

Introductory Text, Exodus 7:8-13

SALVATION IS YOUR EDGE



Opening verse: *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed...* [Romans 1:16-17].



The world already has everything that the natural man would want, need or desire. Riches, beauty, glamour, luxury and pleasure, education, science and technology are all at man's disposal. Whatever man needs to satisfy his appetite has already been created. Even with all these, science is still daily pushing the boundary of invention and innovation to new and greater heights. No wonder the devil was bold to ask Jesus at the mountain of temptation to bow down and worship him, saying, he will give Him the world (Matthew 4:8-9). Unfortunately, the devil got it all wrong; Christ wasn't looking for the world, but for men He will bring to the Kingdom.

“Fear not little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32). The Kingdom, is exactly what salvation offers you, not the world. Thus, being born again gives you access to God's righteousness, power, glory, grace, joy, peace and eternal life, etc. When Moses met with the magicians of Pharaoh, they replicated everything that Moses did, until they got to a point where they could go no further, and declared, **“...this is the finger of God...”** (Exo 8:18-19). The day you lose

your salvation, you lose everything that will make you defeat the devil and the world. Wealth, riches, education and the likes cannot defeat the world, it is the Christ in you that puts you above them (Colossians 1:27).

When Samson left the place of his calling and broke his Nazarene covenant, Delilah captured him like a rat and the Philistines pluck out his eyes and made him grind in the prison (Judge 16:16-21). When Peter led the disciples to go a-fishing, having abandoned their Kingdom assignment, that night they caught nothing (John 21:3). When Saul the first king of Israel broke his relationship with God by consulting a witch, the Philistines eventually captured and slaughtered him. David lamenting of his death, said, **“The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high place: how are the mighty fallen!...the shield of Saul as though he had not been anointed with oil”** (2 Samuel 1:19-21). Any time you step outside Christ, you become meat for the devil

Salvation, which is your covenant relationship with the Lord, is what gives you an edge over the world. Stay and be rooted in Christ, and your victory will be sure.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Having Christ, gives me everything I need for life and godliness. I am above and not beneath.
Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Samuel 17:45, Psalm 81:10-16, James 4:4-5,
Colossians 2:6-7.

Introductory Text, Psalm 50:1-15

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING



Opening verse: *I exhort therefore that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men [1 Timothy 2:1].*

Many in the body of Christ assume that thanksgiving is just one of the instrument of appreciating God for His mercies, provision and protection, etc. But this is a wrong assumption, because thanksgiving is not just an instrument of appreciation, but also an instrument of prayer. If you take another look at our opening verse, Paul mentioned some of the types of prayers as supplication, prayer, intercession, and lastly he said, giving of thanks. What Paul was simply saying to the church is that, thanksgiving is a type of prayer. If it was not so, he would not have itemized it along the other types. The question therefore is, how is thanksgiving a form of prayer?

Firstly, every time you thank God, the heavens open to you. David revealed this in his Psalm 100:4, saying, "**Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and his court with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name.**" Until the gate of heaven is opened to you, you can't have access to His court. When you start to pray, praise, or worship without starting with thanksgiving, you may just be speaking to a closed heaven. When you don't know how to enter God's Presence and how to please Him, then, "...thy

heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth under thee shall be iron" (Deut. 28:23). When the heavens over you are sealed, how do you advance in life?

Secondly, thanksgiving leads to quick answer to every prayer. When Jesus got to the grave of Lazarus, after pleading that the grave be opened, the first thing that came out of His mouth was, "**...Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me, And I knew that thou heareth me always...**" (John 11:41). Thus, He gave thanks even before making His request; so, heaven responded to Him immediately. If you're looking for a quick way out of that quagmire, start spending more time thanking God rather than complain.

Thirdly, thanksgiving brings multiplication. Recall the case of Jesus and the multitude of 5000 men apart from women and children. And when they had made the multitude to sit down, "**...Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down...**" (John 6:11). Five loaves of bread and two fishes were miraculously multiplied by giving thanks. Stop underrating the power of thanksgiving, so that you don't remain limited. Thank God and let the heavens submit to you.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord, I lift up my voice and thank you for your daily benefits; your works are awesome.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalm 100:1-5, Psalm 96:1-13, Isaiah 25:1

Introductory Text, 2 Timothy 3:1-9

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM



Opening verse: *And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free [John 8:32]*



One of the beauty of democracy is the freedom of expression, but any freedom that does not draw boundaries for you will lead to destruction; and this is what the devil promotes. God wants us free, if He didn't, He would not have sent Jesus to the earth. **“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed”** (John 8:36). But it is a freedom to do what is right, and not to do as you like. Any relationship, institution, association, family, Church or nation that gives you freedom without checks and balances will destroy your life. Unfortunately, this is what some believers want. That is why they don't want to be corrected, rebuked or counseled.

While God's freedom is based on truth, the devil gives you freedom without restraint. It is this lack of restraint that leads to destruction. Take the case of Judas Iscariot for an example, when the devil lured him to betray Jesus, he didn't know his action will lead to Christ death; thus scripture said, **“Then Judas which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned.....”** (Matthew 27:1). Judas never saw that coming. So, when the sentence of crucifixion was pronounced on Jesus, it dawned on

him how grave a mistake he had made. But all the while, the devil hid from him the consequence of his action, and magnified what thirty silver will do. Judas unfortunately believed the devil and paid with his life. The price of the freedom you get from the devil is death.

However, the freedom that God gives is about showing you the consequence of your action long before you make the move. This is what truth is all about; making you know the end from the beginning. God makes all things bare, "with no hidden charges". That's why the Bible was given to you, so that you can know the consequences of your actions, whether good or bad; thus Romans 6:23 declares, **"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."**

Any time you are looking for freedom without boundaries, you will end in destruction. Freedom to eat as you like will lead to gluttony and obesity; freedom to take alcohol as you like will lead to drunkenness; freedom to use your body for sexual immorality will wreck you and destroy your destiny; and this goes on and on, etc. It is only in Christ, you have freedom to life and peace; don't be deceived.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I accept the freedom in Christ and reject every way of the world. Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Matthew 11:28-30, Proverbs 23:20-21, 30-35, Joshua 24:14-15.

Introductory Text, Luke 15:11-20

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM (PART 2)



Opening verse: *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed [John 8:36]*

Democracy is freedom without boundary, but God does not operate by democracy; He rules. He tells you what He wants, and you follow. It is in following His command that you enter into true freedom. **“For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; in returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength, but ye would not”** (Isaiah 30:15). Thus, when men rejects God's way, they remained in bondage. The present day believer wants democracy in the Church. They want to vote to select their pastor and leaders, and determine what happens in the Church; but in God's kingdom, we don't vote, we appoint. **“Wherefore, brethren, look ye among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business”** (Acts 6:3).

The Orthodox churches were doing very well until they opted for democracy by voting. Thus, rather than appoint men full of the Spirit, they resorted to using education and degree in Theology as yardstick. Thereafter the Church was overtaken by men who had degrees but no pedigree with God; and empty of the Spirit and power. The disciples had no

formal education, but were schooled by the Holy Ghost, hence they got better results through salvation of souls, healings, miracles, signs and wonders. Today, the Church has turned to a democratic institution with more troubles than solutions. No wonder, Jesus cried saying, **“...my house shall be called the house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves”** (Matthew 21:13).

When the prodigal son asked his father for the portion that belonged to him, it was a quest for freedom. **“And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land, and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine”** (Luke 15:14-15). Upon his return he pleaded to be a servant, though he left home as a son. Every freedom the devil gives will always lead to a greater bondage, because it is not based on truth. You lose everything, and become less of what you were at the beginning.

The freedom that does not place any obligation, responsibility or demand to be holy, upright, righteous, truthful, faithful, gracious with words, meek, loving, etc. will ensnare you. Accept God's dealings and get better, or remain a captive of the devil.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord I accept your dealings for a better future,
and reject every offer of the devil.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Hebrews 2:10, Hebrews 5:7-9, James 4:12-19, Psalm
18:25-35

Introductory Text, Genesis 15:1-14
DON'T MISS YOUR BUS



Opening verse: *And that knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed [Romans 13:11].*



Have you ever experienced missing your bus? Sometimes it can be very painful especially if your trip is tied to an appointment, a promise or a vow, etc. Yet spiritually, it is costlier. Going by our lead story, God called Abraham, and told him his people will suffer slavery for four hundred years, after which they will be released by their slave masters. But at the 400th year, Israel did not come out. Why? They missed their bus (deliverance); for they were more interested in what Egypt offered in terms of food and drink, than the pain of slavery. Thus the cost for that was an extra thirty years of servitude (Exodus 12:40).

John Mark was a disciple under Paul and Barnabas, but when disagreement broke out between both, Mark followed Barnabas, and Paul took Timothy (Acts 15:35-41, 16:1-3). Over time, Timothy grew and became a pastor, but nothing was heard of Mark, until Paul sent for him, saying, “**...take Mark and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry**” (2 Timothy 4:11). What happened to Mark? He missed his bus of training under Paul, and Timothy overtook him. While Timothy went ahead to become an apostle, nothing more was said about

Mark; other than he remained just at the level of a disciple. When you miss your bus, you will both lose time and place, and the people you were meant to head, will overtake you and become the head.

What assignment, calling, task, or responsibility has God placed in your hands; this is the time to start doing them. How quick you respond to your assignment has a lot to do with your placement in the future. All the disciples that got angry and turned back from Jesus, because He said to them, “...**except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood ye have no life**” (John 6:53), lost their place. No wonder no mention was made of their names in scripture; as they all fizzled away with time (John 6:66-69).

There is a great future ahead of you, and the bus to that future is already loading. How you handle your salvation and assignment will determine if you will have a place in the Kingdom of God. That was why Paul warned, “**Redeeming the time, because the days are evil**” (Ephesians 5:16). Make use of your time and energy while you still have them, because seasons change, so do our body.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I draw grace afresh to keep working and walking with you. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Ecclesiastes 9:10, Ecclesiastes 11:1-6, Philippians 2:12-16, John 9:4

Introductory Text, John 3:1-18
**SALVATION IS NOT
TRANSFERABLE**



Opening Verse: *Jesus answered and said unto him, verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God [John 3:3].*



The discussion that ensued between Jesus and Nicodemus reveals several things, one of which is that salvation is personal. The key words in our opening verse are, “**a man**”; Jesus did not say, a couple, a family, a community, etc. In other word, salvation is not transferable, every man must experience Christ personally. Husband cannot do it for the wife or vice versa. Not even a pastor can get born again for his kids, but every individual must confess with their mouth and receive Christ as Lord and Saviour. One common reason for this, apart from Christ's personal interaction with the individual, is because salvation confers some measure of grace, faith, spiritual gift, etc. on the person. These things cannot be received on someone else behalf. It is like saying someone should eat on your behalf and you expect to have a full stomach.

As individuals are unique, so is salvation. Our encounters and experiences differ from one person to the other. A father may have a gift of faith, while the son receives a gift of prophecy, all according to the call and purpose for the individual. **“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the**

same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God, which worketh all in all" (1 Corinthians 12:4-6). For example, all the disciples were called into the same apostolic office, yet the expression of their gift and grace differs. That is why the writings (letter) of Peter are different from that of John, Luke or Matthew, etc.

A man's faith, prayer, righteousness etc. can save his wife, kids, or friends; but this is not so with salvation. Salvation is not a title, position, virtue, gift or fruit of the Spirit, it is a call to know God personally. You can pray for your love ones to receive salvation, but they have to do the confession of Christ themselves. Thus, every individual must experience salvation, before gifts or graces are imparted. When Elisha receive the double portion of Elijah's gift, he was already in a walking relationship with God. But for Saul the first king of Israel, he had no relationship with God, so Samuel did everything for him. However, when Samuel died, he was left opened for the Philistines to devour.

Salvation is the door to all that the Kingdom has for you. You will have to open and pass through that door yourself to receive them.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Lord for the experience of salvation. I will invite others to experience same.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

John 1:35-46, Romans 10:8-13, 2 Kings 2:9-15

Introductory Text, 2 Kings 22:8-20

START WITH THE WORD



Opening verse: *Take words with you, and return to the Lord. Say to Him, take away all iniquity; receive us graciously, for we will offer the sacrifice of our lips [Hosea 14:1 NKJV].*



It is generally believed that how you start the day will determine your outcome for that day. This is not superstitious, but scriptural. For David said, **“My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and I will look up”** (Psalm 5:3). David understood the importance and power of meeting God early in the day. He did not only want to get God's attention but also desired to get the best of the day. He went further, **“But unto thee have I cried O Lord, and in the morning shall my prayer prevent thee”** (Psalm 88:13).

Thus, a wise Christian will not start the day with social media or worldly news where their specialty is to create fear, doubt, gloom, sorrow, alarm or panic. But this is not so with the Word of God; for it comes with hope, peace, assurance, strength, faith, grace, etc. Psalm 119:49-50 says, **“Remember the word unto thy servant upon which thou hast caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction; for thy word hath quickened me”**. Aside these, the Word gives direction, instruction and counsel, etc.

A picture of how Jesus starts His day is reflected

thus; **“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read”** (Luke 4:16). This was to make Him align properly with God's purpose for each day while on earth. In the same manner, the Word puts you in alignment with God's will; but outside the word, you will miss your way. That was why God warned Joshua, **“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shall meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shall make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success”** (Joshua 1:8).

Thus, as in our introductory text, when Israel abandoned the Word, they missed God, and plunged into darkness with all forms of abominable practices, until Josiah a young king came and discovered 'the book of the law' as written by Moses. His revival effort brought back sanity to the people and the land. So, get back to the Word, and get instruction for every day and prosper.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord, I choose your word and stay in the place of obedience. By this, I am blessed.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Revelation 5:1-10, Psalm 119:105, 130, 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

Introductory Text, 1 Kings 13:1-14

PREPARE FOR A RETURN MATCH



Opening verse: *And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season [Luke 4:13]*



It is common among believers to take a break just after a major breakthrough. But this is a wrong strategy for someone who wants to go far; for the devil is never too far away, he always come for a return match. This is what our opening verse reveals of the encounter between the devil and Jesus in the wilderness. Whenever God gives you victory and you go on a prayer break, you have opened the door for a major satanic assault. The devil operates by vengeful and surprise attack, so he waits for you at your unguarded hours; **“Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour”** (1 Peter 5:8).

The story of the man of God in our introductory text reveals what happens when you decide to take a break before the time. Thus, before enlisting him for the job, God warned him saying, **“.... you must not eat bread or drink water or return by the way you came”** (1 Kings 13:9 NIV). But after accomplishing his task, he decided to rest by the way under an oak tree, and there 'the devil' met him and slew him. Thus, for one moment of rest, he paid with his life. Also, after Jesus defeated the devil in the wilderness,

he kept coming back until he finally nailed Jesus to the cross. Although the devil eventually lost out, because the cross was God's ultimate strategy and wisdom (1 Cor. 2:8), yet the devil proved himself as one that keeps coming back again and again.

As Christians, we must always prepare for a long fight, because the devil doesn't give up easily. That's why you can find a particular sickness, infirmity or evil occurrence running through a family from one generation to another. The story was told of a lady who went to her doctor and requested for her breast to be cut off. Worried by this weird request, the doctor asked why. She then went ahead to tell the doctor how breast cancer had killed the women in her family four generations before her. Thus to avoid having cancer of the breast she thought it wise to cut off her breast. But you can't defeat the devil with carnal (physical) weapons. Thus, the lady later died of cancer of the marrow (blood).

Have you had any major breakthrough, then don't quench the fire of prayer. Keep at it, it's your safety zone.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I will remain on the mountain of prayers until my joy is made full. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 4:1-13, Matthew 26:36-46, Colossians 4:2,
Philippians 4:6

Introductory Text, John 8:1-11

LIVELY HOPE AND THE RESURRECTION



Opening verse: *Blessed be God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again into a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead [1 Peter 1:3].*



Hope is of two types, a living hope and a dead hope. A dead hope simply speaks of where there's nothing to look forward to. For instance, it's a dead hope to try to change the past. Thus, before now, whatever sin, mistake, choice or decision you made in the past will stand against you, there's nothing you can do about it, other than to live with the consequence. However, the resurrection of Christ has changed all that. Now, even the consequences of your past actions can be altered if you repent. For instance, the sin you committed a decade or two ago, if repented of, is made null and void. **"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father - Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world"** (1 John 2:1-2 NIV)

Thus, the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead has brought to us a living hope. We are no longer eternally condemned to die for every sin, but the resurrection has opened a window of God's mercy to as many who repent and do not continue in sin. While in the Old Testament every sin is adequately punished, our case has been made different. For

instance, when a young man went out just to pick sticks on the Sabbath day in the time of Moses, he was stoned to death for disobeying God's Law (Numbers. 15:32-36). But when a woman was caught in adultery, and the people brought her case to Jesus hoping to stone her; Jesus simply said to the crowd, **"...He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her"**; and rescued her (John 8:7).

The resurrection has given us an opportunity not to continue in sin; for if we continue in sin, we shall be judged (Hebrews 10:26). But it is an opportunity to embrace God's provision of hope, mercy, love, grace and righteousness in Christ, etc. Through the resurrection, the opportunity to fight and bounce back, win and live a victorious life is given to every believer. You need not fear the past, present and future, for Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

Happy Easter.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Praise God, my hope is not dashed, I have a living hope in Christ to rise to victory.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

John 11:23-26, 40-44, 1 Corinthians 15:12-22,
Hebrews 10:26-31

Introductory Text, Psalm 139:1-24

GOD IS EVERYWHERE



Opening verse. *Whither shall I go from thy spirits? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence. If I ascend up into the heaven thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there*
[Psalm 139:7-8].



The whole of the heavens, the earth, the waters and everything in them came by the breath of God; they are the works of His hands. **“By the word of the Lord, were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth... For he spake and it was done, he commanded and it stood fast”** (Psalm 33:6, 9). Thus, none of creation existed until God spoke them into being: everything came out from the belly of Jehovah. This means every object, animate and inanimate has God's deposit in them all. The stone, sand, waters, sun, moon, stars, fishes, birds, etc. all has God in them, because they all came out from Him. The only thing that does not have God does not exist.

David in our introductory text speaks of how foolish we can be when we try to hide from God. In the verse two he said, **“...thou understandest my thought afar off”**. In other word, before your thought came, God already knows what you are about to pour out of your mind. **“The spirit of a man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward part of the belly”** (Proverbs 20:27). God is that spirit in a man, how can you hide from your spirit? When you die, your spirit will go back to the part of God where it was pluck out

from. That is why the Bible says, ye are gods (Psalm 82:6). Have you ever imagined why the same Bible says, the devils believe God and trembles? (James 2:19)

There's nothing hidden from the Lord. That you've not been stricken or rebuked for your sins is not because He doesn't know, but He is only giving you time to repent. When Esau planned to kill his brother Jacob, he said it in his heart; but that which was said in the heart was rehearsed in the ears of Rebekah by the Lord (Genesis 27:41-42). When David slept with Bathsheba the wife of Uriah, nobody knew, but the Lord went and revealed it to Nathan the prophet (2 Samuel 12:9). In the same way, your deeds and thoughts are not hidden, you are only enjoying grace.

Stop thinking you are smart, you're not. God is everywhere and knows all things. Take advantage of His grace, and repent. He will not cast you away.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, thank you for the grace I have through Christ. I will not abuse your grace.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

2 Peter 3:8-12, Proverb 28:13, Acts 15:18, Acts 17:28-31.

Introductory Text, Genesis 1:1-31

START SMALL



Opening verse. *Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase*
[Job 8:7]



God is big. It is the same reason why He made everything big, large, wide or in excess. The fishes in the sea are innumerable, so are the birds in the sky and the animals in the forest. The heavens are so wide you can't measure it, so is the land mass, the depth of the seas and oceans, etc. Yet all of these were created from a dark, void and formless earth, such that the only way Hebrew could describe it was, **“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which do appear”** (Hebrews 11:3). Thus, it can only be by faith you will understand how creation came out of NOTHING.

Everything started from nothing, so God wants you to start small. Anything not started small will not last, that was why Adam failed and had to be evicted from the garden to go and till the ground and learn process; **“In the sweat of thy face shall thou eat bread....”** (Genesis 3:19). The advantage of starting small is that it teaches you process, builds you in strength and wisdom as you grow. Whatever you start from the scratch, you master, and become a master over it. That was why when God was to send

the second Adam (Christ), He had to undergo the process of childbirth and growth, until He was thirty years of age before being let go to start ministry (Luke 3:23). Be careful of what does not have or has not gone through process.

Starting small doesn't mean you will end small, it's only for a while. The plan of God is to make you really big, but if you don't learn the "tricks" of that business, vocation, trade or ministry, any obstacle could mark the end of your journey. This was why Jesus survived all the attacks and troubles that came His way, until He got to the cross and declared "It is finish" (John 19:30). But for Adam, the very first attack of the devil brought him down because he had not gone through any process.

To start small simply means to know the beginning. This is what gives you the power and right over that business, relationship, ministry, etc. The reason the devil cannot take the heaven or earth from God is because he does not know the beginning, only God does. Hence scripture said, "**In the beginning God...**" (Genesis 1:1). Don't be afraid to start small, that's where your strength lies.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I accept your dealings and wisdom, for it is for my good and safety. Praise God.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 2:1-11, Galatians 1:11-24, 1 John 1:1-4.

Introductory Text, Hebrews 4:1-11

FAITH AND REST



Opening verse: *There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God [Hebrews 4:9]*



Man is naturally anti-faith, that's why he always wants to know if everything is in place before he makes a move; and this is the very reason why many are stagnated. Thus, until men are very sure, they will not commit themselves to a business, relationship, trip, program, etc. If you are this kind of person, you can't enter rest, because what faith would have naturally done, you will have to carry them on your shoulder. A faithless person will have to be constantly checking and cross-checking things, because he does not trust God. So, he has to follow-up everything himself, and thereby remain rest less.

Israel did not believe God: they doubted if God could bring them out of Egypt; they doubted if they could cross the red sea; they doubted if they could possess the Promised Land; they doubted if they could fight the enemy, calling themselves grasshoppers before the men of Anakims; they doubted if God could give water in the desert; they doubted if the Most High could provide meat as it was in Egypt, etc. They scrutinized, questioned and harassed Moses at every junction, so God eventually left them to their fears and doubt until they were all wasted in the wilderness. Their children who entered the land, for

the same doubt, gave themselves to Baal, “...that shameful thing...” (Jeremiah 11:13). What God wanted to do for them, their unbelief robbed them of it. Prophet Hosea puts it thus, “**When Ephraim spake trembling, he exalted himself in Israel; but when he offended in Baal, he died**” (Hosea 13:1).

Every time you exercise faithlessness, you also automatically enter restlessness. Faith was meant to take away the headache and pressure of life off you. It is the invisible hand of God working on your behalf to make you win the battles of life; “**For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith**” (1 John 5:4). FAITH IS THE VICTORY: it shatters all fears, doubts, suspicion, obstacles, barriers and strongholds. No wonder David said, “**For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall**” (Psalm 18:29).

When Samaria and the whole nation of Israel was under the siege of the Syrian army, it took the faith of four leprous men to bring down that evil barricade (2 Kings 7:3-5). Stop waiting for everything to be in place before you believe God; step out by faith, and enter God's rest and supply.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

The instrument of faith was designed for my good.
Henceforth I step out in faith, and win

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Hebrews 3:14-19, Exodus 14:9-15, Numbers 13:26-33,
Numbers 14:1-12.

Introductory Text, James 2:14-26

IT'S ALL ABOUT DOING



Opening verse: *Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works [James 2:18].*



The reason why the unbelieving world seems to be prospering more than believers is simply because they are doers. What the believer spend hours, days and weeks praying for, the unbeliever wakes up daily doing them, thereby unknowingly aligning with God's will. **“For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified”** (Romans 2:13). From the beginning God made it clear that it is in doing that our faith gets results. That was why Abraham prospered, for he did not just confess faith, he acted it out when told to leave the land of his nativity; he moved immediately (Genesis 12:4). Also when the Lord demanded for Isaac, he woke up the next day and without letting anyone know his mission, he headed straight to the mountain with the lad (Genesis 22:1-3).

Does this in any way take away the essence of prayer or praying? Certainly not! Prayer remains a core element in our dealings with God. Without prayer you have no access to God, but after praying you must begin 'to do' or act according to what you've prayed, **“For without faith it is impossible to please him...”** (Hebrews 11:6). So, why prayer gives access to God, faith (doing) is what pleases Him. If you go

and spend a hundred days on the mountain to pray, without backing it up with doing, you've only succeeded in embarking in physical exercise. That's why whenever Jesus comes down from the prayer mountain, He goes straight to minister to the people, thereby exercising faith in His prayers. **“When he was come down from the mountain, great multitude followed him...And Jesus put forth his hand and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed”** (Matthew 8:1,3).

Unless you start doing, you will both be spiritually and physically poor. There will be no result to show for all the spiritual exercise you engage yourself with. You will become a laughing stock because 'when the chips are down', you will be forced to go and borrow from the same people you said have no God. They may not have God by your estimation, but they have result; and life is about result. Even the disciples of Jesus had result no one could deny. Break out from religion and be a doer of the things you preach, then you will have a better testimony for life.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Lord for reawakening my faith. I will work by faith and become a success.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Romans 2:11-15, James 1:22-25, Acts 4:13-16.

Introductory Text, 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

THE CHURCH IS GLOBAL



Opening verse: *But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth [Acts 1:8]*



Jesus' vision about the Church was very clear. From our opening verse, the Church was to start in Jerusalem before going into the uttermost part of the earth. It is one church, with different parts with Christ as the head. In other word, the Church is the body of Christ, and as the body is made of different parts, so is the calling of churches. Some churches are called to work as the eye of Jesus, some as the mouth, some as leg, hand, face, etc. For this reason, each will have different messages and operations, because the hand cannot function as the leg. It is therefore wrong to criticize another church for not operating like yours, because callings are different. **“Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand”** (Romans 14:4 NKJV).

You must see beyond your local assembly or ministry otherwise you will miss God. God is global, so is His Church. Don't reduce God to the level of your calling or ministry; He is working everywhere, using different men and women to fulfil different purposes. Paul had an apostolic calling overseeing many churches but Philip was an evangelist with no church. Yet, Paul had to stopover at Caesarea to see Philip, from where he received the prophecy for his

ministry as he heads back to Jerusalem (Acts 21:8-11). God uses men according to their calling, and not according to the size of their congregation.

Face your calling (ministry or church), and don't let what other men are doing or not doing affect you; **"Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called"** (1 Corinthians 7:20). Have you notice something not right in the other church? Then pray, don't castigate or wish them evil, it is one family. Jesus Christ the head of the Church is leading us towards one goal, **"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth"** (1 Timothy 2:4).

Focus on the unity of the church as well as differences in the calling, that's the way we all get strong together. Pray for other men of God, head of churches and ministries so that we can bring as many souls as possible to the Lord.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I join the body of Christ world-wide and pray for a greater harvest of souls. Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Timothy 2:1-8, Romans 2:1-10, Matthew 7:1-5

Introductory Text, 2 Thessalonian 3:6-15

GRACE ABUSERS OR GRACE MULTIPLIERS



Opening verse: *And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness...*
[2nd Corinthians 12:9].



One major difference between the believer and the unbeliever is that the believer has access to grace. What is grace? It is God's power, strength or abilities working through the human vessel. But God does not waste grace, He only gives grace to the one who is working or engaged in a productive venture. To be doing nothing and asking for grace is to abuse grace, unfortunately this is what we now have in Christendom. Men and women who are just loafing around, with no clear cut job, business or activity asking for God's grace. Elementary mathematics teaches us that whatever you multiply with zero will give you zero. When you ask for grace when you are not working, or you're involved in negative activity, you are a grace abuser.

After the revival that broke out in Samaria, Peter and the other apostles came from Jerusalem to give a helping hand to Philip, **“And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money”** (Acts 8:18). Simon's plan was to continue in the work of sorcery and divination, and use the grace of God for business, but he met his match in Peter. In other word, our motive is what reveals where we belong, whether a grace abuser or a grace multiplier. The

case of Paul when sent on a missionary trip by the Church in Jerusalem, and his encounter with Elymas the sorcerer in the city of Paphos, is also instructive. Thus, when withstood by Elymas, Paul through the grace of God, commanded that he goes blind and it was immediately so (Acts 13:11).

Grace multiplies in your hands when you use it for a righteous course. The more you use it positively, the more it increases. No wonder, “... **God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul. So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them**” (Acts 19:11-12). This multiplier effect continued in the ministry of Paul until the very end. Check what you are using grace for, is it for selfish purpose or for the glory of God? If you continue in sin, grace will cease.

Grace is available to you free of charge, but you must direct it for the right course; otherwise it will work against you.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I pledge to use grace to affect lives and further the Kingdom positively.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Romans 6:1-14, 2 Corinthians 9:8, Acts 11:19-24,
Acts 4:33-35.

Introductory Text, Acts 4:19-31

BE REFILLED



Opening verse : *And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they had assembled together: and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness [Acts 4:31].*

At Pentecost, the disciples experienced the first touch of the Spirit; and scripture noting this said, **“And they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”** (Acts 2:4). And as they went to town with this Spirit filling; souls were saved, healings, miracles, signs and wonders followed. Also was persecution, pain, threat and arrest. Thus after the lame man at the beautiful gate was healed, the city was stunned and the council called for them saying, **“By what power or by what name have you done this?”** (Acts 4:7). To stop this move of the Spirit, the council, **“...commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus”** (Acts 4:18).

This action was what prompted the disciples to go back to the place of prayer, and as they prayed, the place was shaken, and they were again filled with the Holy Ghost; and what followed was a greater impact and spread of the gospel. It was after this refilling that Peter's shadow healed the sick and multitudes of both men and women were saved (Acts 5:14-15). And we see this experience repeated in Acts 9:17 and Acts 13:52. If you're going to experience the

unstoppable life, you must constantly be refilled.

Thus, just as the oil in a car engine, generator or in the kitchen at home can go stale and lose its fluidity, so does the anointing of the Holy Spirit on you. If you don't constantly go back for renewal, you will soon lose your place, and be subject again to the forces of nature and the devil. When Saul the king was completely emptied of the Spirit, an evil spirit took him (1 Samuel 16:14). Thus, as humans, we are vessels waiting to be filled by spirits, good or bad. When you're empty or half full, that space will not be left unfilled. **“When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert searching for rest. But when it finds none, it says, I will return to the person I came from. So it returns and finds that its former home is all swept and in order. Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and lives there. And so the person is worse off than before”** (Luke 11:24-26 NLT). Avoid vacuum, get refilled and live the victorious Christian life.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I refuse to go down, but will stay in the place of the Spirit, until I'm full of power. Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 2:41-45, Revelations 2:1-5, Genesis 35:1-4.

Introductory Text, Genesis 32:1-13

EVERYTHING WAS VERY GOOD



Opening verse : *And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day [Genesis 1:31].*



Scripture qualifies God's work not just as good but very good, as we see in our opening verse. So, what went wrong with creation? Somebody disrupted the entire system, and that person is the devil. Someone might ask, why did God not stop him? The answer is found in Psalm 115:16, **"The heaven, even the heavens are the Lord's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men"**. The earth was handed over to man; and not just that, power and authority was also given to him to manage it. **"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that has called us to glory and virtue"** (2 Peter 1:3).

In other word, God does not interfere with the matters of the earth except men call unto Him. **"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not"** (Jeremiah 33:3). Unless you pray, God will not move a finger; it's a violation of rules. It is the same reason why the devil cannot enter the earth realm except he uses a human vessel. To reverse every disruption in your life, you must engage in serious prayers as Jacob did in Peniel. Thus, for twenty one years, he

had been running from Esau his brother after he had deceitfully stolen his inheritance; and hoping somehow it would just fizzle away, but it never did, until message came to him at Mahanaim that Esau was coming with four hundred men to meet him.

The issues troubling your life will not be resolved on their own, you have to do it. **“And Jacob was left alone, and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day”** (Genesis 32:24). Even after God met Jacob at Bethel and assured him of the land He promised his father Abraham (Genesis 28:13-14), yet God had to wait for Jacob to pray to trigger the intervention programme. In the same way, the programme of God for your life is very good, but for disruption by the enemy, they suffer delay. Unless you give permission through your prayers, heaven will do nothing.

Your prayers is what births “everything that was very good” into your life. Every man will pass through “Mahanaim” - the place of dislocation, and as you rise to confront that devil, you will get it back in Peniel - the place of prayer (victory).



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Today, I engage the instrument of prayer to recover my destiny. No more delays.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 18:1, Matthew 8:28-32, Mark 4:35-40, Esther 4:16.

Introductory Text, Acts 19:11-20

IT'S A PRACTICAL LIFE



Opening verse: *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his. And let everyone that nameth the name of the Christ depart from iniquity [2 Timothy 2:19].*



The Christian life is a practical life. No matter how much you pretend, it's only a matter of time before your deeds are known. If you are a man or woman of prayer, you don't need to announce it, your result will announce itself. If you walk by faith and led by the Spirit, men will see it. If you love righteousness and hate iniquity, everyone will come to know it, etc. If you are given to fasting, the power ministry will be your lot. If the study of the Word is your first love, knowledge and skillfulness in the things of God will reveal it. If you speak in tongues more than all the other virtues; speed and miracles will follow you. Every aspect of our walk with God has specific outcome that are undeniable, as was testified of the disciples; **"Saying, what shall we do to these men? For that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it"** (Acts 4:16).

In the same way, if you are given to a false Christian lifestyle, it will show. When Simon the sorcerer squeezed himself among the brethren in Samaria and got baptized, not long after Peter came to minister the Holy Ghost to them. **"And when Simon**

saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money. Saying, give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost" (Acts 8:18-19). Thus, the devil in Simon eventually exposed him. Earlier in Jerusalem, Ananias and Sapphira also wanted to play a fast one, when they saw the brethren selling their lands and bringing the proceeds to the church, they joined; wanting to be part of the trend. But after selling theirs they kept back part of the price and lied to the Church, only to be exposed by the Holy Ghost (Acts 5:1-10).

In the spirit realm, we are known. Just as God knows those who are His, so does the devil. Even as the seven sons of Sceva who were exorcist could not be hidden, when Paul entered the town. **"And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, Paul I know, but who are ye"** (Acts 19:15). Get real with God, He will keep you from falling and failing.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I will walk in spirit and truth, and not be given to deception and lies. I am of the Lord.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Acts 15:18, 2 Timothy 2:15-26, 2 Timothy 3:10-15.

Introductory Text, Revelation 13:1-18

THE DEVIL'S BREAD



Opening verse: *And when the temper came to him, he said, if thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread [Matthew 4:3].*



Life is all about choices. Everything God can give you, the devil can also do the same; but you have to determine where to get it from. Gehazi wanted gold, silver and raiment, the devil offered him all of them in abundance (2 kings 5:23); Judas Iscariot wanted money, the devil bargained and gave him thirty silver (Mathew 26:14-15); the people of Samaria wanted power without salvation, the devil sent Simon the sorcerer to them, **“To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, this man is the great power of God”** (Acts 8:10). There's absolutely nothing you want from God that the devil cannot offer you, the choice is yours. Revelation 13:13 reveals, **“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.”**

However, the things of God are timed. When you desire something that is not yet the time, either because you are not financially capable, or not matured enough to handle it; the Lord will not release it, but the devil will offer you one to fill your appetite. This is the devil's bread – an instrument he uses to trap the souls of men. **“For what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his soul?**

Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:36-37). Unfortunate, many have bargained their future for the devil's bread. Just as Esau for one plate of pottage, sold his birthright (Genesis 25:29-34).

When Jesus was in the wilderness, it was the time to fast, not the time to eat. So when the devil presented bread for stones, he declined, accepting to endure the pains of God's dealings (Matthew 4:1-3). Also, scripture said concerning Moses, **"...refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt..."** (Hebrews 11:24-26). The things you're craving for, is it the right time, place and will of God? Whenever you want things your way, you will be opened to the devil's alternative (bread).

Thus, the first lesson Joshua learnt from the Lord, was that there are bad successes and there're good successes (Joshua 1:8). What differentiates them is time, whether you will wait for God or you will get it the devil's way.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I choose your path. The path to wait for your timing and blessings.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Proverbs 10:22, Proverbs 14:12, Proverbs 28:19-22,
1 Timothy 6:6-12

Introductory Text, Acts 2:37-47

ALL THE GOSPEL



Opening verse: *All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and it is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished into all good works*
[2 Timothy 3:16-17].

Very often people complain about the gospel of prosperity, and how it has cost more damage than good to the church. Many back up their argument by saying Jesus never collected offering or tithe from the people, but that He was a friend to the poor and the less privileged in the society. For these people, sin increased with the advent of prosperity gospel, but they forget that the first murder was committed in Genesis. **“And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him”** (Genesis 4:8).

In the same Genesis, angels left their position and were drawn to women and got them pregnant. The result was the emergence of giants on earth, who then perpetrated evil and wickedness in the days of Noah, which led to God's decision to destroy the first world (Genesis 6:1-7). Also in Genesis 11, men rebelled and attempted to reach the throne of God through the tower of Babel; and in Genesis 19, the first homosexual act were recorded in the city of Sodom and Gonorrhea; while the daughters of Lot committed incest with their father after they got him drunk (Genesis 19:33-34), etc. All these happened in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. Thus, prosperity

gospel is not the problem, but sin has been from the beginning. The reason why Ecclesiastes 1:9 said, “...**there is no new thing under the sun**”.

What we need is all the gospel. The gospel of faith, holiness, righteousness, godliness, prayer, repentance from dead works, healing, love, contentment, of miracles, signs and wonders, in addition to prosperity, etc. They must all be put together to create a perfect Church. If we have one without the other, the body of Christ will be incomplete and we will be subject to ridicule and satanic assault. Recall how the church was associated with poverty, when men use to say, “As poor as the church rat”. You must understand that the devil is after us, and he will use every avenue to disparage the Church.

The plan of God is to move us from Calvary - the place of suffering, to the Resurrection - the place of lifting and glory. Don't let your message only be focused on Calvary, let the people also see the glory side of the Kingdom. Hallelujah!



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I accept all the gospel as your recipe to make me triumph and victorious.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

2 Timothy 4:1-5, Matthew 4:23-25, 2 Corinthians 8:1-9.

Introductory Text, 1 John 1:1-4

THE HARVEST IS HERE



Opening verse: *Then said he unto his disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few [Matthew 9:37].*



Jesus in our opening verse talked about a plenteous harvest, and this declaration came over a thousand years ago. If the harvest was fully ripe and plenty in the time of Jesus, what will it be now, but over-ripped and ready to be taken. We are in the dispensation of the harvest, whether of the souls of men or of the benefits of the Kingdom. It is a season we must take full advantage of. Even the disciples experienced the harvest while Christ was still here, when He told them, “....**one soweth and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour; other men labored, and ye are entered into their labour**” (John 4:37-38).

Where then must we focus on? Firstly, we must focus on souls as Jesus did; because this is what pleases the Father the most, and for this reason He bestows the greatest reward. “**And they that be wise shall shine as brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as stars forever and ever**” (Daniel 12:3). Who are the wise? Proverbs 11:30, declares, “.... **he that winneth souls is wise**”. Many are out there confused, lost, bound by sickness, poverty and the devil; all they need is someone to show them the way out of their predicaments. That is why you must go out there.

Secondly, we must focus on kingdom benefits. Healing, riches, victory, dominion, miracles, signs and wonders, etc. are no longer promises to come, they are already here. We are in the dispensation of receiving all that Jesus prayed for, but faithfulness is the key to unlocking these blessings. When Peter asked, “...we have forsaken all and followed thee, what shall we have therefore?” Jesus answered, “...And everyone that has forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands for my name sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life” (Matthew 19:27, 29). Your service is never in vain. Whatever you put into the kingdom, you can be sure of the Father's reward.

So don't be slack in Kingdom work; the harvest is here. Recall Isaiah referred to healing as something to come, saying, “... with his stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5); but Peter experienced it and then referred to it in his letter in the past tense, saying, “...by whose stripes you were healed” (1 Peter 2:24). Our harvest is no longer a futuristic thing, but a present reality. Step into it now.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

The Lord is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him. My reward is sure. Praise God

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

2 Corinthians 9:6-10, Romans 12:9-21, Luke 10:17-20.

Introductory Text, 2 Samuel 11:1-5

I DON'T FEEL LIKE



Opening verse: *Wherefore my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only; but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling [Philippians 2:12].*

“I don't feel like” is one phrase commonly used in the time of boredom, tiredness, loss, sorrow, sadness, or by lazy folks. But as a Christian, you must be very careful of moments like these, because that is when the devil strike most. Thus, playing Christian songs, singing, worship, reading, speaking in tongues, or listening to messages are some of the things you can do to keep your spirit man occupied, and not stray. A state of inertia - not doing anything, can be too costly for a believer.

When Jesus went to the wilderness to pray for forty days and forty nights, He didn't feel like. That was why Scripture noted, “**And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness**” (Mark 1:12). This was done not just to jump start his ministry, but also to secure his life. At Gethsemane, in the middle of the night, his body wanted sleep just as the disciples, but he had to pray; knowing that a moment of slumber could spell doom. In the things of God and the ones that concerns your salvation and well-being, you don't wait to feel like, you force them. If you don't “force” the things of God into your life, the devil will force his. “**Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist**

steadfast in the faith..." (1 Peter 5:8-9)

If you don't pray often, you will be open to satanic assault; if you don't fast, you will lack power; if you don't study the Word, you will be devoid of the Spirit and life of God; if you don't evangelize you would have shut your door against God's reward, etc. Every of these and other Christian activities must be forced and regularly practiced, so as to keep you in shape. If you don't brush your mouth before you step out of the house because you don't feel like, your mouth will smell. If you leave home undress because you don't feel like wearing clothes, you will be taken to the Psychiatric hospital for admission, etc. As it is in the physical, so it is with spiritual things. Waiting for a time to 'feel like' is careless Christian living.

Stay on top of situations by being alert and spiritual all the time, it is for your safety and growth.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I will keep guard over my soul. I will not be a victim but a victor through Christ Jesus.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Thessalonian 5:17, 1 Corinthians 6:12-13,
1 Corinthians 9:16.

Introductory Text, Genesis 18:16-33

PRAYER: HEAVEN'S VISA



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



God is a Spirit, and for this reason, He limited Himself to heaven. In the same manner, no spirit being is allowed into the earth realm unless given access by man. No devil or demon can enter a man or operate on the earth, if the individual is not willing. It takes the willingness (permission) of an individual for a spirit being to walk on earth. Similarly, the only way to bring God into your life is by your permission. Prayer is your permission or heaven's visa to get to you. Lamentation, sorrow, crying and wailing may affect God, because He is touched by our infirmities (Hebrews 4:15), but He won't make a move unless you allow Him. He doesn't break protocol.

What moves God is Prayer. **“And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand”** (Rev. 8:3-4). Thus Revelation Chapter 8 gives a perfect picture of how God responds to the prayers of the saints. Here, He

responds with hail, fire and blood; while the sun, moon and stars goes dark.

Heaven is waiting for your prayers not your lamentation. Nothing happened in the life of Jabez, until he went to the place of prayer (1 Chronicles 4:9-10). Hannah could not change her situation until she forced the hand of God through prayers (1 Samuel 1:9-20). For God to enter the city of Sodom, He sought Abraham's permission who held the city with his prayers. Also, when Paul went after the disciples in Damascus in the days of the Pentecostal revival, he couldn't enter the city because Ananias the spiritual gate keeper kept the city with his prayers. It took God having to plead with Ananias to allow Paul's entrance and restoration of his sight, after an encounter that left him blind. **“But the Lord said unto him, go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings and the children of Israel”** (Acts 9:15).

Unless you pray, you have no control over the events and happenings of your life; while the devil keeps you as a captive. Your prayer is heaven's permission (visa) to enter into your life, release that visa now.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Again, I take charge and mount on the altar of prayers. Father I give you permission into my life.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Revelation 8:1-13, Psalms 18:1-17, Acts 4:31.

Introductory Text, Numbers 20:1-13

TAKE THE WHOLE ARMOUR



Opening verse: *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand [Ephesians 6:13].*



The devil does not attack men in the area of strength but in their area of weakness. He will carefully watch out for your flaws, errors, mistake, or sin and dig-in until he brings the individual down. That is why the Bible recommends that you take the whole armour with you. Any attempt to step out with one armour less, leaves you open to the enemy. Like in a chain, the weakest part is where it breaks when it comes under pressure.

Moses in Egypt was a super star, no one could withstand him. In Exodus 7:1 God made him a god to Pharaoh. He incapacitated all the magicians of Pharaoh, and completely obliterated all the gods of Egypt. But when Israel raised a golden calf for a god and Moses came down from the mountain and saw that the people were 'naked'; in anger he broke the two tablets of stones with the Ten Commandments inscribed on them, **“And he (Moses) took the calf which they had made and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel to drink”** (Exodus 32:20). Then Satan knew that Moses had a weakness; and that weakness was his uncontrollable anger.

So, the devil decided to wait for another

opportunity; and at Meribah, he trapped him. There, God asked Moses to SPEAK to the rock to give the people water, but again in anger for their unbelief, Moses STRUCK the rock. The devil did not need Moses to make another mistake, because he was already too powerful. This one chance was just sufficient to bring him down and he used it swiftly. So God judged Moses, and brought an end to his ministry at Meribah. In the same manner, with the whole armour on, you are already too strong for the devil; so, he will wait for your careless moments. This is why you must not at any time be one armour less, because each armour has its own work and place in your relationship with God. You don't take one and leave the other behind.

Jesus' success in ministry was because He was always clad with the whole armour; no wonder He said, "**...the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me**" (John 14:30). Thus the devil tried Christ, but found nothing to accuse Him of. You can't be anyway less. Get your whole armour on.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

The Lord is my strength, but I will not lower my guard. I will be watchful and alert.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Ephesians 6:10-18, Matthew 26:41, 2 Timothy 4:2

Introductory Text, Genesis 3:1-13

MARRIAGE IS SPIRITUAL



Opening verse: *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh [Ephesians 5:31].*



From the human point of view, two becoming one is impossible; but this is God's formula for marriage. That is why marriage is spiritual; and unless and until you take your issue to the God who instituted marriage; every effort to have a quiet, peaceful and joyful home will be defeated. As it is for the married, so it is for the unmarried; it is the same spirit troubling both side.

Recall at the Garden of Eden, when God came visiting, both Adam and Eve hid themselves, and when God asked why, Adam said they were naked. The next question that followed was, "**...who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, THE WOMAN whom thou gavest to be with me...**" (Genesis 3:11-12). Thus, Adam immediately distanced himself from his wife and called her 'the woman.' This spirit that avoids responsibility, and resort to blame game is the demon fighting marriages. As Satan has been from the beginning, so is this spirit. The only way to deal with marital issues, whether married or unmarried is to go spiritual through prayer.

To provide, love, care and be available to your spouse are very good, but they are never enough to make a happy home. There are people who have achieved these qualities and conditions, but they still have trouble having a stable home or relationship. This is because all of these qualities are carnal (physical), and cannot stand against spiritual forces. To take charge of your marital issues, you must be given to prayers. What the spirit fighting marriage does, is to blind the eyes of your spouse against every of your good effort (2 Corinthians 4:4), and make the individual focus on the other person as the problem.

Without any doubt, character flaws also contribute to marital challenges, yet the root of instability is spiritual; and until you see it that way, you will not come out. No wonder, as God continued to trace the cause of the problem when Adam and Eve kept shifting the blame, it eventually landed on the devil; **“And the Lord said unto the woman, what is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, the SERPENT beguiled me, and I did eat”** (Genesis 3:13). It is the same thing today, nothing has changed. The serpent is behind that anger, unforgiveness, infidelity, stinginess, lack of appreciation, love deficit, etc. Get up and fight that devil.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I break every hand of the devil in my home and relationships. No more failures.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Ephesians 5:22-33, Proverbs 18:22, Proverbs 19:14.

Introductory Text, 2 Samuel 5:17-25

INCREASING FAITH



Opening verse: *And he said come, and when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water to go to Jesus [Matthew 14:29]*

The demand of life is generally on an increasing measure. What this means is that, what you were yesterday is not the same today. Changes takes place in your body as you grow, if you don't adjust your life with time, you will soon be put out of use. As it is with our body, so it is with the academic, social and business world, etc. For instance, the approach to doing business in the 21st century is completely different from what it was in the last century. Also, what is studied in the primary, secondary or tertiary school today is more advanced than what you did in your time. As it is with the world, so it is with our walk with God. You must have new Christian experiences, encounters, revelations and visions to be able to match God's pace.

In other word, the devil does not sleep; he comes up daily with new strategies on how to bring down believers. **“Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it and pass not by it, turn from it and pass away. For they sleep not except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away unless they have cause some to fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence”** (Proverbs 4:14-17). If you defeated

the devil five years ago, when he's coming back for you, he won't come in the same way, but with a different approach. The only guarantee that you will defeat him again is that you also come up with a new strategy; although our instruments remains the same. This was what David did with the Philistines in our introductory text.

The summary is this, your faith must be increasing with the times. Your experiences and victories of yesterday will not be sufficient for today's battle. The enemy does not follow rules, he keeps changing the goal post. When the disciples were caught in a storm on their way to Gadarene, they went and woke Jesus, who rebuked the wind and calmed the storm. Jesus thereafter said, "**...how is it that you have no faith**" (Mark 4:40). However, when later Jesus walked on water, it was only Peter who demanded and had the same experience because his faith had grown with time.

Only by increasing faith will you be able to get to your destination. Christians who live by past glories never get to the finish line.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

My experiences have changed, so has my faith increased. I refuse to stay in the past.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

2 Peter 1:5-11, 2 Peter 3:18, Matthew 14:22-32.

Introductory Text, John 20:24-31
EXPERIENCE GOD



Opening verse: *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life [1 John 1:1].*



One of the major challenges with believers is that many live by other person's experiences of God. Their lives is based on what their pastor, friend, colleague, brother, or neighbour said of God. And when you have no personal experience of God, in the day of trouble you will be left open for the devil to devour. Not even what you read in a book or Bible will suffice; but you must have to know God for yourself, for that's the only way to experience the victorious Christian life.

In our introductory text, the Lord rebuked Thomas for doubting His appearance, yet his desire was to experience Christ personally, and not by what others said. This was the major difference between Saul and David. While Saul depended on Samuel to communicate with God, David had a one-on-one relationship with the Father. Thus, on the day the Philistines gathered against Israel after the death of Samuel, it was written, "**And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams nor by Urim, nor by prophets**" (1 Samuel 28:6). This happened because there was no relationship between Saul and the Lord, but that he had walked in disobedience and wickedness. So when he sought the Lord, he got no response.

In other words, you are going to meet challenging situations that your parents, spouse, friend or pastor will not be there with you. You will be alone face to face with the devil. **“And David said unto Saul, thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock. And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him”** (1 Samuel 17:34-35). Your personal experience of God is what will deliver you when you come across the lions and bears of this world.

Similarly, Samson was on the way to his wedding, when a lion suddenly met him; **“And the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he rent him, as he would have rent a kid (goat)....”** (Judges 14:6). Thus, it is in your personal walk with God, you will develop strength, faith, wisdom, courage and boldness to face life and its issues. These are the virtues that overcome the world.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I turn to you for strength and boldness. I shall be built up in Christ and not faint.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Galatians 1:11-24, Philippians 3:8-11, John 20:11-18

Introductory Text, Matthew 13:24-30

WHEAT AND TARES GROW TOGETHER



Opening verse: *Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, gather together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn [Matthew 13:30].*



The Church is full of strange things, strange people and strange events. If you find yourself wondering why there are so many contractions in the church and by the church, don't let it bother you again; the Lord designed it so. Thus, in the church you will find the wheat and the tares growing together. What are these? The wheat represents the good guys, and the tares the bad ones. More surprising is that the tares are always more in number, financially more buoyant, more educated, healthier and everything seems to work for them, etc. The tares are similar to those David wrote about in Psalm 73:1-28.

So, you will find in the church; sorcery, divination, witchcraft, gossiping, backbiting and back stabbing, unforgiveness, bitterness, hatred, stealing, lying, fornication, adultery, tribalism, and all kinds of evil scheming and politics, etc. These are the works of the tares. Squeezed within the tares are the wheat, and they are the ones that exhibit righteousness, godliness, truth, genuine salvation, purity, love, mercy, etc. But as they grow, you will not be able to differentiate the wheat from the tares. Many a times, the tares will look like wheat. **“For there shall arise**

false Christs and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, in so much that if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect” (Matthew 24:24).

As we approach the end of times, it will get worse. The tares will get stronger and bolder, and the wheat will appear to get lesser, but not really so. Yet in all of these, God's purpose is to give every man the opportunity to amend their ways. The apostle Peter stated it thus, **“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness: but his longsuffering to us ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”** (2 Peter 3:9). However, the coming of Christ will be the game changer. He will gather the tares first and burn them, but the wheat He will keep them with Him.

Don't be deceived by the activities and influence of the tares, they have no future or place with God. If by any chance they do, it will only come by repentance. Join yourself to the wheat, they shall abide in the Kingdom forever.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I refuse to be among the tares. I repent and join myself with the wheat.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

John 15:1-7, 1 John 3:1-3, 2 Timothy 3:10-14,
2 Peter 2:1-22.

Introductory Text, Acts 16:1-12

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



Opening verse: *But the Comforter which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance; whatsoever I have said to you [John 14:26].*



The first five books of the Bible; Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy were written by Moses. But have you ever sat back to think how did Moses write the book of Genesis when he was not there? Thus, he wrote all the events of the beginning of creation with precision and accuracy. He also wrote about all that will happen to Israel in the Promised Land, yet he never made it there physically. Before he died, he penned down the lines of the song we will all sing when we get to heaven in Deuteronomy 32:1-47. How did he accomplish all these? By the Holy Spirit (Numbers 11:16-17). Thus, part of the major work of the Holy Spirit is to reveal the past, present and future.

There are junctions in life where you will require either information from the past, or projecting into the future in order to make decisions for the present. Such was what happened to Peter in Joppa when Cornelius sent men to consult with him. Earlier, Peter had gone to the roof to pray, and there he encountered God in a trance. Confused as to the meaning of the vision, “...**the Spirit said unto him, behold three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and**

get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them" (Acts 10:19-20). Left for Peter, he would not have gone with those men but for the intervention of the Holy Spirit.

Critical decisions about marriage, business, career, profession, travelling, relocation, etc. will arise as you journey through life, and one wrong move could mar all your life long efforts. But with the Holy Spirit on your side, He will guide you into God's will. When Abraham sent his servant to get a wife for Isaac, it was the Spirit that guided the man to Rebekah (Genesis 24:15). Same was repeated when Jacob met Rachel in Haran (Genesis 29:9). Also, Paul was on his way to Asia when the Spirit interrupted his journey and turned him to Macedonia. It was that same journey that led to the deliverance of the girl possessed with the spirit of divination (Acts 16:18), and the salvation of the jailer in Philippi (Acts 16:31).

The Holy Spirit knows the path drawn for you in destiny. He is your sure bet of getting there in record time, and in good shape.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I yield to the leading and guidance of the Spirit. I will not stray from God's perfect will.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Numbers 11:16-17, John 16:13-15, 1 Corinthians 2:9-12, Romans 8:11.

Introductory Text, Matthew 26:1-16

MASKED DEVILS



Opening verse: *Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve [Luke 22:3].*



Just as God is a Spirit, so is the devil a spirit of a lower order. Thus, the devil was an arch angel working with God before his dethronement. Presently, he and his demons live in the second heaven; that is, the realm of the sun, moon and stars. Thus, every spirit being, good or bad, are bound from entering the earth realm in their spirit form. The only way opened to them is to enter a human vessel that allows them. Even God cannot operate in the earth realm unless allowed by you. **“Behold I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and I will sup with him, and he with me”** (Revelation 3:20). Unless you open the door of your heart, God will not force His way through.

It's for the same reason, the devil cannot operate at the earth level unless he gets a willing vessel. When Satan entered Judas, it was because Judas made himself a willing vessel through his activity of lying, stealing and betrayal (John 12:1-6). Thus, you are not going to see the devil with a tail and two horns, but he's going to enter men to attack you. These are the ones called masked devils. They are human vessels that have made themselves available for the devil's

use. You will find them among your relations, friends, neighbours, colleagues, etc. The devil uses people, if you don't understand this, you may be fighting a lost battle. When Peter tried to restrain Jesus from accepting the mission of the cross, Jesus rebuked him, not as Peter but in its proper context, **"...Get thee behind me Satan..."** (Matt. 16:23). Jesus knew it was the devil behind the scene.

Thus, the moment you understand how to deal with the underlying powers behind the events and happenings in your life, you will win every battle. On the way to Gadarene, the disciples along with Jesus entered a boat, and while Jesus went into the inner cabin to rest, there suddenly arose a great storm, and the lives of everyone were threatened. When the disciples eventually beckoned on Jesus, **"...he arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, peace be still..."** (Mark 4:39). Jesus spoke to the wind and not the sea, because it was the wind that was driving the sea.

Don't be deceived by what you see on the surface. Locate the spirits behind your trouble and cast them out, then will your peace flow like a river.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Satan, game over. I'm enlightened and empowered by the Word. Praise God!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Ephesians 6:11-12, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, 2
Corinthians 10:3-5

