

Introductory Text, 1 Samuel 17:32-37

## PRAY OR PREY



**Opening verse:** *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour [1 Peter 5:8].*



**A** prey is an animal hunted for food by a larger or stronger animal. For instance, lions hunt goats, bulls, giraffes and elephants, etc. Thus, while the goat is the prey, the lion is the predator. The conflict between the believer and the kingdom of darkness is not anyway different; for the devil operates as a lion, seeking whom to devour. If you don't pray, you will be his prey. This was the case with James, when he was arrested by Herod in the days just after Pentecost. And as the Church sat back and did nothing, but hoping for a miracle, only to wake up the next day with James head already taken out. So when the same Herod arrested Peter, the Church knew better what to do; so they prayed and got Peter rescued. (Acts 12:1-7). Your prayers is what triggers heaven's response.

As a believer, you must understand how the spirit realm operates, otherwise you won't last. The principle is simple; kill or you'll be killed. No wonder scripture said, "**...cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood**" (Jeremiah 48:10). If you're not chasing something, something is pursuing you; if you're not fighting, you're losing; if you're not rising, you're falling; and if you're not succeeding, you're

failing, there are no middle part. We are in a warfare with the kingdom of darkness; and that war started from the day you declared for Christ. Your finance, career, family, health, etc. are all the target of the enemy; if you don't fight, you will be their prey.

Samson was going for his wedding, when suddenly a lion appeared on the way to stop him. But as the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, he took the lion and tore it to pieces, and later got honey out of his carcass (Judges 14:5-8). In the same way, the enemy will wait for you on the day of your joy; get ready. When David kept the family flock, first came a lion, and then a bear, to steal from the flock; but David went after these beasts and slew them both. While testifying of what the Lord did, David said to Saul the king, **"Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them..."** (1 Samuel 17:36).

If you're going to survive the times that we are in, pray; otherwise you will end up as a prey in the mouth of the lions of this world.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I resemble the Lion of the tribe of Judah; I take down every adversary and adversity. Hallelujah!

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalm 11:1-7, Psalm 53:4, Psalm 22:1-21.

Introductory Text, Acts 19:1-7

## HOLY GHOST: OUR NEW TREND



**Opening verse:** *I indeed baptize you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost [Mark 1:8].*



**E**very institution, community, trade or vocation, etc. have certain trend (new thing) they follow per time or season. For instance, the corona plague changed the way of doing business; thus online meetings and transactions is now the new trend. The same happened between the Old Testament and the New. Before Christ, baptism by immersion was the trend, and this was preached and practiced by John. However, when Christ came with the message of being born again, baptism in the Holy Ghost became the trend. Thus, those who desire power and greater knowledge of God, baptism in the Holy Ghost is the way forward, even as Jesus told the disciples, **“But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...”** (Acts 1:8). Therefore, it wasn't a surprise that the great result accomplished by the disciples, was by the power of the Spirit.

The Holy Ghost is God's new syllabus for the Church (believer). Even Jesus had to be baptised with the Holy Ghost before He could enter into God's programme; **“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the**

**Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him”** (Matthew 3:16). Without the Holy Spirit you cannot know or handle the things of God. He designed the earth, gave breath to man, initiates and executes all of God's programme. Outside the Holy Spirit you are totally incapacitated even of the things that concerns your life. That was why Paul said, **“Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God”** (1 Corinthians 2:12).

One of the reason why the ministry of Jesus was fiercely resisted was because the chief priests, Pharisees, Sadducees continued in the old syllabus of Moses' Law; and since they did not know, care or desire the Holy Spirit they remained in darkness. In the same way, you will remain in darkness as to the will of God and the direction to take if you're not baptized in the Holy Ghost. Part of the work of the Holy Spirit is to guide, counsel, instruct, teach, direct, enlighten, encourage, comfort, help, strengthen and inform, etc. Thus, a believer that is less of any of the work of the Holy Spirit will be susceptible to Satan's wiles. Come out of the Old and enter the New by the Spirit.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I drop the old and embrace the newness and power that comes from the Spirit.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Corinthians 2:6-16, 1 John 2:27, John 16:13-15

Introductory Text, Acts 6:1-7

## THE WORD IS HEALTH



**Opening verse:** *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you [John 15:3].*



**T**here is a major link between the Word of God and our health. Thus, at the beginning of the Exodus, God told Israel that if they diligently hearken to His voice (Word), none of the diseases that came upon the Egyptians will be found amongst them (Exodus 15:26). Other scripture is found in John 6:63, **“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the WORDS that I speak to you, they are SPIRIT and they are LIFE.”** If the Word is spirit and life, then it will minister health and healing to the body, so will it give Life and vitality. No wonder, Jesus never experienced any health breakdown, being regular in the study of the Word. **“And he came to Nazareth where he had been brought up; and as his customs was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath say, and stood up to read”** (Luke 4:16).

The secret behind the disciples' divine health can also be traced to the Word, as they followed Jesus' pattern of reading scripture regularly. Hence, when trouble came with the growth of the Church, they refused to be distracted, saying, **“But we will give ourselves continually to prayers and the ministry of the Word”** (Acts 6:4). Thus their busy schedule coupled with a very large church could not break

them down. But the present Church has not followed the pattern of regularly reading the Word, thereby giving room to the devil to torment her body. Today, cases of cancer, heart problems, kidney disorders, liver failures etc. has become a common occurrence.

Thus, apart from healthy diet and regular exercise, the place of scripture cannot be ignored, hence Proverbs 4:20-22 admonishes, **“My son, attend to my WORDS, incline thine ear to my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are LIFE unto those that find them, and HEALTH to all their flesh.”** The farther away you are from the Word, the less of health you will enjoy; for the Word serves as a hedge against the enemy. No wonder, the devil could not bring Job down, until God removed the hedge about him. In one occasion, Job said, **“Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the WORDS of his mouth more than my necessary food”** (Job 23:12).

Get back to healthy living, as you give more attention to the Word. Like Job, esteemed the Word more than any other thing.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thy Word is in my spirit and on my lips. Health and vitality are mine in Jesus' name.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Timothy 4:6-8, Jeremiah 17:14, Jeremiah 30:16-17.

Introductory Text, John 21:15-23

## IT'S A PERSONAL WALK



**Opening verse:** *And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him [Genesis 5:24].*

There are three stories in the Bible that aptly captures what happens to believers when our walk with the Lord is not perfect; recall the Lord told Abraham, “...**walk before me and be thou perfect**” (Genesis 17:1). The stories are that of the city of Jericho in the days of Elisha (2 Kings 2:19), Jesus and the fig tree (Mark 11:12-13), and the lame man by the beautiful gate (Acts 3:1-2). Concerning Jericho, the city looked pleasant but had bitter water; so was the fig tree looking beautiful, until Jesus approached it and found no fruit. Also the temple of prayer was beautiful, but a lame man sat by gate, corrupting its beauty. When as a Christian your life is not producing fruits of love, godliness, righteousness, truth, faith, and joy, etc. you're like Jericho with bitter water, the fig tree without fruit, or the beautiful temple with lameness at its gate.

Thus, Christianity is not about the size of your Church, or about the large image and reputation of your pastor, but about you and the Lord. The best your Church or pastor can do for you, is to give you the Word; but what you do with the Word is in your hands. Thus, there are many spiritually lame people in big assemblies, but matured and bone (Word)

crackers in small Churches. When Jesus started the Church, he gathered fishermen and laymen and taught them the Word; and with no education, they became miracle workers, evangelist and apostles. Yet in the same Jerusalem, where men like Nicodemus, a Pharisee and highly educated in the Law of Moses, but not able to understand what it meant to be born again, saying, “...**can he enter the second time into his mother's womb and be born?**” (John 3:4).

Christianity involves personal study of the Word, prayer, fasting, vigils, retreats, and of speaking in tongues. There must be a cry and an urging to know God more, outside what you're taught. You must be a doer of the Word, and your hunger for God must be devoid of competition, comparison, contention and striving with other men. It is a walk to stay in your calling, and not trying to outshine or outwit the other person. When Peter in our introductory text wanted to know what was told to John, Jesus answered, “...**what is that to thee? follow thou me**” (John 21:22). He simply meant, mind your business.

Stay in your lane, grow in faith and in grace; and become a champion in your own right and time.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Through Christ, I walk and grow in grace; and daily producing fruits of righteousness.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Thess. 4:11, 2 Corinthians 10:12-18, 1 Corinthians 1:10-17, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9



Introductory Text, Matthew 25:1-13

## LIVE READY



**Opening verse:** *And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut [Matthew 25:10].*



**L**ife does not wait for men: what you don't prepare for will either elude you, or be taken from you. The only way to beat time (life) whether of the things of the Kingdom or of things of this world is to live ready. Living ready is simply preparing and working ahead of time. It is to be diligent and to put-in every necessary effort to qualify for that job, appointment, office, calling, marriage, etc. Paul understood this; so, apart from Jesus, he was the only one that could boldly say, "**...I have finished my course...**" (2 Timothy 4:7). Paul pushed himself so hard, such that he had extra time; saying to the Philippian church, "**I'm torn between two desires; I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. But for your sakes it is better that I continue to live**" (Philippians 1:23-24 NLT).

Knowing the danger of been entangled and distracted by many things, the same Paul warned Timothy, "**Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who had chosen him to be a soldier**" (1 Timothy 2:3-4). Many believers don't

know that we are in a war situation with the powers of darkness; and their singular purpose is to make sure we miss out not only of life here on earth, but also in heaven. Thus the enemy will throw many spanners on your wheel of progress to make you get angry, live in unforgiveness, envy, prayerlessness, fear, doubt, etc.

When the five foolish virgins took their lamps without oil, it was because they got carried away by other things; and the price they paid for that error, was that they missed their breakthrough (lords) when it came. Any time you spend on things that do not add to your destiny or purpose, is a time lost that may never be recovered again. To meet up with purpose, you must properly schedule your time and programme to be in sync with God's programme. Jesus said, **"I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day, the night cometh when no man shall work"** John 9:4). He was simply saying, "I will live ready".

Pursue every legitimate course, purpose or assignment with zeal, vigour, passion and seriousness, then will you not miss your time or place.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

By the grace of God, I will finish my work and reach my goal and destiny in record time.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Romans 13:11-12, Ephesians 5:14-17, 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Introductory Text, 1 Samuel 16:15-23

## SPIRITS AND OUR ACTIVITIES



**Opening Verse:** *For we are not fighting against flesh and blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in the dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places [Ephesians 6:12 NLT].*



**O**ur opening verse states clearly that our warfare are against spirits and not humans. In other word, everything on earth has spirits behind them. This is not to create fear, but to let you work with knowledge; because knowledge is one of our weapon of warfare. Thus, every business, vocation, career and profession have spirits behind them. That is why you find people of the same profession or job behave in similar ways. Also, cities, towns, streets, houses, and persons all carry spirits. It is the same reason you find people from the same place act similarly. Paul spoke about the “**beast of Ephesus**” (1 Corinthians 15:32), and of the city of Crete, he said, “**The people of Crete are all liars, cruel animals and lazy gluttons**” (Titus 1:12). David himself said, “**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me...**” (Psalm 23:6), thus he was just talking about spirits (angels) from God.

All of these translate to one thing, that the activities we engage in transfer spirits to us. The film you watch, the music you listen to, the book you read, the persons you walk or work with, etc., all of these activities imparts you with spirits. For instance, when you are reading a romantic novel, you

suddenly get aroused by the acts behind those letters. The same thing happens when you are watching a horror movie, you are immediately wrapped up with fear. Why? Because the spirits behind those acts enters us. When Saul the king of Israel got sick, they sent for David to play with the harp, and every time he plays, the king gets relieved, because those musical rhythm brings God's spirit into the environment (1 Samuel 16:23).

Thus, when Peter said, **“As new born babes desire the sincere milk of the word of God, that ye may grow thereby”** (1 Peter 2:2); his counsel was not just limited to spiritual growth, but also about taking-in the Spirit of God. Thus, just as worldly acts imparts you with negative spirits, so does reading the Bible create an opening for the Holy Spirit, the wisdom, power and knowledge of God to enter you. For scripture gives access to everything of God, because it is the breath (Spirit) of God written in letters. Thus, whatever good thing you desire, look for scriptures behind them, and soak them into your spirit man. And very soon, you start manifesting the good.



#### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

God's Word is His breathe. As I read the Word,  
I'm translated into the image of His Son.

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#### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Philippians 4:4-9, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, 1  
Corinthians 6:12-20.

Introductory Text, Mark 6:17-23

## HALF OF THE KINGDOM



**Opening verse:** *And he sware unto her, whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom [Mark 6:23]*



**T**he place of providing everything for everyone belongs to God. That is why He is called El Shaddai – the Great provider. Man was never designed to be your provider, because he doesn't just have that capacity; he is limited in every way. Man can only do just a little, thus if anyone tells you, "Ask anything, and I will do it", it's either he's joking, or just trying to communicate his appreciation of what you did. But in reality, no one can meet all your needs. So when Herod asked the daughter of Herodias to name whatever she wanted, he quickly added, "**...unto the half of my kingdom**", because he cannot give all. But it is not so with God, hence Jesus said, "**Fear not little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom**" (Luke 12:32). God is the only One that can give you the Kingdom (everything), and not diminish.

So, when Herod used the phrase, "half of the kingdom", it was a ploy to secure an escape route from his promise. Because no man will give you what will make you equal to or higher than himself. What are you looking for? Turn to the Father who can give you all things, and yet not be afraid or threatened by what you will become. The Psalmist

said, “...let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant” (Psalm 35:27). Your prosperity is God's greatest desire; the higher you go, the more glorious it gets.

In the story of the man by the pool of Bethesda, one of the reason why the lame man stayed long at that pool was because he was waiting for a man to help him. Thus when Jesus charged him to rise, he said “**Sir, I have no man...**” (John 5:7). So, for 38 years, he had been waiting for a man, but no man came. When your focus is on a man, you will miss God's provision, but when you focus on God - the El shaddai, He will send help. Isaiah warned, “**Stop trusting in mere humans, who have but a breath in their nostrils. Why hold them in esteem?**” (Isaiah 2:22 NIV). In other word, man is just one breath away from death; he can be taken any time.

Get your focus off men, and look unto Him who is able to supply all and keep you till the end.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord, you are my focus and provider, I will trust no man, but you for my daily supply.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalms 121:1-8, Philippians 4:19, Hebrews 12:2, Hebrews 13:5-6.

Introductory Text, Romans 4:13-25

## FAITH IS ABOVE ALL



**Opening verse:** *Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked [Ephesians 6:16].*



**W**hen Paul spoke about the whole armour of God in Ephesians 6:14-17, he listed the six of them, being the helmet of Salvation, breast plate of Righteousness, belt of Truth, shoe to preach the Gospel, and the Word, which is the sword of the Spirit, but added, “**above all, taking the shield of faith....**” Why is faith described as above all? Because it is the principal instrument that shows you believe God. Moreover, because all the other armours still requires faith for them to deliver their work (result). Take for instance the breast plate of righteousness, without faith, righteousness cannot be credited to you. This is what we see concerning Abraham, for he believed God, so it was counted for him for righteousness (Genesis 15:6). It is the same with other armours. Thus until faith is in place, the capacity to deliver is zero.

When the centurion requested for Jesus' intervention for his sick servant, he said, “I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof, but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed” (Matthew 8:8). Jesus responded by commending his faith through his word, saying, “.....**verily, I say unto you I have not found so great faith, no not in Israel**” (Matth. 8:10). It was his faith that delivered

the healing to his servant. Thus, without faith the power behind the Word is made null. As it is with righteousness, so it is with the Word and every other armour.

When Stephen and Philip stepped out to preach the gospel, it was their faith that made the gospel produce result. For Stephen had entered the midst of the most educated people, yet through faith, he silenced them (Acts 6:10). In Samaria after Philip's evangelistic effort, scripture has it, "**And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did... And there was great joy in that city**" (Acts 8:6, 8). Thus, the presence of faith, meant the manifestation of healing and miracles, and its absence implies the same. Faith affects every aspect of our walk with the Lord; whatever grace or gift you possess, without faith they cannot deliver.

So, when you look at the life of Abraham, it was not only righteousness he got by faith, but every other thing in his life came through faith. He defeated barrenness, poverty and stagnation; and every enemy that came his way submitted. Thus, faith is the victory.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

By faith I breakthrough all the walls and barriers of life, and get my victory. Hallelujah!!!

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 John 5:4, Hebrews 11:8-11, Hebrews 11:17-22,



Introductory Text, Mark 9:42-50

## SALVATION AND CONVERSION



**Opening verse:** *And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, before the cock crow, thou shall deny me thrice. And he went out and wept bitterly [Matthew 26:75].*



**T**here is a great difference between salvation and conversion. Salvation i.e. being born again is to confess and accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, but conversion is a process (journey) that can last as much as the individual allows God. Thus the quicker you submit to God's dealings, the quicker your conversion. Why some people's conversion happens immediately after salvation, some others take weeks, months or years. Take for instance the case of Peter in our opening verse, though he had accepted the Lord (born again) three years earlier, but his conversion actually took place after the experience of denying Christ thrice, for scripture said, “**....And he went out and wept bitterly**” (Matt. 26:75). That was a state of brokenness, a place where every believer must get to.

Thus, major signs of conversion are brokenness, soberness, disdain for sin, love for righteousness, hatred for iniquity, godly fear and godly sorrow, etc. But these things are not easy to find among the modern day believer. Rather what we see are men and women that are bold in sin and in unrighteousness. Thus, the singular difference between Judas Iscariot and Peter was conversion.

After Peter sinned, he had godly remorse, repented and went back to the disciples, but that was not the case with Judas; though he returned the money but went and hanged himself. This is the sign of repentance without conversion (brokenness). **“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death”** (1 Corinthians 7:10).

Today, there are many born again but few that are converted. Jesus in our introductory text gave us some few signs of men that have experience conversion. They are men and women who will give up anything, including a part of their body just to escape going to hell. They would rather enter heaven maimed than remain complete and end up in hell. When you are still giving reason for sin, conversion has not yet taken place. When sinful acts are “nothing” to you, you’re are yet to experience conversion. While referring to Lot, Peter said, **“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)

After salvation, go further and experience genuine conversion, so that your citizenship of the Kingdom is secured.



#### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord I surrender to your dealings. Take me and make me into that person you want.

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#### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalm 38:18, Psalm 51:1-19, Galatians 2:20.

Introductory Text, Acts 3:1-8

## ONE HOUR



**Opening verse.** *And he cometh unto the disciples and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, what, could you not watch with me one hour? [Matthew 26:40].*



**S**ome persons have asked, “How long is an effective prayer?” That may be very difficult to answer. After all, Elijah's prayer that shut the heavens for three and half years was not more than 10 seconds (1 Kings 17:1). And when Peter prayed for the lame man by the beautiful gate, that prayer would not have lasted 30 seconds (Acts 3:6). Also, when Jesus raised Lazarus from death, the prayer couldn't have been more than 20 seconds, saying, “**...Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that hearest me always; but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus come forth**” (John 11:40). But when He was to choose his disciples including Judas Iscariot who betrayed him, He prayed all night (Luke 6:12-13).

In other word, situations vary, and as they vary, they affect how long we stay in prayer. But at Gethsemane, Jesus revealed in clear terms the minimum time to spend in prayer. Thus, as He saw Peter, James and John slumbered in the heat of the moment, He charged, “**...what, could you not watch with me one hour?** (Matthew 26:40). Thus,

one hour is our minimum. You must understand that the things of the Kingdom are timed (Ecclesiastes 3:1), if you don't time your prayer, you will not be very effective in praying. That was why the disciples had a specific time, “...**being the ninth hour**” when they go to the temple to pray (Acts 3:1).

Why then must your prayer be a minimum of one hour? Because God exalts intimacy over every other. The longer you stay in God's presence, the more you absorb (know) of Him, and the more He gives to you. Remember the case of Moses, whom after 40 days in God's Presence, he became transparent, having absorb much of God (Exodus 34:29-35). Also it was said of Jesus that he “...**ordained twelve that they should be with him...**” (Mark 3:14). In other word, Jesus wanted fellowship above any other thing. For intimacy (fellowship) is the strength of Christianity. Just like every love affair needs time to grow, so is our relationship with the Lord. When Peter denied Christ, the people around said, “...**surely you are also one of them, for your speech betrays you**” (Matthew 26:73 NKJV). Unknowing to Peter, he spoke like Christ, having absorbed so much of Him.



#### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I choose to stay in your presence and take more of you. For there I find life.

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#### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalm 16:11, Exodus 34:29-35, Luke 1:59-63.

Introductory Text, Isaiah 14:9-16

## THE SPIRIT IN MAN



**Opening verse.** *But there is a spirit in man:  
and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them  
understanding [Job 32:8].*



**A**t creation, God made man perfect, but that virtue was later lost after the encounter with the devil in the Garden. Ever since, the spirit in man has become corrupted, and it takes being born again, and a steady walk with the Lord to get you back to that original state. Thus, because the spirit in man is corrupt, it only gives expression to your anger, pride, hidden resentment, rebellion, disobedience, etc. It works by exposing you unknowingly. When Satan said he was going to be like God and sit upon God's throne, he never verbalized it, but said it in his heart, yet God picked it. This was what Hannah meant when she said, **"...for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by his actions are weighed"** (1 Samuel 2:3).

Thus, what you express by your actions are known to God, and to as many that carry His Spirit. When Esau said he will kill his brother, he said it in his heart, but Rebekah picked it on Esau's face (Genesis 27:41-42). When Judas Iscariot began to switch allegiance, Jesus also knew; and on the communion table He said to Judas, **"...what you are about to do, do quickly"** (John 13:27 NIV). When Satan focused his radar on Peter, Jesus also detected it, saying, **"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have**

**you, that he may sift you as wheat"** (Luke 22:31). The spirit in man is what the devil targets, if you don't deal with that spirit through drastic and enforceable transformation, Satan will trap, use and destroy you.

God is able to pick (detect) what you're going to do a million miles away before you do them. That was why He said, "**...Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated**" (Roman 9:13), because He saw what they will do in their future. The question is, why does God not change a man before he manifests his evil act? Because man was created a free agent, to make his own choices; but angels have no such privilege, they are mandated to do God's bidding. So, you are the one that has to deal with your character flaws and short comings by submitting to God. Unless you willingly submit to God, He will let you be. Even Jesus was not compelled but He willingly yielded to the Father (Philippians 2).

Your beauty and glory, etc. are all hidden under the spirit in man, deal with that spirit by yielding to God, and see your destiny emerge.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

My spirit is yielded unto you O Lord, make me conformable to the image of Christ Jesus

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Philippians 2:5-11, James 4:7-10, Matthew 18:7-9, 1 Corinthians 9:27.

Introductory Text, John 14:1-14

## ONE MEDIATOR



**Opening verse:** *For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus [1 Timothy 2:5].*



**T**here is a huge difference between the physical world and the spiritual. The way things are done in the physical are completely different from the spiritual; and when you try to force the same pattern on either sides, you may create more problem than you can handle. For instance, if you are to physically travel from one city to the other, there may be two or three ways to do that, such that if one way fails, you can take another. But in the spirit, it is not so. When they say there is only one way to get to a place or get something done spiritually, you can be sure you will not find another. No wonder Jesus told Nicodemus, “...**ye must be born again**” (John 3:7). He meant, no other option.

When Joshua laid a curse on the city of Jericho saying, “...**cursed be the man before the Lord who rises up and build this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his first born, and with the youngest shall he set its gates**” (Joshua 6:26 NKJV); and Hiel a regional leader in the days of Ahab king of Israel, tried to build Jericho, every curse Joshua laid on that city came to pass in his family (1 Kings 16:34). Thus, the city was abandoned until Elisha the prophet, who occupied a right and higher place with

God, came and broke the curse, “... **he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there and said, thus saith the Lord, I have healed these waters...**” (2 kings 2:19-22).

Similarly, when scriptures says, Christ is the only mediator between God and men, what it means is that, any other way is not only false but an invitation or an open door to the demonic. When Saul the king of Israel was faced with a war with the philistines and he sought God's help, but heaven did not respond to him. To get to speak to Samuel, he ended up in the hands of a witch doctor (1 Samuel 28:3-8). Today, in an attempt to find other ways to God, many religions troubling the world have emerged and several others through sorcery, divination, enchantment, necromancy, stargazing, magic, etc.

Christ was emphatic when he said, “**I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me**” (John 14:6). Stop looking for other ways outside Christ, so that you don't end up in the hands of demons.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I have chosen the way of Christ, I know no other way to salvation and victory.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Acts 4:10-12, Colossians 1:13-19, Acts 14:8-17, Acts 17:28-31,



Introductory Text, Acts 9:36-42

## MIRACLES



**Opening verse:** *And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul [Acts 19:11].*



Jesus was an excellent story teller, thus every of His preaching, teachings and works were all lined up with stories and parables to enable Him pass the message of the Kingdom. But beyond the stories, He was also a miracle worker; not once did he preach without a miracle following. In Nazareth, His own village where they didn't believe Him, yet scripture said, "....he laid his hands upon a few sick folk and **HEALED THEM**" (Mark 6:5). God never planned the Church to run like a place for seminar, where you come to hear stories and go home afterward. God designed the Church to be a solution centre, a place to bring answers to people's questions, worries, troubles, fears and anxiety. Miracles are one of the ways to make that happen.

A miracle is simply to bring God into the equation (situation) so as to give you an edge over other men. If you don't desire or want a miracle, then you will not be different from the ordinary man on the street; you will share in their delay, shame, toil and sicknesses, etc. If your life continues in this 'slow motion' as it is presently, you may never achieve your goal. How did you think Jesus was able to accomplish the work of redemption in just three years if not for miracles? How did Paul overtake all

the other apostles of Christ if he had not been a miracle worker? Our opening verse reveals, **“And 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).

When Dorcas died, the people didn't send for Peter to come and tell the story of what happened in Jerusalem, No! Neither were they interested in money, but for Dorcas to come back to life. Thank God Peter didn't fail. Similarly, you will come across situations that will defy your education, status, connection or money, it will take only a miracle to escape the devil. Miracles are part of the ways we outsmart the devil; it's a Kingdom benefit. You must not only desire it, but also pray for a daily experience as Isaiah said: **“Behold, I and the children whom the Lord hath given me are for signs and wonders in Israel from the Lord of hosts....”** (Isaiah 8:18).

Like Paul, go beyond the ordinary and become a miracle worker yourself. Be a solution and not the problem.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father thank you for the miracle of salvation. I will be an instrument of miracle to others

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Mark 1:21-28, Mark 3:1-5, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5,  
1 Corinthians 4:20.

Introductory Text, Daniel 10:1-14

## BIRTH YOUR DREAM (1)



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

When God made man, He didn't make him to fail or to be poor. No one life was meant to be miserable; everything to make life pleasant and beautiful was given to every man until Satan disrupted that plan, and stole men's destiny. In describing the devil, Isaiah said, **"That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners"** (Isaiah 14:17). The moment the devil takes a man, he takes everything along. The only way to come out is to fight, for the devil never gives up anything unless you engage him forcefully. This is the summary of Jesus' charge in our opening verse.

One of the major spiritual weapons you must engage, if you ever want to recover your destiny is prayer. Prayer is a spirit; prayer is a force; prayer is a personality of its own. A man of God once said, "What God can do is what prayer can do, and what prayer can do is what God can do". They're inseparable, because the Spirit of prayer is the Spirit of God. The devil is ready to give you anything, either the best paid job or the most profit yielding business, as long as you don't pray. The reason is that when you pray, you're invoking God into the atmosphere. Prayer does not only affect you, but also

disrupts every other evil activity in the entire spirit realm where you're located. Thus, when you pray, everything stands still, until when you're done. That was what Daniel did in Persia. For as long as he was praying, the Prince of Persia – the demon responsible for the whole region of Persia could do nothing.

When you pray, you dislocate and rearrange things to suit you. All the ancient landmark that has been before you were born are shifted and dismantled to accommodate you. Thus the force of prayer can break anything. This was the case with Jabez. Though his mother curse him because he bare him in sorrow, but when he went to the place of prayer, all the forces raise against him were broken, and his destiny released. Scripture concluded, “...**And God granted him that which he requested**” (1 Chronicles 4:9-10).

Jesus birth his destiny after forty days and forty nights of intensive prayers (Matthew 4:1-2). The disciples birth theirs at the Upper Room and brought down Pentecost (Acts 1:13). Go birth yours.



**MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER**  
set myself apart to pray and get back that which  
the enemy stole from me. Praise God!

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**ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES**

Luke 5:16, Luke 18:1, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5,  
Ephesians 6:12.

Introductory Text, Acts 9:1-11

## BIRTH YOUR DREAM, PART 2



**Opening verse:** *Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting [Matth. 17:21]*



**W**hen the Pharisees asked Jesus why his disciples were not fasting, His response was very clear and specific, "...**Can the children of the bride chamber fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days**" (Mk 2:19-20). No one fast while a wedding party is going-on, but they eat, drink and celebrate. The coming of Jesus to the earth was our short moment of feasting, but now that He is gone to be with the Father, we have finally entered the season of fasting. Moreover, because the devil knows that his time is short, he is more fierce and deadly, it will take more than prayer to break his hold. Fasting is that higher form of prayers.

When God made us, He made us unique. Thus, every life is special, and everyone with a special assignment. What this means is that, no one can do better what you were designed for. You are the best form of yourself, there's no other one like you. When the Lord met Paul on the way to Damascus, it was intentional; because he had the education, zeal, passion, and ruggedness that the Lord needed to

execute the next phase of the spread of the gospel – which was the salvation of the Gentile nations. Thus, God chose Paul for that assignment. But as Paul went home, he chose to fast and pray, and as he engaged in this three days exercise he qualified himself for the high calling of God.

For Jesus, it was a forty days and forty nights of fasting and prayer in the wilderness. Same was said of Moses (Exodus 24:18) and Elijah (1 Kings 19:8). Each of these men had a special assignment. It is the same with you. Your calling (destiny) is special and powerful, you must go beyond the normal prayer and engage the instrument of fasting to enter into it. There are many lives, possibly communities, cities or nations whose liberation is directly dependent on how you respond to the demand of God on your destiny. Paul responded appropriately and got the result. No wonder he was able to boldly say, **“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith”** (2 Timothy 4:7).

Don't let your dream slip away on the altar of food and drink, engage fasting and break out of every obscurity.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father I will pursue my destiny vigorously, and achieve its fullness. Amen.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Ezra 8:21-23, Acts 27:21-25, Acts 13:2-3,  
1 Corinthians 6:12-13.

Introductory Text, Hebrews 11:1-22

## BIRTH YOUR DREAM, PART 3



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



**F**aith is an instrument of birthing destiny (dream). While fasting and prayer produces great result, faith makes it happen quickly. It is the short cut to entering destiny, because it is the only thing scripture says pleases God (Hebrews 11:6). So, while fasting and prayer is the use of force to achieve destiny, faith is giving God that which pleases Him. Naturally, when you give a man a gift, he becomes more disposed to you. It is the same with God. When Isaac was about to die, he asked Esau his first born to go and prepare him pottage, so that he can pray for him and bless him. Esau obeyed his father and hit the road, but while he was still in the forest searching for meat, Jacob sat at home and his mother prepared the same meal and placed it in his hands to serve his father Isaac. **“And Isaac said unto his son, how is it that thou hast FOUND IT SO QUICKLY, my son? And he said, because THE LORD THY GOD BROUGHT IT TO ME”** (Genesis 27:20).

Thus, while fasting and prayer is about you going out in search of your destiny, faith works the other way round. It brings your destiny to you, because God responds quicker to faith, just as it happened to Jacob. We know everything in heaven and earth

came by faith; “...so that the things which are seen were not made of things which do appear” (Hebrews 11:3). In other word, God Himself had to use faith. And by faith Abraham was counted righteous, Sarah brought forth Isaac, Jacob produced the twelves tribes of Israel, Joseph commanded his children not to leave his bones behind in Egypt, Moses carried Israel from Egypt through the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land, etc. All by faith.

Does this in anyway diminish the instrument of fasting and prayer? No! Every instrument has its specific place and use. Recall when the disciples brought to Jesus the young man that suffered epilepsy because they couldn't heal him? But Jesus ministered to him, and afterward turned to the disciples saying, “...**this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting**” (Matthew 17:21). In other word, there's a place for fasting and prayer, and there's a place for faith. Yet faith eliminates every struggle, because it gives you a place in God's heart; and this is what takes over your battle and give you rest.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

By faith, I plunge into the unknown and breakforth in destiny. No more delay Hallelujah!

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 17:11-14, Mark 5:25-34, Mark 10:46-52.



Introductory Text, Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

## REST



**Opening verse :** *And he said unto them, come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat [Mark 6:31]*



**A**s much as God wants us to work, because that is part of His nature (John 5:17); He also wants us to rest, for God Himself rested after creation (Genesis 2:2-3). He designed rest into the human system as part of the ways to keep man strong and alive. There is never an end to work, there will always be something to do. **“All things are full of labour, man cannot express (finish) it....”** (Ecclesiastes 1:8 NKJV); thus you must space out your work so that you have time to rest. **“There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God”** (Ecclesiastes 2:24).

There are three major dangers of not resting. Firstly, man was never designed to keep working on and on without a break. It will lead to a breakdown of both physical and mental health. When this happens, then the individual will need a longer rest, possibly in the hospital.. Secondly, when you don't rest, you will not have the strength to continue your work. It is in the place of rest we get replenished. When Jesus saw that the disciples could not even find space to eat, he told them, **“....come ye apart into the desert place, and rest a while...”** (Mark 6:31). He knew they needed

strength for the next day's work. Thirdly, you need rest because fatigue can lead to bad decisions and choices, and even death.

Looking at our introductory text, it starts with, **“There's a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens”** (Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV). When you don't obey or observe this rule, you are working against nature; and nature will fight back. Even Jesus couldn't break the rule. On the way to Gadarene, after a long day's work, as He entered the boat with his disciples, he went straight to the inner part and slept off. Not even the storm could wake him up (Matthew 8:23-24). In the same way, don't allow any situation overwhelm you, take time out to rest and possibly take a good sleep; it will help recalibrate your brain. God will take care of your issues even while you're asleep. That is why our greatest rest is in the place of faith in God.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Lord for being my source and strength. I rest in your Word and promises.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Peter 5:7, Ecclesiastes 5:12, Hebrews 3:18-19,  
Hebrews 4:3.

Introductory Text, Acts 8:9-23

## WINDOW OR DOOR CHRISTIANITY



**Opening verse:** *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved and shall go in and out, and find pasture [John 10:9].*



**T**he Church of the Acts of the Apostles is completely different from the present Church. Then, salvation or being born again was the entry point for every member, but that is no longer so; for the Church is now thrown open to all, and God allowed it, **“Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth”** (1 Timothy 2:4). However, not many are taking advantage of this provision, but have remained passive. Thus, you have in the present Church, ushers, choir, protocol, prayer warriors, counsellors, etc. majority of which became workers in the Church through a training process, but not through a salvation process.

When your membership or work in the Church is not by being born again, you are a window Christian. In other word, you didn't come in through the door, for Jesus said, **“I am the door”**. Thus, Christianity does not come through good works, civility, education, employment in the church, donation, etc. It comes by confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and accepting to walk in His way. **“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart God hath raised him from dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man**

**believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”** (Romans 10:9-10).

Cornelius was a generous giver, feared God and prayed often, yet God demanded he sends for Peter to lead him to salvation (Acts 10:1-5). So was Nicodemus, who was well read and highly placed in the society, but Jesus said to him, **“ye must be born again”** (John 3:7). Too many people entered the Church through the window, and that's why there're many contradictions in the present Church. Simon the sorcerer entered the Church, yet his focus was for power. When you have people join the choir because they have good voice and can sing well, watch it. When you have someone join the protocol unit because they've got good looks and dress well, watch it. When you select teachers for the youth and children church because they speak good English, watch it. When you make your ministers out of good job and good education, watch it. God told Samuel, **“...for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart** (1 Samuel 16:7)

The Church is a spiritual institution, to manage her effectively, you need men and women that have received Christ and filled with the Holy Ghost.



#### **MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER**

Father, let Christ be formed in me again, as I yield myself to Kingdom work.

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#### **ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES**

John 3:1-7, Acts 2:37-42, Acts 6:1-7.

Introductory Text, 2 Timothy 2:14-26

## WHAT VESSEL ARE YOU?



**Opening verse:** *If any man therefore purge himself of these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work [2 Timothy 2:21].*



**P**aul in our introductory text started by telling us the different kinds of vessels that can be found in a home: vessels of gold, silver, wood and earth, etc. He went further by breaking them into two categories; vessel of honour and vessel of dishonour. To be a vessel of honour, you must purge yourself of dead works or of works of the flesh. In other word, you are the one that will determine which vessel you will be, as in the case of Judas. **“Then one of the twelve called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, and said unto them, what will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver”** (Matthew 26:14-15).

Thus, Judas on his own chose to go to the chief priests to negotiate a reward to capture Jesus. He was the one that chose to be a vessel of dishonor. But how did he get here? It all began when he started stealing from the general purse of the disciples as revealed in John 12:5, **“This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein”**. Thus, as he continued, it became easier for the devil to use him; **“Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve”** (Luke 22:3). At

this point it became irreversible, for what he loved had finally trapped him; and the only way out was down.

We have all been given the capacity to resist sin, so that no one falls. Paul said, **“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to men, but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able to; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it”** (1 Corinthians 10:13). Thus, when you fall to sin, it is simply your refusal to exercise the power given to you. When Potiphar's wife held unto Joseph garment, he pulled himself out of the garment and ran away (Genesis 39:12). You also can break that evil vice, attraction, addiction and voices, etc.

The power to say yes or no to sin is in your hands; what you do with that power will tell of your life's outcome.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

The Lord has placed me above sin, I will not be captured by the wiles of the devil again.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Corinthians 6:12-20, 1 Corinthians 15:56-58,  
Romans 6:11-14.

Introductory Text, Genesis 6:1-22

## GOD'S LOVE



**Opening verse:** *This is real love - not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins [1 John 4:10 NLT].*

**G**od's love is the greatest force on earth. Everything God did, and still doing and will continue to do are all based on His love, and not His judgement. The Psalmist said, **"If thou, Lord shouldst mark iniquities, who shall stand"** (Psalm 130:3). Thus, it is because of His love that we live. God hates sin, and He will at the end of age punish every work motivated or driven by sin. Yet His readiness to shower you with His love is much greater than His readiness to punish you for sin; so don't let your heart be driven by fear. God's love is too good to be missed, He is more interested in winning you over than in sending you to hell, contrary to many teachings. What will God gain sending you to hell, when hell was never designed for man but for the devil (Isaiah 14:9-12)?

God's willingness to endure our sins and mistakes cannot be better described than the way Peter puts it, **"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"** (2 Peter 3:9). In verse 15, he went further to say, **"...bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation"** (NIV). God is more interested in your salvation than in your

destruction. As long as you're still in the flesh and still alive, God will keep loving you.

Before the first earth was destroyed by flood, the Lord came through Noah to warn that generation of the need to repent. Noah was 500 years old when the Lord spake to him (Genesis 5:32), but the rain did not start until Noah was 600 years of age (Genesis 7:11). Thus God waited for 100 years for men to repent. The same scenario played out during the days of Solomon king of Israel. As Israel began to slide further into sin, God kept sending prophets to warn the nation of the pending judgement. But God's judgement of sending Israel into exile in Babylon did not come until the time of Zedekiah. Between the time of Solomon and Zedekiah, there were over thirty kings spanning more than 250 years. Truly, God is long suffering.

There's no amount of sin that God will not forgive, and He will wait for as long as it is necessary; but don't reject His love, so that you don't see His judgement.



#### **MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER**

Thank you Father for your immeasurable love and patience. I embrace this love and salvation.

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#### **ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES**

John 3:16, Ephesians 3:14-20, Romans 5:6-11,  
Hebrews 10:26-31.



Introductory Text, Genesis 19:1-26

## LOT'S ESCAPE



**Opening verse:** *And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground [Genesis 19:1].*

**H**ave you ever thought, how did Lot escape the judgement that fell upon Sodom and that which also fell on his wife when she became a pillar of salt? The answer is right there in our opening verse, “...and Lot sat at the gate of Sodom...” To sit at the gate of the city is to separate oneself from what is going on in that city. It is to boldly say, “I will not be part of what they're doing”. Apostle Peter captured it this way, “**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 was not only troubled on the inside, he made his displeasure of the sins of Sodom known to everyone, even his family; by distancing himself from them.

You cannot sit with persons who are watching pornography, gambling, smoking, planning evil, gossiping, etc. and all you can say is, “Don't do these things it's not good”, but you refuse to separate from them. Don't you know that, “...evil communication corrupts good manner” (1 Corinthians 15:40). The writer of Proverbs puts it this

way, **“Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go. Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare for thy soul”** (Proverbs 22:24-25). Separation is the major sign or message to onlookers and to heaven that you are not part of every wrong assembly.

Eli the Priest made the same mistake and lost his priesthood. When the report of his sons' evil came to him, all he did was to warn them (1 Samuel 2:22-25), but the Lord expected him to go further by removing his sons from priesthood, yet he did not. Scripture revealed God's anger in His conversation with Samuel, **“For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knoweth: because his sons made themselves vile and HE RESTRAINED THEM NOT”** (1 Samuel 3:13). To restrain is to stop. Eli did not stop his children from performing the duties of a priest, even in sin.

If you're going to escape God's judgement, then you must break every friendship with the world. Your stand for the Lord and His righteousness must be known to all.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I stand for the Lord, and separate myself from every form of unrighteousness. Amen.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalm 26:1-12, James 4:4, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20,  
Hebrews 13:11-14 NIV,

Introductory Text, 1 Samuel 4:1-11

## THE PHILISTINE'S EXAMPLE



**Opening verse:** *Be strong and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men and fight [1 Samuel 4: 9].*



**T**he battles of life are not only won on the altar of strength, but boldness and courage also plays a very important part. The lion attacks the elephant not because he is stronger, but because he is very bold. When David stood before Goliath to challenge him, it was not because David's strength could match that of Goliath, but because he was bold and courageous, knowing the God he served. To be bold and courageous is to have the mindset of a winner even before the battle begins. It is to be daring and ready to face anything. It was the same thing the Lord told Joshua after he took over from Moses; **"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest"** (Joshua 1:9).

In the days of Eli and Samuel, the Ark was not just a box but a symbol of God's presence and power. But after the death of Eli, when the Philistines came up for battle, Israel sent for the Ark both for defence and warfare. **"And when the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel shouted, so that the earth rang again"** (1 Samuel 4:5). Israel shouted after receiving the Ark, yet lost that battle with thirty thousand soldiers slain by the Philistines. Why did

Israel lose? Sin of course. God could not compromise His integrity for a sinful people.

But how did the Philistines win that battle, when they had a lesser god compared to the God of Israel? They even acknowledged the power of the God of the Hebrews, saying, **"...woe unto us, who shall deliver us out of the hands of these mighty Gods? These are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness"** (1 Samuel 4:8). Yet in their submission, they added, **"Be strong, quit yourselves and fight like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews ..."** (1 Samuel 4:9). Thus, what their god was lacking in its ability to deliver, they made up in boldness and courage. They were ready to die than be slave to Israel.

Thus, if those who knew their god was lesser, yet daring; why are you afraid, you whose God is Mighty. Quit fear; be bold and courageous, your God is able to deliver.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord I yield to you totally; believing in your ability to save and deliver. Hallelujah!

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalm 34:5, Proverbs 28:1, Daniel 3:16-18,  
1 Samuel 17:44-47

Introductory Text, Acts 12:1-11

## STOP THE ARREST



**Opening verse:** *Then they took him, and led him and brought him into the high priest's house...* [Lk 22:54].



**T**he arrest of Jesus was a major part of the redemptive process. If He had resisted or stopped the arrest, He would have altered and made null the programme of God for man. Thus, humanity would have remained in bondage to the devil and the elements of this world. Knowing this, Jesus said to those who came for him, **“Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scripture be fulfilled...?”** (Matthew 26:53-54). Thus, Jesus submitted to the arrest so as to fulfil scripture.

Thus, the lesson to learn here is this: what you don't stop will arrest you; what you don't stop will stop you; what you don't stop will take you; what you don't stop will alter the course of your life, etc. When Jesus refused to stop the enemy, He was arrested. This strategy of the devil runs through the whole of the Bible. In the days of Herod, when the Church did not stop the arrest of James, they woke up the next day only to receive his dead body. And scripture said, **“And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also...”** (Acts 12:3). When you don't stop the devil, he will keep coming again and again, until he wipes out

everyone. The city of Antioch witness one of the greatest revival just after Pentecost in Jerusalem (Acts 11:26-27), but today Antioch, which is in the modern day Turkey has less than 1% Christians.

Thus, to stop the madness of Herod after the arrest of Peter, “...**prayer was made without ceasing of the Church unto God for him**” (Acts 12:5). As they prayed, God stepped in and broke the power of the arrester, and set Peter free. It took the angel breaking the chain tying Peter to the ground, and walking him through three major barriers; the first, second and the iron gates. Peter's ordeal and final escape paints a perfect picture of the kind of spiritual forces behind the arrest of destinies. For Samson, they shaved his head, plucked out his eyes, chained him, and took him away like a criminal (Judges 16:21).

Christianity is not a joke, we are fighting a real and an authentic devil. Get serious with your prayer life. Don't wait until you're arrested, it may be too late. Fight, so that you can enter into the redemptive life that Christ paid for.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, you've made all things available to me. I will not give-in to the devil.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 16:16, 1 Corinthians 16:9, 1 Thessalonians 2:18

Introductory Text, Acts 9:1-15

## GOD'S VOICE



**Opening verse:** *While he yet spake, behold a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him [Matthew 17:5].*

The scripture is God's voice: pure and simple. If you ever want to hear or know how God speaks, read the Bible. Thus, every line of the scripture represents God's voice. Those who say they don't know how God speaks, they are simply saying, "I don't read the Bible". Every letter, word, phrase and sentence were crafted by the Holy Spirit to us as God's instructions, warnings, directions, counsel, rebuke and commandments, etc. Paul noted, **"All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"** (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Someone might ask, how do I hear God audibly? For scripture said, God spoke to Moses mouth to mouth as a man speaks with his friend (Numbers 12:8). The principle is the same, the more you read the Bible, the more you know His voice and receptive to it. Let's look at Paul's encounter with the Lord on the way to Damascus. When the Lord met him and called, "...Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (Acts 9:4). Paul answered, **"...who art thou Lord? And the Lord said I am Jesus whom thou**

**persecutest...**" (Acts 9:5). The question is, how did Paul know that it was the Lord speaking? Here is the answer. Paul was a Pharisee before his conversion, and one of the major condition to qualify for that office, is that you are required to read the entire Old Testament several times over until you can recite it off heart. It was the strictest sect of all the Jewish religion (Acts 26:5).

In other word, Paul had been reading the Scripture; so when the Lord called him on that road, he was able to immediately pick the voice, for it was similar to the voice of scripture. He knew God through Scripture, but never believed and accepted that Jesus Christ was that same person Scripture spoke about. However, his doubt came to an end immediately he heard that voice; as it was in Scripture. When Jesus Himself went to the temple to read the scroll (the Bible), He told them, "**...This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears**" (Luke 4:21). In other word, what they had been reading was standing right in front of them. Read your Bible, and you will not have any problem hearing God or knowing His voice.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord, your voice is assuring and peaceful to me. I will not fall to the devil's wiles.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

John 20:11-18, Psalm 29:1-11, John 21:1-7, 12



Introductory Text ,1 Thessalonian 2:1-12

## SIGNS OF TRUE SALVATION



**Opening verse:** *For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you [2 Corinthians 1:12 NKJV].*

**W**hile writing to the Corinthian Church, Paul in our opening verse, noted two of the most basic character or signs of true salvation, being simplicity and godly sincerity. These two things you will find in a true believer, in the absence of the ability to speak in tongue or quote scriptures. When you can't find any of these in a believer, it's a red flag. Genuine Christianity compels you to walk in the truth, and truth has no other shade or form; truth is truth. Jesus said, "**Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth**" (John 17:17). It is this truth that makes you walk in simplicity and godly sincerity.

Thus, we walk in simplicity and sincerity because there's nothing to hide. We don't live a fake life, but of purity, plainness and empty of evil devices. Whatever question, instruction, or command you give such a fellow, it is carried out without fear or doubt of the other person. David, after committing adultery with Bathsheba, Uriah's wife, did everything to cover up his act, but failed. Finally, David wrote Uriah's death letter and gave it to him, and Uriah in his integrity, simplicity and godly sincerity, gave the same letter Joab, the captain of Israel's army, and died in the process; "**...but the**

**thing that David had done displeased the LORD”** (2 Samuel 11:27). What a price to pay? Thus, Uriah went home, just as Stephen and Jesus, as Kingdom champions.

In the absence of simplicity, what you have is deception, lie, doubt, suspicion and questions, as we see in David. A deceptive fellow will twist, analyse and diagnose every instruction because he or she doesn't want to be outsmarted. The individual's mind is constantly processing every question or instruction, not wanting to be “used”. A good example is Ananias and Sapphira, who having sold their land, came with the money but less of the full price. But the Holy Spirit could not be lied to, so He struck them both to death; and allowed them direct passage to hell (Acts 5:1-11).

The difference between a person of simplicity and godly sincerity, and a deceptive person, is that the first ends in honour, and the other ends in dishonour. The power and beauty of Christianity is not in the ability to outsmart others, but in the ability to yield to others.



### **MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER**

Father, once again, I yield to your dealings. Let me walk in the simplicity that is in Christ.

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### **ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES**

Romans 15:1-4, 1 Corinthians 6:7-8, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 2 Corinthians 4:1-2

Introductory Text, 1 Samuel 17:32-40

## BUILD YOUR OWN



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

When Jesus came to earth, He met a structure in place through which the Jewish religious leaders ministered to the people. The Pharisees, Sadducees, chief priests and the scribes had a religious structure, which was firmly rooted in the culture, custom and psyche of the people. To break it was a no-go area, so Jesus created His own; and this He called the Church. Before Christ, there was nothing called Church, but men gathered under different names as seen in Acts 6:9.

Why did Jesus create the Church? Simple! His message, style and assignment was completely different from that of the other religious leaders of His time, thus He had to create a new platform to pass his message. The other reason why Jesus created the Church is seen in our opening verse, “...and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). Thus, the structures Jesus met on ground were susceptible to satanic destruction, but the Church will not. This is the simple reason why the Church has survived every attack for over 2000 years. Hallelujah!

In the same vein, you are unique. The plan and purpose of God for your life is completely different

from any other person. The only way your dreams, vision, ideas or purpose can see the light of the day and survive is that you build your own. You can't impose or place your dreams on other person's platform. Even if they allow you, most likely it will not fit, because that structure was not originally designed to carry your own dreams but theirs. It is like putting a square peg in a round hole. When Saul the king gave David his armour and coat of mail to go fight Goliath, David couldn't move an inch with it. Why? Because they were not designed for him but for the king. **".....I cannot go in these, he said to Saul, because I am not used to them..."** (1 Samuel 17:39 NIV). You cannot go in other men's garment (structure), it just wouldn't work. Goliath eventually came down by David's own structure (instrument).

You must build something to fit your own dream. It may not necessarily be that you start a new company, business, church, etc. It is not every time you break away to start a new thing, but it's about knowing what God called you to do and pursuing it without upsetting any balance, hurting anyone, losing friends or love ones.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

God's purpose for me is made clear. I will pursue it and excel in it. Hallelujah!

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Mark 1:16-20, John 6:67-69, Acts 18:1-6.

Introductory Text, Matthew 20:20-28

## LONGSUFFERING



**Opening verse:** *My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you [Galatians 4:19].*



Salvation, that is, being born again comes the moment we confess Christ, yet the actual transformation (change) takes time. For some, that transformation may just be for a day, for others, it could take a year or more, etc. Thus, when men are led to Christ, their sins are immediately forgiven, but their change to the Christ-like nature requires time. That period between salvation and transformation can better be described with the word longsuffering. It is the process of waiting until Christ is formed in the fellow. This was Paul's concern to the Galatian Church as in our opening verse.

None of us became what God wanted from the first day we accepted Christ, but God had to suffer long (wait) until we were formed. In the same way, you will have to wait for as many as you lead to Christ. In the Church, you will find the rebels and disobedient, the passive and faithless, the proud and arrogant, the immoral and worldly fellow, the educated, the illiterate, the wise and crafty, as well as thieves, etc. All of these men and women are part of the soldiers of the Cross, but you have to wait for them to be formed. If you handle them the same way, you will again lose them to the devil.

The disciples of Jesus had different characters and traits, it took Christ three years to form them, but for Judas Iscariot who had to fulfil the prophecy of damnation (Acts 1:16). Thus while Christ was still with them, scheming and politicking was already at play as we see with the mother of James and John. **“And he (Jesus) said unto her, what wilt thou? She said unto him, grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on the right hand, and the other on the left in thy kingdom”** (Matthew 20:21). This was the same thing Paul found in the Galatians church; for many had abandoned their spiritual walk for carnal pursuit.

The problem of mixed multitude had always been in the Church, if you don't have long suffering, you will have no fruits for your labour of soul winning, prayer or preaching. To drive (push) your converts or members at the same speed will kill some of them; and those who cannot bear your push will go back to the world. Thus, you must understand that we are not all the same, as our stages of transformation differs. Long suffering is required, otherwise you will destroy the Church that Christ died for.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Father for waiting for me to be formed.  
I will keep walking until I'm perfected

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Genesis 33:12-14, Exodus 11:4, Acts 20:28-32, 1  
Peter 5:1-5

Introductory Text, 1 Samuel 11:1-5

## PRAY IN VICTORY



**Opening verse:** *I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting [1 Timothy 2:8].*



**I**n the time of trouble, there's always a motivation to pray. The bad situation on ground will normally prop you to pray, and the aftermath of such prayers is victory. The case of Hannah in Shiloh is a good example. When Penninah mocked her for not having a child, she was forced to pray. That fervent prayer produced Samuel, the first prophet and priest of Israel (1 Samuel 1:6-20). But when victory is won, many go back to the state of prayerlessness, opening the door for the devil to again plunder them. As in the case of David, **“And it came to pass after the year was expired, at the time when kings go to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Moab, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still in Jerusalem”** (2 Samuel 11:1).

The simple reason why you must pray even in the time of victory is because your victory can be lost (stolen). Darkness is never completely out of sight, rather darkness is always hiding at the fringes of light; waiting for a light out. David won every of his battle, until he decided to stay back in Jerusalem, **“at the times when kings go forth to battle...”** He

rested at the most critical time when he was not supposed to. To stop praying because of the several victories you've had, is the worst mistake to make as a Christian soldier. The Apostle Peter warned, **“Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”** (1 Peter 5:8).

Samson never prayed, all because he had the Nazarite covenant working for him. And as he moved from victory to victory, he became more careless until Delilah came his way and turned him to an ordinary man. In his broken state, he decided to pray, **“...O God that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes”** (Judges 16:28). Yet the prayer came too late, and at the end he lost everything. Don't be like Samson. Don't wait until the time of trouble before you pray; that may come too late, but pray without ceasing as Paul admonished (1 Thessalonian 5:17). In good and bad times, keep praying. Let prayer become a way of life for you, then will you be able to withstand the devil when he comes. You will win.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord the armour of prayer you've given me will not rest. I will keep wielding that armour to the end.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 18:1, 1 Samuel 1:9-10, Luke 5:16



Introductory Text, Job 1:8-22

## BRINGING UNTO GLORY



**Opening verse:** *In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered [Hebrews 2:10 NIV].*

Looking at the gruesome pain and suffering Jesus went through right from the time of his arrest, judgement and crucifixion, one may be tempted to ask, "Why must it be this way?" But the answer is right there at the beginning of our opening verse, "**In bringing many sons and daughters to glory....**" Jesus went through the cross so as to bring us to the place of glory, the very thing we lost at Eden. Thus, glory represents God's awesome presence, peace, love, joy, provision, protection, etc. It is one word that captures God's full essence in a place or person.

When Moses finished the work of the Ark, and everything was put in their place according to God's instructions, the glory came down and enveloped them, "**Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode there, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle**" (Exodus 40:34-35). In the same manner, when Solomon had finished the temple, "**And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the**

**Lord. So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the temple” (1 Kings 8:10-11). Also, when Jesus had accomplished His work, He prayed; “...Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was” (John 17:5).**

But the absence of glory is shame, nakedness, failure, poverty, sickness and all kinds of adversity, etc. Until you're in the place of glory, you are susceptible to every arrow and the workings of the devil. When the hedge (glory) surrounding Job was removed, it didn't take too long before the devil dismantled him; and turned Job to a shadow of himself. So bad was his case, when his friends came to console him, they couldn't recognize him. **“And when they lift up their eyes afar off, they knew him not, and lifted up their voice and wept...for they saw that his grief was very great” (Job 2:12-13).**

Jesus has paid for all your grief and pain, and given you glory; insist on the glory, and reject shame. Hallelujah!



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Father for giving me glory in the place of shame. I am secured in Christ.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 9:28-33, Isaiah 53:4-11, Colossians 1:27.

Introductory Text, Mark 5:1-15

## DEMONS KNOW THEIR PLACE



**Opening verse:** *And all the devils besought him, saying, send us into the swine, that we may enter into them [Mark 5:12]*



**F**rom the beginning God created man as a co-partner, co-worker with the Godhead (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit). Man was meant to take charge of the earth for the Godhead, and this was the reason God put His Spirit in man (Genesis 2:7). Man is an extension of the Godhead, hence the Psalmist revealed, **“I have said, ye are gods, and all of you are the children of the Most High”** (Psalm 82:6). But all that was lost when the devil came into the garden and planted disobedience into man. But by redemption through Christ, we regained our place as God's temple. **“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are”** (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

Thus, when Satan came with his rebellious angels (demons), they knew that destruction awaited them if they enter the human vessel as it was in the days of Noah (Genesis 6:1-3). But to achieve their evil purpose, they made sin attractive. Thus sin is the licence for demonic occupation and invasion. As long as you live in sin, you have provided a fertile

ground for demons to thrive. The city of Gadarene was such a place, and the demons in that environment found resident in the mad man that lived by the grave yard. But as Jesus passed through that road, the demons knew the game was over. **“And he (Jesus) asked him, what is thy name? And he answered saying, my name is legion: for we are many. And he (mad man) besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country”** (Mark 5:9-10).

The demons knew that they were in a wrong place by residing in a human vessel, so the only way to remain in that country was to negotiate their own exit into the herd of pigs. Yet the pigs also rejected them and dived straight into the river and committed mass suicide. If pigs as dirty as they are, can reject demons, you have no business carrying them. When you give your vessel to anger, bitterness, unforgiveness, hatred, envy, drugs, alcohol, lust, sexual immorality, pornography, evil and wickedness, etc. you are providing grounds for demons. Stop yielding your body to demons, your body is holy, and meant for God and good works. Keep it so.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Never again will I yield my body to demons through sin. I will live holy. Praise God.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, Ephesians 4:23-32.

