

Introductory Text, Exodus 15: 1-12

FIGHTING OR LOSING



Opening verse: *Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my hands to war and fingers to fight [Psalm 144:1].*



Gentleness is a major character of God (Galatians 5:22), but the same Bible calls Him the Man of war (Exodus 15:3). In other word, God is a fighter, yet gentle. These two genes must be replicated in you, if you're going to have a head way in life. It takes a fight to have a place in the world, otherwise the enemy will swallow you; and it takes gentleness to have a place in God, otherwise He will cast you away. How then do I strike a balance between this two? Psalm 18:25-26 (NLT) explains it all; **“To the faithful, you show yourself faithful; to those with integrity, you show integrity. To the pure you show yourself pure, but to the wicked you show yourself hostile.** In other word, how an individual presents himself, will determine how God will react to him.

If you want life, you must operate in this dual nature. Thus, you don't react gently to what is out to kill you; you will pay with your life. You either defend yourself or you fight back. **“A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself; but the simple pass on and are punished”** (Proverb 22:3 NKJV). Between the three major enemies of man; sin, the world, and the devil, none is gentle. If you're gentle with sin, it will

destroy you; if you're gentle with the world, she will swallow you; if you're gentle with the devil, he will afflict you for life. Isaiah describes the devil thus, **"That made the world as a wilderness, and destroys the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners"** (Isaiah 14:17).

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were fighters, hence they were able to enter into God's promise. Moses fought Pharaoh and his armies and brought Israel out of slavery after 430 years. His victory song is what we read in Exodus 15. Joshua fought, and took the Promised Land as God assured him (Joshua 1:3). David was a fighter and never lost one battle, no wonder he said, **"He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms"** (Psalm 18:34). Jesus also fought, and when Herod sent men to intimidate Him, He said, **"Go ye and tell that fox, behold I cast out devils, and I do cure today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected"** (Luke 13:32).

All of these men were fighters, yet gentle in nature. If you're not fighting, you're losing. Don't be deceived.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I'm a child of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, I fight and win. This is my heritage in Christ.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Chronicles 12:8, Jeremiah 51:19-24, 2 Timothy 1:6-7,

Introductory Text, 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

PRAYER AND FAITH



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



Prayer and faith are two major and very important instruments God gave the Church (believer), but placing one over the other has robbed many of complete victory. Some believers emphasize more on prayer, while some others place their emphasis on faith. But none is greater than the other, rather they play different roles. It is left for you to know how to deplore them in your situation. Just as the human body, no part is more important than the other, but they complement one another; “**...but God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lack it. So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other**” (1 Corinthians 12:24-25 NIV).

For instance, prayer is the key, as it is commonly said; but no key can turn itself, it needs a hand to turn it. Faith is the hand that turns the key and unlock the door. Until and unless you use them this way, you will keep having incomplete testimony. For Pentecost to come, the disciples needed to pray and generate power (Acts 1:14); but the miracles that followed, were majorly driven by their faith; “**And he took him by the right hand, and lift him up: and**

immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength" (Acts 3:7). Thus, it took the hand of Peter to raise the lame man at the beautiful gate to his feet. If Peter had not done so, the man would have probably remained on the floor, having been lame for over forty years of his life (Acts 4:22).

Faith is the hand of prayer; they work together, not separately. If you spend ten hours in the prayer room, and refuse to take a step of faith on the things you've prayed about, nothing will happen. **"For without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him"** (Hebrews 11:6). This is where many have missed it. They spend years praying, and when there's no result; frustration, anger and unbelief sets-in. No wonder there's so much anger in the air. **"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life"** (Proverbs 13:12 NIV).

Get back to the place of prayer and faith, together they will deliver your result and make you a victor.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Father for the instrument of prayer and faith. I will no longer suffer delayed.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Acts 14:8-10, James 2:14-24, John 9:1-11.

Introductory Text, Judges 4:1-10

PRAYER AND FAITH [PARTY 2]



Opening verse: *And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he had committed sins, they shall be forgiven him [James 5:15].*



Siamese twins are babies that are joined together by birth, while some can be separated after birth, some others can't. Prayer and faith are like Siamese twins that cannot be separated. They go together from the beginning of your walk with God till the end. If you take one away from the other, you have inadvertently slowed down your journey or have terminated it. The relationship between prayer and faith can also be likened to a Christian who is on a pilgrimage. While prayer starts the journey, faith is what keeps you on the road walking till the end. Furthermore, prayer and faith is like a car set for a trip; prayer is the key to start the car, but faith it what drives it and keeps it running.

The story in our introductory text is that of Deborah the prophetess and Barak the captain of the army of Israel. When war broke out between Israel and the Canaanites, Deborah asked Barak to lead the battle, but he declined, fearing it would be impossible to defeat the enemy without Deborah's prophetic backing and power. In like manner, believers are soldiers, but when they refuse to use their faith, they will remain stagnant with no result to show for life. Thus, when Deborah saw that Barak lacked the faith

to enter into battle with the enemy, she said, “...I will surely go with thee; notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thy honour....” (Judges 4:9). Anytime prayer is separated from faith, honour (i.e. testimony, blessing, healing, etc.) will also be missing.

In the case of Elijah, when he prayed for the rain to fall after a three and half year drought; there was delay, yet he sent his servant to check the sky seven times, thereby putting his faith to work. At the seventh time when the servant came with the report, “...there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, go up, say unto Ahab, prepare thy chariot and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not” (1 Kings 18:44). Unlike Barak, Elijah put prayer and faith together; and because prayer and faith met, it was impossible for heaven not to respond. Similarly, the rain of your miracle will be unstoppable, if only you combine prayer with faith. Faith is what gives life to prayers, go ahead and trigger it. You shall testify.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

With prayer and faith, I will do great things and testify of His goodness. Glory to God.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Kings 18:41-46, 2 Kings 7:3-7, Luke 17:11-14.

Introductory Text, Ezekiel 9:1-11
**THE JUDGEMENT OF
THE CHURCH**



Opening verse: *For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world* [1 Corinthians 11:31-32].

Ever wondered why Church news is always in the air? If it is not about the pastor who stole church fund, it is about the pastor who fell into adultery. Or a minister who impregnated the female choir leader, or a prayer warrior who embezzled government fund and ran away with the money, etc. Sometimes, it is the fighting, gossip, backbiting, backstabbing, witchcraft, sorcery, divination and false prophecies that gets the public attention. The television and radio airwaves, the social media and internet are full of news of all the atrocities, evil and immorality going on in the Church; not one day is spared without one terrible news about the Church. The reason is simple; the Church is being judged even before the end. **“But when we are judged we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world”** (1 Corinthians 11:32).

Thus those of other faith or religion, and some so-called Christians who rejoice over the troubles of the Church are lacking in knowledge. God's plan is to judge the Church, so that she will escape judgement on the last day. When the Lord sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it, the mandate was very clear, **“...begin at my sanctuary”** (Ezekiel 9:6). God is not

sparing the Church; He is exposing everything from the head to the least person. Those who will have trouble with God are individuals and religions who are experts at covering-up their atrocities; on judgement day, they won't have a hiding place.

As a believer, don't let the attack or trouble of the Church dampen your spirit, rather they are the signs of hope and redemption on the last day. It is God's way of dealing with the ones He loves. Proverbs 28:13 declared, **"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy"**. When David committed adultery with Uriah's wife Bathsheba, the Lord didn't spare him, nor the child that was born through that unholy union. Thus, not minding the covenant God struck with David, he was completely exposed (2 Samuel 11:1-5, 12:18).

When you hide sin, sin will also hide you: your destiny and glory will all be imprisoned. No wonder David said, **"For I will declare my iniquity, I will be sorry for my sin"** (Psalm 38:18). Come out of every secret sin; and escape guilt, sorrow, fear, self-condemnation and failure.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord I rejoice in your dealings and chastisement, they are for my good and glory. Amen

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Revelation 3:19, Micah 7:7-10, Hebrews 12:5-11, Psalm 15:1-5.

Introductory Text, Matthew 8:18-22

THE MINISTRY OF CONVENIENCE



Opening verse: *And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me is not worthy of me [Matthew 10:38].*



One of the major reasons for the dearth of miracles, signs, wonders and authentic testimonies in the present church is our lackadaisical attitude to the things of God. The level of unfaithfulness, un-seriousness, non-commitment and disloyalty of the present believer to God and His Kingdom is troubling. Everybody is after what he or she will get and nothing more. Presently, people take up responsibilities in the church or attend church services only on the basis of convenience, if not, they stay away. But if you cannot inconvenience yourself for God, why do you expect God to do same for you?

The gospel we received today came through men and women who inconvenienced themselves so that we might have a better hope, but we have not replicated the same for the coming generation. **“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). Heaven is looking for faithful men. When the writer of Hebrews was to comment on the sacrifice made by the patriarchs, this is how he put it, **“...and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. And**

others had trials of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, of bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented. Of whom the world was not worthy..." (Hebrews 11:35-38)

Our present Christianity is definitely below the bar. When the rain falls, you complain of the rain; when the sun shines, your reason will be that the weather was too hot. On the day when there was traffic, you said the traffic hindered you from coming to church. On the day the road was free, you said you had to drive straight home because the road was free. What price are you paying or have you paid for your salvation? What sacrifice have you made for the Kingdom? That is why there's no power, no vision, no encounters in the present church, etc. The Church that will be on ground on the eve of the seven year reign of the anti-christ will be so weak that the devil will have no struggle overthrowing her.

"Produce your cause saith the Lord, bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob" (Isaiah 41:21). This is God's challenge to everyone who wants to have a life changing encounter. Get serious!



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord, I choose to be better and stronger for the Kingdom sake. No more excuses. 3

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Hebrews 11:32-40, Matthew 10:37-39, Philippians 2:19-24.

Introductory Text, Ezekiel 28:11-19

VICTORY THROUGH CHRIST



Opening Verse: *But thanks be to God, which giveth us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ [1 Corinthians 15:57].*



One of the ways the Bible describes the devil is thus, **“Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God: thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire”** (Ezekiel 28:13-14). The devil has tread where angels have not entered, the only way to defeat this guy is to bring someone higher than him - Jesus Christ.

What gives us victory over the devil is the “Christ in you”. As long as you are in Christ, the devil will fall flat before you, no matter how long it takes; but outside Christ, you are no match: don't be deceived. Being socially relevant, civil, wise and educated, etc. are no match to the wiles of the devil. Thus, some churches have devised using aesthetics, lightings, entertainment, refreshment, cosy atmosphere, wealth and motivational messages to attract men,

but Satan cannot be swayed or defeated by physical things. **“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places”** (Ephesians 6:12).

When Michael the arc angel came to pick the body of Moses in mount Moriah, Satan contented with him, and Michael couldn't execute his assignment until he said, **“...THE LORD rebuked thee”** (Jude 1:9). Thus it took the Name of the Lord, which is higher than every other name to break the devil's hold. No wonder, Solomon with all his wisdom acknowledged, **“The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it and is safe”** (Proverb 18:10). The powers fighting you are not physical, it will take the stronger man - Christ - to defeat them.

Thus, your experiences of delay, shame, failure and disappointments, etc. all have spiritual connection. Nothing on this earth is ordinary, they are all linked to spiritual wickedness; and the end of that evil chain is the devil. Unless you bring your matter at the feet of Christ through fervent prayers, you may be fighting a lost battle. Christ is our victory, you can't fight the devil by minding your business, being good, educated or civil. Wake up.

MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER



Jesus, I acknowledged you are the stronger man.
Through you, I have my victory.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 11:20-22, 1 Corinthians 4:20, Colossians 1:27.

Introductory Text, Genesis 3:1-15

RIGHTS OR RESPONSIBILITY



Opening verse: *And because thou hast hearken unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree.... [Genesis 3:17]*



The Adamic nature is what we acquired when we yielded to Satan's lies at the Garden of Eden. It is the nature of evil, wickedness, rebellion, disobedience, anger, bitterness, envy, unforgiveness, etc. This is the reason why Jesus came and preached "ye must be born again" (John 3:7). To be born again simply means putting off the Adamic nature, and putting on the God nature. Paul captured it thus, "**That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lust.... And that ye put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness**" (Ephesians 4:22, 24).

Thus the event in the Garden of Eden altered every part of the human nature, and principal among them is the institution marriage. Today, one of the major things causing instability and separation in marriages is the issue of rights. Men are claiming rights to be head, and woman are claiming rights to be heard, and the results are broken trust, broken love and broken home. Thus, as long as you keep claiming right, you will never have a stable relationship or marriage, because everyone has a

right.

We were not called to claim rights but responsibilities; that is, playing your our part to make the relationship work. Thus, when God said to Adam, “...**because thou has hearken unto the voice of thy wife**”, it had to do with responsibility. God was angry at Adam's failure to be responsible, as the custodian of God's law, way and will; it had nothing to do with the control and subjugation of the woman. If this was about subjecting the woman, scripture would not have warned the male folks to handle their wives with honour so that their prayers will not go unanswered (1 Peter 3:7).

Thus, our responsibilities as stated in scripture; to the woman, “...**submit yourselves unto your own husband, as unto the Lord**; and to the man, “...**love your wives, as Christ love the Church and gave himself for it**” (Ephe 5:22, 25). To further prove that they both were avoiding responsibility, after they sinned and God came to inquire; Adam immediately shifted the blame to Eve, saying, “...**the woman whom thou gavest to be with me.**” And Eve also said, “...**the serpent beguile me**” (Genesis 3:12-13). Every time responsibilities are avoided, the result is a breakdown of communication, and of the relationship. Stop looking for or demanding for your right, look for responsibility, and that relationship or marriage will blossom again. Praise God.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I'm awakened to God's demand in every relationship, I will no longer fail but be responsible.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Ephesians 5:22-33, Hebrews 13:4, 1 Peter 3:1-7.

Introductory Text, Judges 14:1-10

HONEY FROM THE DEAD



Opening verse: *And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and gave them, and they did eat: but he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcass of the lion [Judges 14:9].*



The story before us today is that of Samson. While on the way to his wedding, a lion came out of the bush and attacked him, but as the Spirit of God came upon him, he slew the lion. On the way back, he saw the dead lion with a swarm of bees on it. So, he went ahead and took of the honey and also gave to his parents. Honey is sweet, but where he took it from was from a dead lion. This was the same Samson who was a Nazarite (a separated vessel unto the Lord), and was expected to remain pure, holy and undefiled all through his life time

As believers, we are Nazarite unto the Lord. Peter puts it thus, **“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light”** (1 Peter 2:9). This implies we must not get involved in anything that is wrong, evil, sinful or unrighteous. But when you compromise your body, report or result to get promotion in your work place, it is honey from the dead. When you cheat to pass your examination, it is honey from the dead. When you change figures so as to make more gain, or use sorcery, divination or witchcraft to change things to

your favour, it is honey from the dead. When that child or job you testified about came by the help of a witch doctor, it is honey from the dead, etc.

Jesus declared openly, **“...for the prince of this world cometh, and findeth nothing in me”** (John 14:30). The devil is after men who have hidden secrets about their lives, livelihood and family, and will patiently wait for the right time before he strikes. Samson's fall was not engineered by Delilah as many of us think, but when he started to take honey from the dead. And as he continued to disregard his Nazarite vow, he eventually fell to the trick of Delilah. **“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin. But a certain fearful looking for of judgement...”** (Hebrews 10:26). Separate yourself from things that taste sweet, but their source is from the dead (unrighteousness).



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

A gracious God you have been to me, I will stay
in your Word and in righteousness.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalm 15:1-5, Proverbs 20:17, Proverbs 1:10-19, 1
Timothy 4:1

Introductory Text, Hebrews 6:1-12

AFTER SALVATION, THEN WHAT?



Opening verse: *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge: and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness [2 Peter 1:5-6].*

Many believers have gotten stagnated in life and in their walk with God because of the absence of what Apostle Peter said in our opening verse. Salvation or being born again was never intended to be your final destination in life but your starting point, unfortunately this is the case with many believers. Being born again is like starting a 100m race, and as the referee blows the whistle, you start running, but many have remained “on your mark” level. Unless you grow, you won't get to where God has designed for you. **“And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the tree: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire”** (Luke 3:9).

Thus, growth is the major parameter required for the devil not to catch up with you; for he is an adversary that never turns back until he brings down his victim (1 Peter 5:8). This was why Paul said, **“I therefore so run, not as uncertainly: so fight I, not as one that beateth the air. 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 9:26-27). In simply word, Paul meant that he had to keep working (growing) on himself, so as not to miss God's ultimate purpose.

Critical among the areas that will help your growth are; repentance from dead works, baptism in the Spirit, walking by faith, sanctification, study of the Word, prayer and fasting, and being led by the Spirit, etc. When John Mark turned back from following Paul and Barnabas in their first missionary trip, it was because he was not walking by faith but by sight, hence when he saw the troubles of ministry he turned back (Acts 15:36-38). When the disciples of Jesus could not heal the demoniac young man, it was because they had not trained themselves in the act of prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:21). When Demas departed from Paul and went back to the world, it was because he was still held captive by dead works (2 Timothy 4:10), etc.

When you ignore any of the basic requirements of Christian living, you will not grow. But take seriously all that you need to add to your salvation, they will help propel you to greater heights.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I declare I will not be a minus to your Kingdom. I will walk by the Spirit and grow.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Peter 2:1-3, Hebrews 5:11-14, 1 Corinthians 3:1-4.

Introductory Text, Luke 19:28-40

PRAYER, PRAISE OR TALKING



Opening verse. *And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out (Luke 19:40).*



Of all the parts of the body, the mouth is one part with multiple purposes. For instance, the eye is for seeing and nothing more; so is the ear for hearing and the nose for perceiving, etc. But the mouth is for talking, eating, drinking, praying, worship, praise, curse or bless etc. Moreover, what you say or do not say will play a part in the direction your life will take. **“Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth”** (Proverbs 6:2). For this reason, you must be careful what you do with the mouth.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem in what the Bible referred to as the “Triumphal Entry”, the city went up in uproar with men and women shouting, praising, worshipping, and adoring Him, but the Pharisees thought otherwise and demanded that the disciples and the crowd be made silent, **“And he (Jesus) answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out”** (Luke 19:40). Thus, what you do with your mouth will not only affect you physically, but also your place with the Father. If you don't use your mouth for prayer, praise and

worship, you will use it for careless talk. Your mouth was primarily designed for God so that it will attract blessing, but if you follow a different path, it will bring trouble. **“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof”** (Proverbs 18:21).

What are you using your mouth for? Today, many churches, marriages, businesses have been scattered through the mouth of some people. Some are complaining, gossiping, backbiting, back stabbing and destroying other people's homes, businesses and lives with their mouth. Some others are using the mouth for smoking, drinking to stupor, kissing idols, and practicing all forms of unthinkable sexual act with the mouth. Every time the mouth is used for things other than for the glory of God, and to bless, encourage, counsel and strengthen others, etc. that mouth will go into misuse. **“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lust of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves”** (Romans 1:24).

Today, you have an opportunity to redirect the use of your mouth. Make up your mind that your mouth will be used for the glory of God and to edify men, and not destroy.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

○ Lord, my voice shall thou hear every day for prayer, praise and worship; nothing more

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalm 55:17, Psalm 149:6-7, Titus 1:10-16, James 3:1-12.

Introductory Text, Acts 3:1-10

SILVER AND GOLD HAVE I NONE



Opening verse. *And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them [Acts 3:5].*



The conversation between Peter and the lame man, shows that the lame man was expecting money from the disciples, **“Then Peter said, silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk”** (Acts 3:6). There are many in the church whose relationship with God is squarely based on what they get. For them it is about food, drink, clothes, finance, jobs, business, and the likes. It is either those things are coming regularly, or they look for another place or lord to supply them. When your walk or relationship with God is based only on “silver and gold”, you have missed God.

Silver and gold represents the mundane things of this world, and the least in the kingdom of God. **“But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you”** (Matthew 6:33). For a genuine believer, God’s love, fellowship, daily interaction, hope of eternity, etc. should be your priority. God knows your need, and He has your best interest at heart, but when you place your need before intimacy or fellowship with Him, you fall into error. Demas was a disciple under Paul, and was being groomed like

Timothy for the apostolic office, but he forsook his training, **"...having loved this present world"** (2 Timothy 4:10).

Thus, there are many persons whose relationship with God is business in nature. They are in church for connection, job, visa, marriage, fruit of womb, breakthrough prayer, healings, prayer for political appointment, ordination, church ministerial appointment, etc. To desire these things are not sinful, but when it is at the cost of your salvation or relationship with God, you will miss God's purpose. Peter did not have silver or gold, but he had Christ, he had intimacy with God, he had power and prayer, etc. and with these things, he made a lame man walk on his feet. Similarly, Elijah had no silver or gold, but had power to close and open the heavens (1 Kings 17:1, 18:1).

After Jacob's encounter with an angel in Peniel, the angel commended him thus, **"... thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed"** (Genesis 32:28). Your greatest asset is not "silver and gold", but power with God. This is what gives you dominion and victory over all that life will throw at you.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord, I choose to stay in the place of intimacy and receive power for exploits. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Romans 14:17, 2 Timothy 3:14-17, 1 Corinthians 4:20.

Introductory Text, Genesis 18:16-33

SALVATION AND RESPONSIBILITY



Opening verse: *Thou lovest righteousness and hatest wickedness therefore God, thy God hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows [Psalm 45:7]*



When you get born again, one of the first sign of that transformation is that you begin to love what God loves and hate what He hates. You automatically become a partaker of His love, joy, peace and anger, etc. When the report of Sodom came to heaven, God felt bad and decided to check on the city to confirm her atrocities (Genesis 18:20-21). As God approached the city, He found Lot at the city gate, **“And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds”** (2 Peter 2:7-8). Lot felt exactly the way God felt, so he couldn't stay inside the city.

A man of God said, “Once I saw the anger on the face of the Lord, after what I did, and I vowed never to repeat it again”. You cannot be passive in God's Kingdom, you must be involved, whether in your home, church, community or nation, etc. Whatever is going wrong in your environment automatically affects you as it affects God because, **“...he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit”** (1 Corinthians 6:17). Thus we become burden bearers with God,

either for good or for bad. This was what propel Abraham to intercede for the city of Sodom and Gomorrah for the whole night, holding back the judgement of the Lord while looking for just ten righteous men.

When the things that bother God doesn't bother you, something has gone wrong with your salvation. When your local church is embarking on a community evangelism or mission, and you stand aloof, check yourself. When there's a building project going on in your local assembly, and you don't participate in the giving or helping out, your confession of Christ is doubtful. When your church is looking for volunteers in an area you can function, and you remained unconcerned, something is missing in walk with God. When prayer meeting, Bible study, evangelism, visitation, building project, etc. are not your business, check if you're still in Christ. Paul declared, **“And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you...”** (2 Corinthians 12:15).

Abraham was so involved and concerned, that when God was to send angels to destroy Sodom, **“And the Lord said, shall I hide from Abraham that which thing I do”** (Gen. 18:17). Get involved in your local assembly, it's part of your responsibility.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

The Church of the Lord is my business, I shall be involved in her growth and prosperity.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Romans 16:1-15, 1 Timothy 4:12-15, 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Introductory Text, Matthew 17:14-21

WATCH THAT MEDICAL ADVICE



Opening verse: *And Jesus answering said unto them, they that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick [Luke 5:31].*



Medical science is one of the greatest gift of God to humanity, just as all other vocations and profession. Jesus in our opening verse confirms that the sick needs the help of the physician (medical doctor). Today, many of the ailments plaguing humanity have either medications or vaccines to handle them. Daily the medical world is still working round the clock to beat several other diseases defying solutions. The corona plague is a good example; thus it will be wrong to treat with levity the advice of your doctor. Medical science is real and efficacious.

However, medical science has her limitations. Man is first a spirit being (1 Thess. 5:23), so the things of the spirit has greater effect and influence on his day to day activity. While medical science can handle the physical, it has no answer to spiritual things. This is where the Word of God and the gospel as an edge. Take the issue of sleep for an example. Medical science recommends a minimum of eight hours sleep in the night, if you don't, it will affect both your work and mental health. This is very true. But as a believer, if you spend 8 hours of every night sleeping, the forces of darkness will devour your life. Job declared, **“Desire not the night, where people are cut off in their place (Job 36:20).** Also in the story of

the wheat and tares, Jesus noted, **“But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed the tares among the wheat and went his way”** (Matthew 13:25). Watch that sleep.

Also medical science recommends we take breakfast to help our brain and health cope with the day's job. Again this is also true; yet if you don't have a day for fasting, when the problem that defies ordinary prayer comes, you will know that breakfast can also lead to breakdown. No wonder, Jesus said to his disciples, **“Howbeit, this kind goeth not but by prayer and fasting”** (Matth 17:21). When Paul was admonishing Timothy about his health he said, **“For bodily exercise profiteth little, but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come (1 Timothy 4:8).** Paul did not condemn physical exercise, but that spiritual things will do much more.

As a believer you must draw the line and strike a balance between your spiritual welfare and well-being and that medical advice, otherwise you will lose out of life.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

The Word of the Lord is sufficient for me. I will live by the Spirit and prosper. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Proverbs 4:14-18, Matthew 4:1-4, 1 Corinthians 6:12-14.

Introductory Text, Luke 9:1-6

RELATIONSHIP OR ACTIVITY



Opening verse: *And he goeth into a mountain, and called unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve that they should be with him... [Mark 3:13-14].*



It is common in Christendom to have people move from church to church; and most of the time, it's all about being in the place "where things are happening", and nothing to do with spirituality. It's just a desire for activities. Thus, it is about men, women, youth or children programs, or sometimes a praise program, or film show, etc. all of which adds little or no value to the individual. When you put these individuals to test, you will find how spiritually low they are. Many are like the fig tree that Jesus came to with the hope of finding fruits, but found nothing (Mark 11:13).

However, what builds you as a believer is relationship and not activity. Thus, all the men greatly used by God were men of relationship. God will not commit anything serious into your hands if you're not totally yielded to Him. For Enoch, scripture has it that he, "**walked with God**", until a day came, after a long walk, he never returned home; for God took him (Genesis 5:24). Noah was so trusted that God revealed to him a pending judgement of the earth and asked that he builds an ark to save his family (Genesis 6:13-14). Abraham had so much integrity that God had to take permission from him to enter the city of Sodom (Genesis 18:17-19). Moses

had power with God such that he was given revelation of the beginning of creation when he was not yet born. Hence he wrote the book of Genesis and four others.

The proof of Elijah's deep relationship with God is found in 1 Kings 19:10, **“And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of host: for the children of Israel had forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thy altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only am left; and they seek my life to take it away.”** David also yielded himself to God, so that out of that relationship came a revelation of a pattern of worship in Christendom, and wrote 73 of the 150 Psalms of the Bible. The disciples were so committed to a relationship with Christ, that they lost their identity in Him. No wonder, they behaved and spake like Jesus (Matthew 26:73, Acts 4:13).

God does not empower men that have not invested themselves in a relationship with Him. Get back to relationship, and let God use you for wonders.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I am deeply in love with you, for you loved me first. This is my strength.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Kings 17:1, Daniel 5:11-12, Acts 5:12-16, Acts 19:11

Introductory Text, Joshua 10:1-14

GOD IS THE REFEREE



Opening verse: *Who is he that saith and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not [Lamentations 3:37].*



Life is like sport; and as in every sport, there are winners and losers. But it will take the referee to declare you the winner in any contest, otherwise all your efforts would have evaporated into thin air. God's call for a relationship with Him is a call to win, and He will do everything to ensure that. Thus, beginning from Genesis to Revelation, no one walked with God and regretted. He does not only determine the events of heaven and earth, He also decides in the individual lives of every believer. When He called Abraham, He was specific, **"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed"** (Genesis 12:2-3). Indeed, God fulfilled His promise.

When Abimelech king of Gerar took Sarah, God came by night in a dream, **"...and said to him, behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken: for she is a man's wife"** (Genesis 20:3). When Sarah was to be returned, God ensured that Abimelech did not send her back empty, **"And Abimelech took sheep and oxen, and menservants, and women servants, and gave them**

unto Abraham, and restored him Sarah his wife" (Genesis 20:14). Although Abimelech was justified, in that Abraham said Sarah was his sister, yet God turned the case around for the sake of the covenant. God is the referee in the battles of your life, He will not blow the whistle until you win.

When Joshua entered into the battle to take the Promised Land, at Gibeon five Amorites kings came together with all their armies to fight Israel. But as the battle advanced and the sun receded; Joshua commanded, "**...sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon, and thou moon, in the valley of Ajalon"** (Joshua 10:12). Thus, for Joshua to win that war, God held the sun and moon still until victory was won. If God can keep the sun still, what will He not do for you? "**He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things"** (Romans 8:32). Through salvation (Christ), you're in a better position than Joshua who worked with the old covenant. Stop walking in fear, God won't blow the whistle while you're down: He will make sure you win. Hallelujah!



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Salvation through Christ has place me on the better side. I will win every battle.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Proverbs 24:16, Isaiah 41:10-16, Romans 8:31-39

Introductory Text, Roman 15:18-24

MINISTRY IN THE MARKET PLACE



Opening verse : *On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there [Acts 16:13].*



Our opening verse talks about when Paul went to the river bank to pray, and there he met some women among whom was Lydia, who he preached to and converted (Acts 16:14-15). She eventually became one of the pillars of the church in Philippi. If we are going to fulfil the Great Commission as clearly spelt out in Matthew 28:18-20, we must go beyond the four wall of the church; for a great number of people are outside the church system. They are in offices, banking halls, hospitals, cinemas, restaurants, pubs, gyms, sports centres, game centres, stadia, supermarkets, shopping malls, etc. These places makes up the market place ministry.

As the activity of the end time grows, the people that will come to church will be getting lesser by the day. Activities that will attract and distract men will be on the increase, thus it will only take the market place ministry to be able to reach every other person. If we wait for people to come to church, we would have lost half of the population in our community, because there are more entertainments on the internet, on smart phones, televisions, and the social media, etc. Even Jesus practiced the market place

ministry. **“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogue and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people”** (Matthew 9:35). Thus the ministry (gospel) that will make impact in this end time, is the one that will go out and meet the people and not the other way.

With the coming of the corona plague, the days of an absolute four wall ministry is gradually coming to an end. The Church that will grow must have both foot soldiers who will invade the market place, as well as social media soldiers who will invade the privacy of men through Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, etc. The battle for souls has shifted to a new ground; fliers, sign boards, and tracts will no longer suffice. Thus, Jesus charged his disciples, **“And ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the utter most part of the earth”** (Acts 1:8). Go out and invade the market place, that's where you'll find the souls.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I draw grace and wisdom for the market place ministry. Every soul shall be won.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Acts 8:5-8, Acts 15:36, Mark 16:15-16.

Introductory Text, Acts 10:44-48

THE WORD AS A CHANNEL



Opening verse : *I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name [Psalm 138:2].*



One way you can quickly know if a vision, prophecy, dream, thought or imagination etc. is of God, is that it will have a Word to confirm it. In other word, you will be able to locate a scripture for it. Any action you can't find a Word for, you either discard it, or handle with great caution; because everything of God has a Word around it. **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"** (John 1:1). The Psalmist in our opening verse puts it succinctly, **"...thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name"** (Psalm 138:2). Thus, just as a PVC (plastic) pipe is used to transport water into every home, the Word is the pipe that transports every instructions, promise, prophecy or purpose of God.

In our introductory text, Peter on arrival at Cornelius home, spoke to all the people the word of salvation. And scripture has it, **"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word"** (Acts 10:44). The underlined phrase, shows that the Holy Ghost did not drop on everyone in that room, except those who gave heed to the Word. The Spirit and power came upon them through the channel of the Word. We see the same

scenario in Samaria when Philip spoke to the people who for a long time had been bewitched by Simon. Thus, it was noted, **“When they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus, they were baptized, both men and women”** (Acts 8:12). The preaching of the Word changed the equation; for as soon as the genuine WORD of God came, the spell of sorcery was broken.

In the same way, your healing, deliverance, breakthrough, joy, etc. will all come when you give heed to the Word. When the Word comes, God has also arrived; the Word carries God's presence, power, authority, righteousness, grace, etc. It is the same reason why the Centurion said to Jesus, **“...speak the Word only, and my servant shall be healed”** (Matthew 8:8). Even when the Syrophenician woman met Jesus, she did not ask for the whole bread, but demanded for crumbs (just a part of the Word), and her daughter was healed the same hour (Matthew 15:28).

The Word is God's channel to every of His works, go and dig into it and locate yours.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will not slip. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalm 107:20, Matthew 8:16, Acts 9:32-34

Introductory Text, Genesis 28:1-15

JUSTIFIED



Opening verse: *And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses [Acts 13:39].*



To be justified is to be declared just, free, blameless, not guilty, not having fault, or approved of God, etc. It is the perfect single word that describes what Jesus did for us through the cross. Thus, through salvation you receive justification, which in turn makes you righteous before God. What justification does is that it makes you free from every sin, mistake, error and every shortcoming you ever committed or fell into; and this comes by merely believing in Christ, **“And by him all that believe are justified from all things....”** (Acts 13:39). For example, Jacob in our introductory text, left home as a deceiver and a thief who stole his brother's blessings and inheritance, yet God met him on the way and promised to bless him, just because he BELIEVED in the God of Abraham and Isaac his fathers.

Thus, justification is to believe and accept Christ as Lord and Saviour. It is to believe in the coming, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the one sent by God to redeem man from sin, the flesh, the world, and the devil. Until and unless you believe, you cannot enter justification with God. This is the instrument that wipes away all records of sin

against you. Without justification, the devil will torment you with guilt, sorrow, self-condemnation and failure. **“And you being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses. Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and he took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross”** (Colossians 2:13-14).

Does justification mean we are now free to sin? No! Rather justification is the reason why you must not continue in sin, because it has delivered you from what was meant to destroy you. **“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins. But a certain fearful looking for of judgement and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries”** (Hebrews 10:26-27). Thus, justification is what brings you into the unconditional love, mercy, peace, goodness, faithfulness and gentleness of God, etc. Thereby revealing sin in its true nature; as a betrayer of God's love and trust.

Therefore those who are justified have also received grace to live above sin. Sins pleasure no longer appeals to them because Christ has taken the centre seat in their heart.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Justification has brought me to a place of rest with God. I am free from every accusation

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Corinthians 6:9-11, John 8:1-11, Romans 6:1-14,

Introductory Text, 2 Timothy 2:10-17

THE GOSPEL AND ETERNAL LIFE



Opening verse: *Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, it was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles [Acts 13:46].*

When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, the primary thing he lost was the life of God. That life is what scripture calls eternal life or everlasting life. But with the coming of Christ that life was restored to us through the work of redemption. **“For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us”** (1 John 1:2). Not convinced that many would understand him, the apostle John went further; **“And this is the record, that God hath given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life”** (1 John 5:11-12).

Jesus Christ is Eternal Life, but you cannot know, have or receive Christ without the gospel. The gospel is the vehicle by which eternal life is delivered to us. To want Christ without the gospel is like wanting a car without an engine. They are inseparable, Jesus Christ is the gospel, and the gospel is Jesus Christ. **“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 Jews first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed**

from faith to faith..." (Romans 1:16-17). Thus, everything you will want to have or get from Christ will come through the gospel (Word)

Today, we have a generation of some so-called Christians who are rejecting the gospel and the Church, but say they are of Christ. Thus, they don't attend any church, but twist the Word to suit themselves and their reprobate mind. That was why in our opening verse, Paul and Barnabas said to the Jews in Antioch, **"...since you have put away the word of God from you, you have shown yourselves unworthy of eternal life"**. Unless you accept the gospel, you have no access to Christ or eternal life. This is the life that carries God's wisdom, righteousness, power, grace, strength, joy and peace, etc. Without eternal life, the Christian life will be a struggle and a total failure. It is the life that defeats sin, sickness, the world and the devil.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord I surrender to the authority of your Word, for it is the source of life and victory.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES


1 Peter 2:1-3, 1 Timothy 4:1-5, 2 Timothy 3:1-9.

Introductory Text, Romans 1:18-32

WE ARE HIS WITNESS



Opening verse: *Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness [Acts 14:17].*


Man was primarily designed to be God's witness. Man did not just carry the image and the form of God, but he was to also showcase God's righteousness, love, power, wisdom and fullness, etc. No wonder scripture said, "**...ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High**" (Psalm 82:6). But from the beginning man showed himself unstable and unreliable, thereby betraying the trust imposed on him. This is the reason why God had not left Himself without other witnesses. The creation; the sun, moon, stars, trees, seas and oceans, mountains, birds in the air, animals in the forest, all testify of God's goodness and faithfulness. Thus, man's failure did not nullify God's existence and goodness.

Looking back, we see that first, man submitted to the wiles of the devil when he went ahead to eat the very fruit he was told not to eat. To stop the evil virus from spreading further, God immediately removed man from the garden so that he wouldn't eat of the tree of life and live in sin forever (Genesis 3:23-24). After this came the generation of Noah, and that of the Tower of Babel, and then Abraham's generation, followed by Moses, Joshua, the Judges, etc. This continued but no man was found to adequately fit into God's

purpose, until Jesus came. Thus, our redemption from sin, the flesh, the world and Satan was executed by Christ (John 3:16), opening the door for us to return back to our original state as witness.

What are we called to witness to? We are to witness to God's love, righteousness, faith and faithfulness, truth, peace, purity and excellence. Everything we see of God, is what we are called to exhibit to the world. Jesus said, **"...verily, verily I say unto you, the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise"** (John 5:19). Jesus copied the Father, and became a witness of the Father's love; in the same manner, we are to copy Christ and be witnesses in every way. That was why **"...the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch"** (Acts 11:26). They became witnesses of the Christ nature. This is what you are also called to be, light to the world, and salt to the earth. You shouldn't be anything less. Glory!



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I am the light of the world, I am the salt of the earth. I will go forth and witness of God's love and power.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Matthew 5:13-16, Matthew 28:16-19, Luke 9:1-6

Introductory Text, Revelation 2:12-17

ANOTHER GOSPEL



Opening verse: *I marvel that you are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel [Galatians 1:6].*



The gospel is simply defined as good news. If we are to borrow Paul's word in our opening verse, it is about the **"grace of Christ."** Thus, it is the revelation of Christ and the grace He came with. However, two scriptures that aptly captures the definition of the gospel includes 1 Timothy 1:15, **"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."** Here, Paul declares the gospel as about Jesus coming to save sinners. The other scripture is 1 Timothy 3:16, **"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, and preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."** Here the gospel is defined in terms of the Person, the Work, the Process, and the Result. The gospel is all about God coming in human form to redeem us from sin, the devil and the world. Awesome!

Anything other than Christ and the work of grace is another gospel. Whatever promotes the working of the Law, as against the work of grace negates the gospel. It is a grace that places demand on you to be born again (John 3:7), to love righteousness and hate

sin (Ps 45:7), to be holy, pray, study the Word, fellowship with the brethren, evangelise, grow in grace, get baptized in the Spirit and manifest the fruits of faith, love, joy, peace, meekness, humility, gentleness, etc. Thus, the grace of Jesus Christ places demands, responsibilities and limitations on you. Any gospel that does not place any demand on you but gives you freedom to live and do as you like will lead to death.

When the gospel you hear or preach allows for sexual immorality, lawlessness, and says you need not pray, or go to church, but opens you to extra biblical (mystical) books other than the Bible, it's a gospel of destruction. Just as Christ in our introductory text warned the Church of Pergamos of the doctrine of Balaam and of the Nicolaitans, so did Paul warn Timothy of Hymeneus and Philetus, **"...who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some"** (2 Timothy 2:18 NIV).

True gospel will save your soul, and not get you angry with Christ and His Church. Get back to true Bible.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I am delivered by the gospel and grace of Christ. I will not be captive of another gospel.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Acts 19:14-20, 2 Timothy 2:22-26, 2 Timothy 3:1-14

Introductory Text, Hebrews 12:3-11

DISCIPLINE OR AFFLICTION



Opening verse: *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth (Hebrews 12:6)*



Everyone God loves He disciplines. The reason is because, **“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him”** (Proverbs 22:15). Going further, Proverbs 29:15 says, **“The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”** Rebuke, reproof, counsel, correction and the rod (canning) are part of God's instruments of discipline so that we might come out strong and well behaved. But if you reject God's discipline, He will leave you for the devil to do it. **“Ephraim is joined to idols, let him alone”** (Hosea 4:17). When the prodigal son refused to stay under his father's protective love, care, guide and discipline, he was let go. What he refused to learn at home, the devil taught him through severe affliction. Thus, even the food of pigs were not given to him (Luke 15:16).

Discipline is what builds character, character is what brings out the fighter and the winner in you. If you reject discipline, your destiny will remain under lock and key. All the men and women we celebrate today, either in ministry, business, education, music, fashion, trade, etc. were people who underwent some form of discipline for their dreams to be

realized. Scripture noted concerning Jesus, **“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered: And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him”** (Hebrews 5:8-9). Thus, Jesus did not become Lord and Saviour because He was a Son, but earned it through what He suffered. For Isaiah said, **“...he was wounded for our transgression, he was bruised for our iniquities”** (Isaiah 53:5).

Jacob was another person that became very great, but what he failed to learn at home after shortchanging Esau his brother, he got it in the house of his uncle Laban. Laban did not only change his wages ten times, he also changed his wife and pursued him like a criminal until they got to mount Gilead. It took God's intervention to save him from the hand of Laban (Genesis 31:29, 38-42). On the day Jacob finally met Esau, after 21 years of God's dealings, he **“...bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother** (Gen. 33:3). Thus, he had acquired character and discipline.

When you avoid God's discipline, you will fall into Satan's affliction; the first will gently build you, the latter will be forced on you. The choice is yours.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord I have chosen to stay in your discipline, for they are good for my soul.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Revelation 3:19, Psalm 119:67, 71, Matthew 11:28-30.

Introductory Text, Psalm 73:1-20

PRAYER IS DELIBERATE



Opening verse: *And he cometh unto his disciples and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, what, could ye not watch with me for one hour. Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation..." (Matthew 26:40-41).*



Life is warfare; whether you believe or not is not the issue, but sooner or later you will come face to face with situations that will put pressure on you. For the believer, the battle begins the moment we declare for Christ, but for the unbeliever it is not so. Why does it look as if the unbeliever is better off than the believer? Because the unbeliever is already a captive of the devil, waiting for the day of destruction. And when the affliction finally begins, the devil either takes away their lives, or wreck them beyond redemption. This was David's conclusion in Psalm Seventy Three as noted in our introductory text. Thus, to escape the devil, you must be deliberate in prayer; if you don't, you will suffer deliberately.

Nobody ever feels like praying. You either force it, or situation will force it on you. When Jesus got to Gethsemane, though he had been praying all his life, but the current situation demanded for more prayers. He was so burdened that he couldn't handle the moment alone, so he chose Peter, James and John to come with him. But in the heat of that spiritual warfare, the disciples battled with sleep and lost the moment. Later Jesus came and said, "**....sleep on**

now and take your rest; behold the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners” (Matthew 26:45). When you sleep at a time you should be praying, you will lose your moment to the devil. Thus, in a twinkle of an eye, they lost everything, and Jesus was taken and nailed to the Cross. But thank God for the resurrection plan, it would have been irredeemable.

When Jacob got to Mahanaim, he never planned to pray, but when information came that Esau whom he deceived 21 years ago, was coming with 400 armed men, he drove away his family that was very dear to him, and divided them into four camps, and scattered the possessions he had worked for all his life; “**...and he was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day”** (Genesis 32:24). Jacob had to force himself to pray in order to face Esau. That prayer eventually saved his life and household.

Unless you're deliberate in prayer, you will not be able to stop the rampage of the enemy; they will keep coming again and again. It's time to rise up.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I stop every enemy's rampage and operation. I take back my possessions.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Esther 4:13-16, Job 2:4, Job 36:20.

Introductory Text, 1 Samuel 25:1-13

GAMBLING IN THE CHURCH



Opening verse: *Give, and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that you mete withal it shall be measured to you again*

[Luke 6:38]



In gambling, the purpose is specifically to get a bigger returns. Nobody gambles and look the other way. Thus every gamble is played with the clear intention to get back something really big. This is the attitude of some in the church. They give with the hope of getting back something big from others or from the same person. Some will even go the length of reminding you what they gave during your birthday, marriage ceremony, baby dedication, etc. When the Bible said, **“Give and it shall be given unto you....”** it wasn't meant that you will be the one to initiate it; that is God's job. When you give and wait for somebody or the same person to give back to you, you are a gambler. This is the reason why at the slightest misfortune, they are quick to say, “But I pay my tithe”

The way of giving is clearly spelt out in scripture, **“But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: that thine alms may be in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly”** (Matthew 6:3-4). When Ananias and Sapphira gave to the church, it was for the purpose of showing off, and not out of a pure heart. That was why they kept back some part and lied to the Church. The penalty for

their deception was death (Acts 5:1-10).

When Nabal the husband of Abigail died, the same reason was behind his death. His giving was purely for business, hence when David sent men to plead with him for some food, he answered, **“Shall I then take my bread and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give it unto men whom I know not whence they be?”** (1 Samuel 25:11). All his life, he had always given to get back; thus giving to David would mean no returns but loss. His action did not only anger David, but the Lord as well. **“And it came to pass about ten days after, that the Lord smote Nabal that he died”** (1 Samuel 25:38).

Give for the glory of God, for His Kingdom, to ease the pain of the poor, for the love of humanity, and as a sense of responsibility, etc. This is what triggers, **“...good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over...”** (Luke 6:38).



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord, henceforth my giving shall be according to knowledge, and for your glory.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Exodus 35:20-29, 1 Chronicles 29:3-9, Proverbs 19:17.

Introductory Text ,Numbers 14:1-10

FAITH PURIFIES



Opening verse: *And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts with faith [Acts 15:9]..*



Our heart is crowded with many issues, as Proverbs 3:23 declares, **“Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.”** Thus, while some are consumed with the issues of marriage, some others it's about their health, finance, education, change of job, the fruit of the womb, etc. And as all of these crowd the heart, they create fear, doubt, torment and instability. James 1:8 affirms, **“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways”**. Thus, to bring stability, faith is the only remedy for such a troubled heart. Why? Because faith is the transfer of all our fears, doubts and suspicion into the hand of the Lord. It flushes out all the encumbrances and allows God's word and promises to prevail. This was Paul's defense for the Gentiles as seen in our opening verse.

Faith is what hands over your battle to the Lord, and pulls down every strong hold, thereby creating space for your destiny to rise. When you're in faith, you're also in favour with the Lord; for this pleases Him (Hebrews 11:6). Thus, all the things you were supposed to worry about becomes the Lord's; **“Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you”** (1 Peter 5:7). But for the man without faith, he

will remain at the mercy of every unpleasant events around him. When Israel did not believe God in the wilderness, for 39 years they were tormented and wasted, until the 40th year when God finally brought the remnants out.

But for Joshua and Caleb, they escaped every trouble because they believed God. What looked like giants to the whole of Israel was like bread to them. For they declared, “**....neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defense is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not**” (Num 14:9). Through faith they both entered the Promised Land and established their heritage. Their faith cleansed (purified) their heart of all the evil deposits that comes with fear, doubt and worry, etc.

Are there things that look insurmountable and beyond your reach and capacity, let faith lead you, and those things will be dwarfed before you. When the woman with the issue of blood wanted to reach Jesus, there was a crowd that stood her way; but as faith led her, she broke through the same crowd and received her healing. Faith works like a bulldozer, clearing the land for a new you to emerge. Glory to God.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Through faith, I will do great exploits. God's purpose for me shall be established. Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Mark 5:25-33, 2 Corinthians 4:18, Psalm 34:5.

Introductory Text, Acts 16:25-34

SUFFERING AND GOD'S PURPOSE



Opening verse: *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. For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake [Acts 9:15-16].*



When the Lord called Paul, He spoke about “...**how great things he must suffer for my name's sake**”. But many of us have confused suffering with affliction; the two are not the same. While the first is part of God's training programme for the chosen, affliction is about the work of the devil. Thus, suffering is about self-denial and waiting. It is the process of disciplining oneself in order to achieve a purpose. When athletes are preparing for a competition, they put themselves through rigorous training programme, exercising and cutting down on meals. It is the same with being called to work with God or to be a believer. Suffering in the context of the Kingdom is about preparing you for a great life of excellence, success and victory; otherwise you will end up a joke.

The reason why some in the church have remained unsuccessful, is because they don't want to suffer (trained/disciplined). Scripture said about Jesus, “**And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, whosoever will come after me, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, and take up his cross and follow me**” (Mark 8:34). Suffering is about cutting off youthful pleasure and lust and directing that youthful strength and vigour

to a useful venture. God wants to quickly harness you before aging sets in. You were not sent to the earth to make up the number (population, you were sent for a purpose.

When Paul entered Philippi and preached, his effort led to the deliverance of the young girl possessed with the spirit of divination, **“And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains were gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers”** (Acts 16:19). By the end of that day, Paul landed in prison. Ordinarily, prison represents retrogression, stagnation, shame, failure, etc. But through the same incarceration, Paul led the jailer, his family and other prisoners to Christ. In other word, the purpose of that arrest or “suffering” was to bring salvation unto many. This is what God does through that pain or “suffering” you're avoiding. Thus, unless you see the purpose in every suffering, you may miss God and your blessing.

Find your purpose, and let God determine how you get there.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, now I know that “suffering” is a special purpose vehicle for my lifting. I yield to it.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Matthew 10:37-39, 1 Timothy 5:6, 2 Timothy 2:22-26,
Hebrews 5:8-9

Introductory Text, Job 1:1-5

DENYING UNGODLINESS



Opening verse: *Teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world [Titus 2:12].*



Darkness does not go unless you shine the light, **“And God said, let there be light, and there was light”** (Genesis 1:3). In the same way, evil will not go unless you fight it. If you expect crime and criminality to just disappear in a city, town or community without fighting it, you have just opened the flood gates of hell. Thus, anything you're not intentional about, good or bad will not answer to you. When Apostle Paul wrote to Titus that they should deny ungodliness, he was simply saying, **“Fight it”**.

The devil has skillfully repackaged evil, wickedness, witchcraft, immorality and all forms of unrighteousness and pass it back to us through television, internet, social media and every available space or vessel he can find. Evil is everywhere; in books, cartoons, playgrounds, sports centres, restaurants, etc. It will take you to intentionally tell yourself and your love ones, where to go and where not to go; what to watch and things not to watch; what to eat and what not to eat; friends to make, and those to avoid, etc. One of the reason why God came to Job's rescue was because he was a man who lived life intentionally. **“I made a covenant with my eye, why then should I think upon a maid”** (Job 31:1).

When God was preparing to go and destroy Sodom, He said concerning Abraham, “...**shall I hide from Abraham that which I do.... For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgement....**” (Genesis 18:17, 19). Thus Abraham was an intentional man, so God could trust him. The devil will present many things to you, such that from the face value, they look harmless, but once you get into it, you will be trapped. Those who became drunkard started with sips of alcohol, and gradually moved up. Same with hard drugs, it all starts small; until they get to the point of no return.

If you don't fight lying and exaggeration, it will trap you; if you don't fight porno, it will trap you; if you don't fight gossiping and back biting, it will trap you, etc. Paul said, “**All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any**” (1 Corinthians 6:12). The power to determine the things that will not hold you are in your hands, use it.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I break every evil hold and set myself free from the power of the enemy.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Romans 6:14, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, John 14:30

Introductory Text, Luke 10:38-42

CHURCH OR HIS PRESENCE



Opening verse: *Thou will shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forever more [Psalm 16:11].*



When Jesus started the Church, Judas Iscariot was part of it (Matthew 10:2-4). When Pentecost came with a mighty revival, Ananias and Sapphira were also part of that move (Acts 5:1-3). Same could be said of the city of Samaria, when Philip initiated another move, Simon the sorcerer was among the brethren (Acts 8:9-12). The summary is that the Church have always been a mixed multitude. God wanted it so, **“Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth”** (1 Timothy 2:4). So don't be alarmed by what you see in or hear about the Church, they are part of God's wisdom.

However not many are taking advantage of the mercy and love of God seriously, and get saved. So what we have is many coming to Church but not in His Presence. What does it mean not to be in His Presence? It is to come to Church and not get born again. It is to come without being imparted or undergo any change. It is to come to Church without hearing, reading or doing the Word. It is to be engaged with activity and not with Christ. It is to hide and dominate in a department and not engaged with God. It is to be in a Church, and not part of the

move or works of God. It is to be above correction, instruction, counsel, or rebuke of the Church authority, etc. **“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learnt, and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the heart of the simple”** (Romans 16:17-18).

But to be in God's Presence is simply to be engaged with the Word and prayer. Peter and the disciples while avoiding to be dragged into church politics, said to the church after the overflow that came with Pentecost, **“But we will give ourselves continually to prayers, and to the ministry of the word”** (Acts 6:4). They understood that going outside these two instruments will weaken the Church, so they gave themselves fully to it. The result was that the Church greatly multiplied and spread to every other city, and at Ephesus, **“So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed”** (Acts 19:20).

So, watch it and don't let the activities of the Church take you away from His Presence.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I am captured and captivated by His Presence.
Here will I stay, grow and thrive.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Acts 6:1-7, Philipians 3:17-18, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13.

Introductory Text, 1 Kings 20:13-30

MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS



Opening verse: *And there came a man of God and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, thus saith the Lord, because the Syrians have said the Lord is the God of the hills, but he is not the God of the valleys, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I am the Lord [1 kings 20:28].*

Mountains represents high points and valleys represents low points; and life is all about these two experiences. The high points or mountain experience represents days of breakthroughs, victories and successes; but the low points come when all our efforts seems not to be yielding any fruit. It is for this reason, many are quick to conclude that God has abandoned them. But this is not always so, for God is a God that stays with His own, come rain come shine.

The story in our introductory text, is about Benhadad a king in Syria who had a very large and formidable army. So he decided to take on Israel after several other successes. Then Ahab, king of Israel sent emissaries to plead with Benhadad, but he rejected all the entreaties and vowed to destroy Israel. But God rose for Israel and with a very small army they defeated Syria. **“And the servants of the king of Syria said unto him, their gods are the gods of the hill; therefore they were stronger than we; but let us fight them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they”** (1 Kings 20:23). After the defeat of the Syrians on the mountain, they decided to fight Israel on the plain; and again God crushed them and

gave Israel the victory. The Lord proved Himself as a God of the mountain and of the valley.

In the same way, God never abandons you, your experiences notwithstanding. Whether you are in the mountain or in the valley point of life, He is there with you. There are somethings you will never know or appreciate until you get to the valley side of life. The valley experience is meant to make you stronger, wiser, better and build your faith, and not to destroy you. When Shedrach, Meshach and Abednego were to be thrown into the fire, God didn't stop it, but He went ahead of them into the fire, where the trio later joined Him for a family discussion (Daniel 3:24).

Are you going through the valley phase of your life, don't be afraid. He is there with you to make sure you're not consumed by the fire, but purified by it. Praise God.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

The Lord is my keeper, He will keep me from fainting, falling and failing. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Isaiah 43:1-2, 2 Corinthians 4:8-12, 16-17, Psalm 34:17-19

Introductory Text, Luke 4:1-14

EXERCISING POWER



Opening verse: *But when the multitudes saw it they marveled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men [Matthew 9:8].*



Our opening verse tells of how Jesus healed a man suffering from the palsy (paralysis). And when the people saw it, they “...glorified God which had given such power unto men”. Why did they use “men” to describe Christ work? Because when Jesus came to the earth, He did not come as God, but as human. Everything that made Him God was left in heaven, that was why after accomplishing his assignment, He prayed, “...I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was” (John 17:4-5). He was simply asking for the restoration of His place as part of the Godhead (Trinity). Thus, while He was here on earth, He was 100% human, and every power He exercised were generated in the place of prayer and fasting.

Several references abound in scripture of how Jesus generated power; “**And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God**” (Luke 6:12). To imagine that Jesus enjoyed special privilege as a Son, for the reason behind all the miracles He performed has no scriptural backing. Thus, in one

reference, it was said, **“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings”** (Hebrews 2:10 NKJV). Jesus went through hard suffering, yet He came through every experience and defeated sin, the flesh, the world and the devil. But for you, **“In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood”** (Hebrews 12:4 NIV).

If Jesus could rise from the level of a man to become Lord, you have no reason to be spiritually lazy. Your adversities and adversaries can be defeated in the place of prayer; go and generate power. Stop looking for excuses for failure, look for solution. In another occasion, Jesus got to one of the Samaritan villages and the reception was poor. Angered by this, James and John said, **“...Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven and consume them even as Elias did?”** (Lk 9:54). The disciples had power and they were ready to exercise it.

You also can generate power in the place of prayer and fasting, and stop that demonic harassment.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Every hold of the devil is today shattered to pieces.
I reject every form of bondage.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

James 5:17-18, Luke 10:17-19, Acts 4:23-31, Hebrews 2:14-18

Introductory Text, 1 Samuel 28:1-11

SILENCE FROM HEAVEN?



Opening verse: *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani? That is to say, My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me? [Matthew 27:46].*



Twice Jesus experienced dead silence from heaven. First was in the wilderness, when He was being tempted by the devil. The second was at Calvary, while on the cross. Why was heaven silent at the most critical time of His life? Because He was undergoing his test; and no examiner is permitted to discuss with the student or the student with the examiner during a test, otherwise it will amount to cheating. There will always come a season of silence in the life of a believer, no matter how spiritual you are. Everyone will go through the wilderness and Calvary season of their life. Why is it so? For the very same reason Christ went through it. To test and prove your love, and strengthen your faith, etc.

Silence is not abandonment, but it is to see what you will do when no one is watching. Your true character (person) is what you put up when no one is watching. This was where Adam failed. He was left with a garden with everything he could ever wish for, but the only one thing he was told not to eat was what he ate (Genesis 3:11). Silence is what God uses to check the contents of your heart, mind, motives, cravings, desires, secrets, your love and hatred.

When Hezekiah the king was sick and cried to heaven, God answered him. The same thing happened when the enemy rose up against him in a battle. **“Howbeit in the business of the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to inquire of the wonder that was done in the land, God left him, to try him, that he might know all that was in his heart”** (2 Chronicles 32:31).

Saul the first king of Israel also fell in the time of heaven's silence. **“And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urims, nor by prophets. Then said Saul unto his servants, seek me a woman that had a familiar spirit that I may go to her...”** (1 Samuel 28:6-7). Thus, Saul eventually sought for a witch because God didn't answer him. In the place of silence, desperation will reveal everything hidden inside of you. Be careful of your actions, inactions, choices and decisions when things seems not to be working; you may just be undergoing a test. Wait for the Lord, He never comes late.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

In the day of my test, O Lord, I will not fail but wait for your Word and promises.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Isaiah 28:16, Ecclesiastes 3:11, Job 14:14, Habakkuk 3:17-19

