psalm 33:6-9). Nothing was created by the devil; hence he only prowls on our ignorance, naivety or foolishness. Unfortunately, which ever one you are, you will still pay the price of sin. This was the case of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. When the devil came to lure them into sin, he told Eve, **“For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil”** (Genesis 3:5). But the truth was that they were already like God. They did not only possess His image and likeness, they also carried His power.

To further prove man's creative ability and power, and that he had the mind of God inserted inside of him, scripture notes, **“And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air, and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all the cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field....”** (Genesis 2:19-20). The Lord literally made Adam a creator and “the God of the earth”, while He the Most High took charge of the heavens, as noted in

Psalm 115:16, **“The heaven, even the heavens are the Lord's; but the earth hath he given to the children of men”**.

This enormous power and position given to man was the target of the devil, and we gave it to him in exchange for what we already have. The devil sold to us what the Lord had already made us. Today, many are selling their soul to get wealth, position, power, favour, etc. the same things that are already made available in the redemption package. **“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue”** (2 Peter 1:3). Put in another way, 1 Corinthians 2:12 says, **“Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God”**.

Stop selling yourself for what you already have. The Holy Spirit is the agent to discovering your place in Christ. Connect with Him.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Holy Spirit for securing my place in Christ. I stand and take that place now.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Isaiah 52:1-6, Isaiah 55:1-3, 1 Corinthians 2:9-16

Introductory Text, Acts 8:5-8

PREACH EVERYWHERE



Opening verse: *And they went forth, and preaching everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen [Mark 16:20].*



Paul said in 2 Corinthians 9:16, “**For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel**”. This statement speaks of a man who understands the weight and urgency behind the gospel. When he said, “necessity”, he meant, for him there was no other way outside the gospel; and the word “woe” means curse. In other word, Paul literally placed a curse on himself, if he does not preach the gospel. We cannot tell of all that Paul saw or heard from the Lord that made him place this heavy burden on himself, but one thing we can draw from all his writings and warnings is that, if we don't preach, we are in grave danger.

The danger is, everything that represents God on the earth, whether human or material things will be completely wipe out before the time. The devil wants to make his mark that he is “the god of this world”. So, he has established channels (outlets) in every of human endeavor from business, trade, finance, fashion, automobile, entertainment, sports, leisure, education, government, private and public sector, etc. There is virtually no aspect of human life that the

devil has not penetrated. This is apart from sorcerers, diviners, magicians, enchanters, necromancers, stargazers, etc. that work for him. If we do not take the gospel to everywhere, every person, or culture, very soon we will have no place to live, work, trade, do business and raise our kids.

When Jesus said, **“ye are the salt of the earth”**, and **“ye are the light of the world”**, He meant it (Matthew 5:13-14). Take the gospel away from the earth, and immediately the earth will be plunged into darkness, as it happened in the days of Noah and in Sodom. The need to preach everywhere is so that we can raise individual lights in men, who will in turn raise others, as Paul charged Timothy. **“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also”** (2 Timothy 2:2).

Until rapture, the devil has no full right over the earth. If we don't preach, he will make life not only difficult but impossible for us. The gospel is what gives the earth her sweetness and brightness. Go preach everywhere and shut down the Simons the sorcerer of this world as Philip did in Samaria.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Necessity is laid on me to share the gospel and bring men out of darkness into His light.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Matthew 4:16, Romans 15:18-23, 1 Corinthians 9:15-23, Jonah 3:1-5.

Introductory Text, 1 Samuel 4:1-11

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

Opening verse: *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge, because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shall be no priest to me: seeing that thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children*
[Hosea 4:6].



The devil is very bad, yet lack of knowledge is worse. Thus, prayer will tame the devil any day, but a man who lacks knowledge has no remedy. He is not only open and vulnerable on all sides to his enemies, but he is also on a free fall. Why? Because he doesn't know what to do. **“Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgement”** (Proverbs 13:23). What Solomon meant is simply, that the poor man is surrounded by abundant riches, but he's inability to harness these riches keeps him poor. It's like the lame man at the beautiful gate, rather than ask for healing, he asked for alms; but Peter led by the Spirit healed him and set him free from poverty and begging for life (Acts 3:1-10).

The story of Israel and the Philistines in our introductory text is a classic example of the cost of lack of knowledge. Thus to engage the Philistines, Israel sent for the Ark, the symbol of God's Presence. When the Ark came, even their enemy confessed of the power of the God of Israel saying, **“Woe unto us: who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? These are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness”** (1 Samuel

4:8). Yet Israel, the bearers of the Ark did not know what to do to stir up the God of their fathers, so they merely shouted. But the Philistines refused to be intimidated by their shout, saying, **“Be strong, and quit yourselves like men...quit yourselves like men and fight”** (1 Samuel 4:9).

Thus, with the Presence of God, Israel was defeated with thirty thousand foot soldiers slaughtered, and the Ark taken. But all that Israel needed to have done to make God arise on their behalf, was to go into intense worship and prayer session; as Paul and Silas did at Philippi (Acts 16:25-26), and Jehoshaphat when confronted by three nations (2 Chronicles 20:20-23). The Psalmist declared, **“...open thy mouth wide and I will fill it”** (Psalm 81:10). Thus, the difference between a victorious Christian and the losing one is knowledge. Get back to the Bible, that's where your strength comes from; and begin to swallow scripture, and you will be amazed how soon the table will turn against the enemy.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Through the Word, I receive knowledge for daily living and victory. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

2 Timothy 2:15, 1 Peter 2:2, Acts 20:32,
2 Timothy 3:14-17.

Introductory Text, 2 Corinthians 11:22-33

DISCIPLINE



Opening verse: *But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway [1 Corinthians 9:27].*



Life is tough. If someone tells you anything contrary, he or she may not be telling you the whole truth. Nobody achieves greatness or anything of value by playing around. It takes some rigorous exercise of either of the body, mind, spirit, or training, etc. to get the result that will stand you out from other men. The name of that game is discipline. In whatever vocation, profession, trade or business, it will take discipline if you are to stand tall above your peers. As Paul declared in our opening verse; **“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway”** (1 Corinthians 9:27).

There are things that must go, if you truly want to get to your destination. Some friends must be cut off; the hours you spend on telephone, internet, social media or television must drastically reduce, so as to have enough time for serious things; hangout with friends or colleagues must give way; the books you read must change; where and who you visit must all be readdressed otherwise your time and energy will be trapped on wasteful ventures. A total overhaul of your priorities, motives, objectives, goals will do you

a lot of good in the New Year. Paul puts it like this, **“Brethren I count not myself to have apprehended: but this is one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before”** (Philippians 3:13).

If you look at the case of the disciples of Jesus; while they were content with the revival and breakthrough in Jerusalem, Paul pushed himself further into the Middle East and Arabia, Europe and Asia. Today it is practically impossible to talk about the gospel without reference to the writings or letters of Paul. Self-denial, waiting, watching, studying, praying, reading, meditation, and less sleep, etc. must all form part of your daily or monthly routine. Apart from exercising your body regularly in order to keep fit, you must also exercise your faith, so as to keep your spirit man alive. You must test new grounds or opportunities, with the hope of opening up new streams of income.

Keep away from negative people, they only see impossibilities. If you don't, they will deplete your strength with their fears and doubts. Get on your feet, there's so much ahead of you.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I am challenged to do greater works this year. I enter into that grace now. Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Corinthians 9:24-27, 1 Corinthians 15:10, 1 Timothy 4:7-8, 13.

Introductory Text, 2 Chronicles 4:9-10

LIGHT CAME OUT OF DARKNESS



Opening verse: *For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shine in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ [2 Corinthians 4:6].*



One of the wonders of creation is that everything we see today came out of nothing. For scriptures said, **“And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said let there be light: and there was light. And God saw that the light was good: and God divided the light from the darkness”** (Genesis 1:2-4). So, light came out of darkness, just as the entire Garden of Eden came out of a void and formless state. One of the implication of this is that nothing will come to you already prepared, fixed or done; life (destiny) will emerge from a small and inconsequential place.

So don't be afraid of your small beginning, that's the way God designed life. **“Though your beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase”** (Job 8:7). Are you sick, jobless, homeless, debt stricken and financially poor; don't let it bother you much, because you must have a beginning. If light could come out of darkness, your glorious destiny will also come out of that seemingly bad situation. Jesus was born to the poorest family; so poor was his family that He had to be placed in a

manger (a place for animals). Today, He is celebrated both in heaven and on earth as King of kings. This all started from a small place called Nazareth, where it was said, “...**can there any good thing come out of Nazareth...?**” (John 1:46).

God's ways are not our ways, neither his thought same as ours (Isaiah 55:8-9). Whatever and wherever you are now are part of what will make your story interesting. When the Holy Ghost came upon the disciples, people gathered to mock them. But not too long after, they overtook the city; they made the lame walk, gave sight to the blind, healed the sick, raised the dead, set the captives free, got multitudes born again, overran cities, and became a force that could not be ignored. When they entered Thessalonica, it was testified of them, “...**these that have turned the world upside down are come hither also**” (Acts 17:6).

Don't be intimidated by the progress of others, there's a place God is taking you to; but He needs your cooperation. By the time He's through with you, you will become a wonder to behold.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Surely, the Lord is my confidence and stay. I will rise into higher places. Praise God!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Job 22:29, Psalm 71:7, Psalm 138:8

