

Introductory Text, Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

DAILY NEWS OR DAILY TROUBLE?



Opening verse: *I will hear what God the Lord will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints; but let them not turn again to folly [Psalm 85:8].*



The greatest enemies of faith are the things we see, hear, read or listen to. When Jesus got to Jairus house, he was met with the news of the death of the young girl, but to quickly break the hold of the air of hopelessness, Jesus, “...saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, be not afraid, only believe” (Mark 5:36). And when it was time to minister to the child, and free the atmosphere of fear, Jesus again, “...put them all out...” except the father and mother of the child (Mark 5:40). If you want your faith to produce result, there are things and people you must put away. What you give your ears, eyes, nose or sense of touch to will either help or hinder your faith.

Common amongst the things we give ourselves to is, daily news. And in these days of social media, they have become readily available. Thus, no news is considered good except it has bad stuff in it. Good news don't sell, only bad ones do. So, both the mainstream media, social media, internet, newspaper, etc. are all packed with bad and debilitating news. They carry stuffs that will cripple and destroy your faith. It is either the news is of war, economic down turn, inflation, unemployment, business closures, fall in the stock, ritual killings and

death, etc. By the time you're through with these bad news, you would have been completely drained of faith.

Margaret Thatcher, the former Prime Minister of Britain stopped reading her dailies in the morning, but only in the evening at the close of work. When asked why, she went ahead to tell of how on several occasions newspaper report wrecked her mood, hence she decided finishing the day's work before reading the dailies. Never start your day with news report of events around the world, they were designed to kill your spirit and drain you of life. Start with Kingdom news, and receive hope and encouragement for the day. The Psalmist said, **"I will hear what God the Lord will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people..."** (Psalm 85:8).

God has reserved abundant life for you as you fellowship with Him daily. No wonder David said, **"...in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and I will look up"** (Psalm 5:3). Get your focus off daily news, and go for the Word, that is why the gospel is called Good News.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

My attention is turned to the Kingdom, there will I draw strength, hope and peace daily.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

John 10:10, Psalm 68:19, Psalm 121:1-8

Introductory Text, Mark 5:1-15

FORCE THAT PRAYER



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



Prayer is not cheap, prayer is not easy; so don't let anyone tell you it is. If prayer was easy why do men pay money to get others to pray for them? The question therefore is, why is it difficult to pray?

First, prayer is spiritual in nature, but man is a physical being. Thus, bringing those two world together can be a challenge. At Persia, Daniel was praying, and for 21 days war was ragging between his angel, Gabriel, and the prince of Persia, the demon in charge of that territory (Daniel 10). Also God was on His way to judge the city of Sodom, and Abraham stood up to pray for the city, it took God having to negotiate with Abraham, before God's entourage could enter Sodom (Genesis 18:16-33). In Revelation 5 and 8, the prayers of the saints came unto God as sweet aroma/odours. As all of these men prayed, they triggered spiritual activity and conflict. Thus, it will take a force to pray because it is spiritual in nature. No wonder Jesus said, “...**the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak**” (Matthew 26:41).

The other reason why prayer is a challenge, is because the world we live-in is controlled by the

devil, and everything in it is wired to resist the believer. Jesus Himself declared that the devil is the prince of this world (John 14:30). So, if you're going to pray, you must force yourself to do so; for you're never going to find a good time, condition, place or situation to pray. No, you won't find one; but as you force a 10 minutes prayer today, the next time it increases to 20 minutes; and as you continue, you will gradually grow yourself into consistent praying (1 Samuel 12:23).

So then, why must you force that prayer? To handle the sudden and negative changes that comes to you without notice. Your job, marriage, health, kids, business, career, etc. can suddenly switch from being stable to an unstable one. Thus, if you don't force prayer, you will be swept off your feet when the devil attacks. At Gadarene, as Jesus and the disciples entered the town, scripture noted, “**...immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit**” (Mark 5:2). It was a sudden and surprise attack, such that if Jesus had not been a man of prayer, the mad man would have caused a major upset.

Go and force that prayer, before the devil mess up your life.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I take up the mantle of prayer. I set out, and continue until victory is won. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 16:16, Acts 10:1-4, Revelation 8:1-5.

Introductory Text, 2 Kings 9:1-20

MOMENTUM



Opening verse: *So the watchman reported, saying, he went up to them and he is not coming back; and his driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi, for he drives furiously!* [2 kings 9:20 NKJV].



Momentum in ordinary level Physics is simply defined as motion. It also means speed or increasing acceleration. Scripturally, it is not too different. It has its origin in the word "moment". Thus, when you take advantage of the moment, you gain momentum; and when you don't, you lose momentum. God brings opportunities our way at different times in life, and when such moments come and you don't act quickly, either because of ignorance, weakness or slowness, you lose the momentum for life. That was the case with the man by the pool of Bethesda. For 38 years he had been missing his moments. Every time an angel comes to stir the waters for a miracle, someone else gets there before him; and that cycle continued until the day Jesus came to his rescue (John 5:1-11). Today is your day!

In the story before us, Jehu was meant to have been anointed king of Israel by Elijah, but he could not be found (1 kings 19:15-17). Hence, before Elijah's departure, he told Elisha his servant to find Jehu and anoint him king; but Elisha also forgot until the time he was about to die. **"And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him, gird up thy loins, and take this box of oil in**

thine hand, and go to Ramoth-gilead....take the box of oil and pour it on his head, and say, thus saith the Lord, I have anointed thee king over Israel..." (2 kings 9:1-3). In other word, Jehu missed two moments or seasons he should have been made a king, and he was about to miss the third one.

Jehu understood that if you miss your moment, you also miss the momentum for life, so after his anointing, he moved quickly. In verse 20, New International Version (NIV) describes his action thus, **"...he drives like a meniac"**. New Living Translations (NLT) says, **"...for he is driving like a mad man"**. The Message Bible says, **"The driving is like the driving of Jehu son of Nimshi - CRAZY!"** If you are going to recover your lost moments and gain momentum, you must act "crazy" like Jehu and bring down every obstacle of fear, doubt, impossibility or failure. It is about acting quickly through righteousness and faith to every instruction of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our Present momentum, allow Him drive you to your future.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Henceforth, I will no longer lose my moments. By the Holy Spirit I gain momentum for life

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Romans 13:11-12, Ephesians 5:14-17, Genesis 18:1-10.

Introductory Text, Isaiah 11:1-16

THE LAST DAY CHURCH



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 asked his disciples, “...**but whom say ye that I am**”, Peter said, “...**thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God**” (Matthew 16:15-16). Then responded Jesus, “...**thou art Peter, and upon this rock (revelation) I will build my church...**” (Matthew 16:18). One major thing we can draw from this is that, the last day Church will be built on individuals and not on personalities, institution, fellowship or denomination. The greatest trouble of the present church, is the denominational walls we have built. This wall have separated, divided and weakened the church, so much that some persons cannot sit together with persons of other denomination. The devil taking advantage of this, has sowed bitterness, hatred, deceit and lies to further divide us.

Thus, false and fake brethren and ministers will increase by the day, and men will be left with no option than to trust themselves only. People will come to hate the church and their fellow brothers who participate in the things of the church. Jesus saw this coming and prophesied, “**Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and the children shall rise up against their parents,**

and shall cause them to be put to death” (Mark 13:12). This movement is what will metamorphose into the individual Church; and God will allow it as a way to purge the Church of the fake and false brethren. **“For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you”** (1 Corinthians 11:19 NKJV).

From the beginning God had always worked with individuals rather than group of persons. He walked with Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, Elijah, Elisha, Paul, etc. This is the strength and the future Church. Yet God will gather these individuals called “the remnants” from different parts of the globe to create the true Church where Jesus Christ will be the head. This is the Church that will fight the devil and defeat him in the battle of Armageddon, and not your denomination. To fit into this army, you must build yourself in the Word, prayer, faith, righteousness and holiness, etc

However, we all must still remain members of a corporate Church as a place of worship (Proverbs 27:17), but not allow ourselves to be captured by denominational ideology and deception; but be one that worship God in Spirit and in truth. Be a worthy remnant.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, thank you for the future Church. I set myself apart for this great army of remnant

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

John 4:23-24, Ezekiel 23:30, Romans 11:1-5, Acts 9:11-15.

Introductory Text, Romans 6:1-14

FUTURE FORGIVENESS?



Opening verse: *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ [Romans 5:1].*



One of the major strengths of the believer is understanding God's Word. The power and efficacy of the Word is not delivered to you until you come to the place of understanding. When we understand, then we can apply appropriately and defeat the enemy. Our opening verse reveals something so true, yet dangerous. It talks about justification and faith, two major instruments for Christian living and victory. Justification is to be declared not guilty, not at fault, or forgiven, etc. Faith on the other hand, is to believe God. Thus, what this means is that, as long as you are still in faith, you are justified.

The larger implication of this text is that you're already cleared of every future sin as long as you are still in faith. Why is it so? Because faith pleases God (Hebrews 11:6); and God will do EVERYTHING to defend the man or woman in faith. This is also why it is a dangerous scripture for a young or ignorant believer, because it is assumed that you can sin as much as you want, and still be forgiven. This is not true.

Let's look at it this way. A police officer or a soldier after undergoing every necessary training is given a

gun; meaning licence to kill. But is that actually the case? Do we see soldiers or police officers just going on a killing spree on the street? No. If that was the case, almost everyone would have been killed by now. But what do we have, the officer knows the gun in his hands is to deter and stop criminals and evil minded people. So, as a soldier or gallant officer, he uses his gun to protect every civil person and the society at large. In the same way, justification is like that gun in the hand of the soldier, it was given to protect you and the larger society, and not a licence to sin. **“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under law but under grace”** (Romans 6:14)

Thus, every training you have received from the Church, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, etc. were all meant to help you use justification against sin and not to sin. **“For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains 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). You have been forgiven, don't go back to sin; let your life and works glorify God.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Jesus for the work of justification.
My life shall glorify God.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 8:1-11.

Introductory Text, Mark 2:1-12

NOT A LECTURE HALL



Opening Verse: *For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power [1 Cor. 4:20]*



The present Church is a lot different from what it was in the days of the Apostles. The Church that we see in scripture was that of power, miracles, signs and wonders. It was a Church where there were genuine prophets and teachers who stirred up the people of God to walk in power and authority of the Word. The Church was not a place to hear stories and be entertained with drama and humour. No! The Church was a place of impart and impact. People got born again, healed, delivered and empowered. When Jesus spoke to the man sick of palsy (paralysis), **“And immediately he arose, and took up his bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorify God, saying, we never saw it on this fashion”** (Mark 2:12).

After the experience in Nazareth where the people did not believe Him, Jesus came to Capernaum, and while he taught the people, **“And they were astonished at his doctrine for his word was with power”** (Luke 4:32). And as Jesus entered the synagogue to minister to those who had unclean spirit, thus, **“And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, what a word is this! For with authority and power he commanded the**

unclean spirits, and they come out” (Luke 4:36). Thus, each encounter reveals the power and impart, and the amazement of the people. But the absence of power, has made the Church of our time another lecture room. Whereby the lecture room was meant to roll out information, the Church was designed to bring transformation.

To achieve this, the Word from the altar must come to stir, prick, stimulate, breakdown, pulldown and dismantle every resistance in the heart and minds of men; and thereafter build them up for the Kingdom and for the glory of God; as it was told to Jeremiah, **“See I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build and to plant”** (Jer. 1:10). The Church or Minister that cannot deliver at this level may just be working below God's standard. Nobody should go to Church and come back the same way, they were meant to be greatly imparted.

The Church was designed to be a place where men discover and recover themselves. She was meant to break the hold of fear and sin in the lives of the people, impart life, faith, grace and hope, etc. That is the true Church.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I enter the Church to be imparted and transformed, I will not be anyway less.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Acts 2:36-41, Acts 3:1-10, Acts 8:5-8, Luke 3:7-14.

Introductory Text, Genesis 39:1-12

SALVATION AND THE FEAR OF THE LORD



Opening verse: *And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure [Isaiah 33:6].*



There are two kinds of fear of the Lord in the Bible. There is the righteous fear which comes from salvation. It is a genuine fear that comes from a relationship with God. This is the kind shown by Joseph, which he got from his father Jacob, who in-turn inherited it from Isaac. Hence scripture talked of **"the fear of Isaac"**, (Genesis 31:42). Thus, when Potiphar's wife placed a sexual demand on Joseph, he declined saying, **"....how then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God"** (Genesis 39:9).

There is the second kind of fear of the Lord. This is the fear of not wanting to suffer pain, loss, damage, shame, delay, etc. This fear is not wholly based on salvation, but out of not wanting to be on the wrong side with God, and lose out of His blessing. This was the kind of fear Job exhibited while he was making sacrifices for his sons. Thus when Satan struck, Job said, **"....the thing I greatly fear is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came"** (Job 3:25-26). It is the kind of fear of wanting to please the Lord, "So that I don't lose my job, calling, ministry, marriage, position, etc."

This is not an authentic fear of the Lord, but something expressed because of what you're getting. No wonder, God allowed Job to be tested, after Satan said, "**....doth Job fear God for nought? ...thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. Put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face**" (Job 1:9-11).

The only way to escape the devil and his accusations is true salvation. Until you're born again you are not safe, your fear for God notwithstanding; for we shall all go through the experience of Job to test our love or fear of God. For example, Cornelius, "**A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people and prayed to God always**" (Acts 10:2); yet God demanded he sees Peter to show him the way of salvation. Elijah's fear for God was tested by Jezebel (1 kings 19:1-4), so was Peter tested, after he abandoned his assignment for fishing (John 21:15). You will not fail your test.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I submit to you through Christ. I will walk in your fear and salvation. Amen

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES
Psalm 19:9-11, Psalm 26:1-12, John 3:1-8

Introductory Text, Luke 4:1-15

TEMPTATION AND POWER



Opening verse: *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able... [1 Corinthians 10:13].*



When Jesus went to the wilderness, scripture stated clearly that He **“being full of the Holy Ghost”** (Luke 4:1); but when He came back, He **“returned in the power of the Spirit”** (Luke 4:14). What is the difference between these two encounters? The first encounter of “being full of the Holy Ghost” was before the temptation, and the second, when He “returned in the power of the Spirit” was after the temptation. Thus, temptation or what some call test, is a major criteria for power. Unless you pass, you will not qualify for power. No one will put any important or delicate things into your hands until you've been tried, tested and tasted.

For Abraham to qualify for the office of the father of faith, he was tested when asked to leave his country of origin (Genesis 12:1-2); so was he asked to deliver Isaac for sacrifice (Genesis 22:1). For God to put the economy of the world into Joseph's hands, he was tested and tempted using Potiphar's wife and the prison experience (Genesis 39). For Moses to lead Israel, he underwent a forty year test in the wilderness, before God could trust him with that huge task (Acts 7:30). Elijah had power to call down fire from heaven, yet heaven tested him and found that he was deeply in love with the Father. His

confession after defeating the prophets of Baal reflect thus, “.... **I have been very jealous for the Lord God of Hosts, for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant...**” (1 Kings 19:11, 14)

No temptation, no power. Though God does not tempt men with sin, but the devil and the desires of our flesh (James 1:14); yet God will allow us to go through processes to reveal the contents of our heart. That is why many don't like using the word, “tempt” in describing God's work, yet that was the word used for Jesus in the wilderness and for Abraham (Genesis 22:1). But whichever vocabulary you prefer; temptation, test or trial, God will not give Kingdom power to men until they've been proven. Thus His test and power is meant to turn you from an ordinary person to a superman, as in the case of Joshua, Samson, Deborah and David, etc.

Job declared, “**But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold**” (Job 23:10). You won't fail.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father thank you for every test. They were designed to make me better and stronger.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

James 1:1-4, James 1:12, Job 23:8-10, 2 kings 2:1-15.

Introductory Text, 1 Samuel 1:9-20

FORCE THAT PRAYER (PART 2)



Opening verse: *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered [Romans 8:26].*

Prayer can be tiring, and quickly become a boredom, especially when there's no result to show for your previous efforts. Proverbs 13:12 declares, **"Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life."** Earlier (Part 1), it was noted that the reason why prayer is difficult for many is because prayer is spiritual and man is carnal. What this means is that, ordinarily you cannot force prayer because of its spiritual nature, you can only be encouraged, helped, prompted, stirred, or quickened; all of which are the work of the Holy Spirit. Thus, your quickest route to effective praying is the Holy Spirit. This is why our opening verse says, **"Likewise the Spirit helpeth our infirmities..."** (Romans 8:26). Infirmities simply means weakness.

Your natural man is too weak to confront the issues of your life, because the issues of life are also spiritual. When Jesus saw the disciples struggle with sleep at Gethsemane, He said, **"...the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"** (Matt. 26:41). In other word, the issues of life either originates or are enabled from the spirit realm. To conquer them, you need a higher Spirit, otherwise they will swallow you. When Hannah went to Shiloh, she was already

overwhelmed by the delay in child bearing; but to worsen it, Peninnah made mockery of her. Thus, not knowing what and how to pray, Hannah began to groan in pain, and **"...she spake in her heart: only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard, therefore Eli thought she had been drunken"** (1 Samuel 1:13)

In other word, the Holy Spirit took over her lips, and began to twist her tongue and belly, until she started acting strangely. No wonder, Eli the priest thought she was drunk. Thus, when men are totally immersed in the Spirit, they act like drunken men until God's will is birthed. The work of the Holy Spirit is to help you to pray, and drive you into God's will. The more you yield to the Spirit, the easier it is to pray and the better your result. Hannah would never have known that God was in search of a replacement, but through the Spirit enablement she produced Samuel, who eventually replaced Eli.

Any time prayer becomes a burden, or boring, start speaking in tongues, the Holy Spirit will take over and turn it to fire.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Holy Spirit, I yield to your enablement, take me over and turn me to fire. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Matthew 10:19-20, Romans 8:27,
1 Corinthians 2:9-12.

Introductory Text, 1 Kings 13:1-26

GRAVES WHICH APPEAR NOT



Opening verse. *Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are graves which appear not, and the men that walk over them are not aware of them [Luke 11:44].*



Jesus fought many battles, yet the toughest was not with the devil, but with men who looked righteous on the surface but devils on the inside. Hence, He used the term, “graves which appear not”. What is a grave? It is the place where the dead are buried; but when left unkempt, they are covered with dust and debris, and become weak and unnoticeable, thereby waiting as a trap to fall into. In our introductory text, a young prophet was sent to Bethel to prophesy against the altar of Jeroboam, he was warned not to stop, greet or eat on the way until he gets back to Bethel. But an old prophet appeared and lied to him and lured him back to the place of his death. This is a “grave which appeared not”.

The surprising thing about graves is that they are made beautiful on the outside, but the inside is “...full of dead men bones and all uncleanness” (Matthew 23:27). This is the centre of Jesus' message concerning men and women who look harmless on the outside but are devils themselves. Absalom was a very handsome man and had the longest hair in the whole of Israel (2 Samuel 14:25-26), yet he was the one that conspired against his father David, overthrew him and slept with his wives on an open

roof. **“So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house, and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel”** (2 Samuel 16:22)

Delilah was so beautiful, Samson was ready to give her whatever she wanted, yet she was the one that revealed the secret of Samson's strength to the enemy and led him to his death (Judges 16:18-21). When Lot chose Sodom, **“...it was well watered...”** (Genesis 13:10), and good for grazing and livelihood on the outside; **“....but the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly”** (Genesis 13:13). When Jacob arrived at Canaan, the place looked very beautiful, so he bought a parcel of land to dwell in with his family. But as Dinah his only daughter went out to view the city, there she was raped (Genesis 34:1-2).

Be careful of men, women, places and things that look beautiful on the outside. Their beauty may just be an attraction to lure their victim, and afterward destroy them. If you're going to escape “graves that do not appear”, be led by the Spirit.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I shall be guided by the Spirit, I shall triumph over evil, and not be a victim. Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Romans 8:12-14, 1 Samuel 16:7, Matthew 7:15-20

Introductory Text, Luke 4:16-22

READING THE BIBLE ALOUD



Opening verse. *And he was returning. Seated in his carriage, and he was reading aloud from the book of prophet Isaiah [Acts 8:28 NLT].*



Man is given to many voices (1 Corinthians 14:10), but this can be classified into two: the inner voice and the outer voice. The inner voice is determined by what you're feeling, and the outer by what you're seeing. The devil wants to control our lives by what we see, but God wants us to be controlled by the unseen; **"While we look not at the things which are seen, but by the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal"** (2 Corinthians 4:18). The summary is that, the unseen is the voice of faith, and it is superior to the seen, **"For we walk by faith and not by sight"** (2 Corinthians 5:7).

When we're faced with financial, marital, health or challenges that has to do with our work, the voices of fear, anxiety, worry, doubt and failure, etc. starts pulsating through our heart like a drum being hit repeatedly. When they become so loud, and there're no counter voice to stop their evil beat, they can lead to paralysis (stroke) or death. When Abigail told Nabal her husband, what would have happened to him when David came the day before, the man froze from inside and died, just by the mere thought of it. **"But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine**

was gone out of Nabal, and his wife told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone” (1 Samuel 25:37).

One of the ways to silence the voice of the devil when he comes through fear, worry, doubt or all forms of uncertainties, is to read the Bible aloud. When Philip came to meet the Ethiopian eunuch in his chariot, he heard the man reading the book of Isaiah aloud (Acts 8:26-35). Although scripture did not tell us why, but it was certain the man was struggling both from within and from understanding what he was reading. Thus, he was using the voice of Scripture (Spirit) to suppress the voice from within, and to give stability to his inner being. **“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusted in thee” (Isaiah 26:3).**

If you're going to survive the end time barrage of demonic voices, once in a while, give volume to the voice of scripture as you read it. Then will you have something higher than the voice of the devil.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I will not keep silence, but speak forth your Word until victory is won. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

2 Timothy 3:14-17, Nehemiah 8:1-6, Psalm 29:1-11.

Introductory Text, Luke 15:11-24

GIVE ME OR MAKE ME



Opening verse: *And the younger son said to his father, Father give me the portion of goods that falleth to me, and he divided unto them his living [Luke 15:12].*



When the prodigal son was to leave the house he said to his father, “**Give me**”, as we see in our opening verse (Luke 15:12). But upon his return, his confession changed, and he said, “**Make me**” (Luke 15:19). What is the difference between these two statements? Well, the first thing to learn here is that “give me” came out of youthful exuberance, while the latter, “make me” came out of suffering and experience. Thus, there are somethings in life you will never know or accept, until you go through some hard stuff.

More importantly, to “give” is to simply let go. It is to release something or someone either out of a genuine love or for the sake of “Let me have my peace.” On such occasions, nothing significant is imparted, transferred, or released to the individual. To give can also mean to give-up, just to avoid being bothered, troubled, harassed, pained or followed. In summary, to give is not always at a cost to the giver.

To “make” on the other hand is always at a cost. It is about imparting, building, training, teaching, counseling, correcting, guiding and instructing, etc. Making takes a lot if not everything from the maker. It is a conscious effort to replicate, duplicate and

impress a way of life into the other person. When Jesus called his disciples, His intention was clear, **“...come ye after me and I will make you to become...”** (Mark 1:17). It was a call meant to “form”, “create”, and “replicate” Himself in them. And after three years of rigorous work, the disciples were properly formed in Christ. Thus, when Peter tried to deny Jesus, one of the accusers said **“...surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you”** (Matthew 26:73 NKJV). Peter did not know he was speaking like Jesus.

To “make” is to put yourself into what you're building. This is what is missing in many so called believers. People are coming to church only on the basis of “give me”, and 10 or 20 years after being born again, they are still the same old person, crying for “milk”. Just as Paul noted, **“For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe”** (Hebrews 5:13). God is looking for men He will make, not those refusing to grow. God wants to take you and turn you to a champion, don't refuse Him.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I surrender myself for your working and making. O Lord, let thy will be done.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Samuel 10:6, Hebrews 5:12-14, Hebrews 6:1-6.

Introductory Text, Genesis 13:1-18

BY SIGHT OR BY FAITH



Opening verse: *For we walk by faith and not by sight [2 Corinthians 5:7].*



As humans, we are naturally inclined to doing things by sight. But as believers, this should not be so, because you will miss God and His purpose for your life. To walk by sight is to be driven or controlled by your senses. The five senses of touch, smell, hear, see and taste will only handle physical things, but life and destiny are determined or controlled by spiritual forces. To handle such forces, you must walk by faith. It is to take decisions and make moves based on the Word of God and the Holy Spirit leading. To walk by faith is to trust God and act on His instructions, without fear of what the outcome will be, because He determines every outcome. When you walk by faith, even your mistakes can be turned around; **“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God....”** (Romans 8:28)

The story of Abraham and Lot is a perfect example of both situations. Thus, as their possessions increased, the land became too small to contain them both, so Abraham said to Lot, **“Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself I pray thee, from me, if thou will take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left. And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the**

plains of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere..." (Genesis 13:9-10). And so, Lot chose by sight (senses). What he saw with his physical eyes were pleasing to him and good for livestock farming. Unknowing to him, it was a place already marked for destruction because of the sin of the people. But Abraham who had always acted on faith, took the other side, and God blessed him.

What is driving your decisions, choices, actions and inactions? For the things that ruins the life of men are initially seen as insignificant, but later it becomes their waterloo. Sarah took Hagar her servant to be Abraham's mistress, and that move led to the birth of Ishmael (Genesis 16:11-12). Today, Israel as a nation, and the world at large is still paying the price for that error. But thank God, we have the Holy Spirit to guide and teach us in all things. So, don't rely so much on your senses, you may be deceived. Connect with the Spirit, and let Him do the rest.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Father for giving us the Holy Spirit. I will not fall or fail as I look up to Him.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Proverbs 14:12, John 14:16-17, 26, Romans 8:12-17, 2
Corinthians 4:16-18

Introductory Text, Luke 16:19-31

DEATH IS NOT THE END



Opening verse: *And the Lord God commanded the man saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shall not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shall surely die [Genesis 2:16-17].*

When the Lord told Adam and his wife Eve that they will die if they eat of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, He wasn't talking about physical death, but the spiritual. That was why they did not physically die when they disobeyed God, the devil only played on their ignorance. Unfortunately, many are still falling to the same trick of the devil. The reason why some people live carelessly is because they say, "after death that is all". But that's not true; physical death is not the end of life, there's a life after death. When we die, our spirit goes back to the owner (God), but our soul - where the consciousness of what we did with life is stored, is taken to the place of accountability.

So when you die, you will be very conscious (alive) of everything around you, both while you were living and when dead. That was why the rich man in our lead story knew Lazarus the beggar who sat at his gate while he was alive. He was so conscious of his riches and position while on earth that, he said to Abraham, "**....send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this place**" (Luke 16:24). Even in hell, he was still commanding, thinking Lazarus was still that beggar he could send around. If you are living in

sin thinking after death it's all over, you are wrong. You will give account of your actions and inactions after death. **“And as it is appointed unto men to die, but after this the judgement”** (Hebrews 9:27).

Our final end comes when we separate from God. That is the spiritual death, and that was what God meant when he told Adam, “ye shall die”. Someone might say, “I don't care, whether physical or spiritual; I just want to enjoy my life, after death, so be it”. You have no idea what hell is. Did you notice that the rich man did not ask for a cup of water, but just “a tip” from Lazarus' finger would suffice him? Hell is eternity in pain, there is no break; everything there keeps burning over and over again while you're conscious of it. Reject hell; and turn to Christ.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, thank you for providing a way of escape through Christ. I accept this way. Amen

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

John 3:16-21, John 14:1-11, Revelation 19:20, 20:10.

Introductory Text, Luke 16:1-12

THESE THREE YEARS



Opening verse: *Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? [Luke 13:7].*



In God's Kingdom, result does not come by luck, chance, or trial and error; results comes by following laid down principles and hard work. Even miracles in the Kingdom are given to those who have received Christ as Lord and Savior, and not to every passerby. Thus any system, institution, organisation or structure that is not built on principle, process and procedure will not last. Our lead story about the fig tree and the owner replicates one of the principle of the Kingdom. Thus, three years is the minimum expected of you to work, after which you must produce result of the investment, resources, grace, skill or talent put in your hands. If after three years you have not produced any result, you would have qualified to be cut down (Luke 13:6-9).

We are called to produce result, and not to give reason for failure. Those who give reason for failure don't find a place in the society; so you must give that work, task or assignment your best shot. Take the case of the Ark in the house of Abinadab for an example. Thus, for 20 years, “....**all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord**” (1 Samuel 7:2). However, when the same Ark was brought to the house of Obededom, scripture noted, “**And the Lord**

blesed the house of Obededom and all that he had” (1 Chronicles 13:14). Thus, the reason the Ark was withdrawn from Abinadab was because it produce no result but lamentation. Men will not listen to your story or reasons, not even in the Kingdom.

When the unrighteous steward was to be laid-off for reckless life and wastage of his master's resources, **“Then the steward said to himself, what shall I do? For my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig, to beg I am ashamed. I am resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses”** (Luke 16:3-4). By the end of cracking his brain, he came out with a solution and result; and his master commended and restored him. Everything to make you have result have been given to you. Go put yourself to work, and with faith and prayers, you will come out better (2 Peter 1:3)

Take advantage of the “Christ in you” and draw grace, strength and wisdom for life. With Christ, you will not be stranded.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for your light that is in me.
With this light, I defeat every darkness.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Proverbs 8:10, Matthew 17:24-27, Isaiah 48:17,
Isaiah 45:1-3

Introductory Text, Acts 12:1-10

FORCE THAT PRAYER (PART 3)



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



When Jesus said, “men ought always to pray”, He actually meant, men ought always to force themselves to pray. Why? Because when you don't force yourself to pray, Satan will force his will on you. Satan will force death, sickness, delay, shame, barrenness, poverty, etc. When James was captured by Herod, the disciples refused to pray. They laid back, just hoping for a miracle, but Satan showed them his cruelest part, and delivered James back to them with no head. So when Peter was captured, nobody told them it was time to pray. Thus, if an unbeliever refuses to pray, nothing may happen because he's already a captive. But if a believer do not pray, he will pay the highest price. **“And Satan answered the Lord, and said, skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath shall he give for his life”** (Job 2:4).

When Hannah was going to Shiloh every year, rather than give herself to prayers, she gave herself to much festivities, eating and drinking all the while they stayed in Shiloh. Not long after, the devil used Peninnah, her mate in marriage to mock her. Scripture put it thus, **“And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the**

Lord had shut up her womb” (1 Samuel 1:6). When you don't force yourself to pray, Satan will force shame into your life, until you have no place to hide your face. Continue!

Isaac was a child that came by Promise and Covenant. His father, Abraham was a prayer warrior, so Isaac inherited every blessing through the prayer ministry of his father. However, when he got married he must have thought he will not have to struggle with child bearing, but scripture noted that Rebekah was barren. It was then it dawned on Isaac that he had to go and pray to break the hold of the devil (Genesis 25:21). If you don't force prayer, the powers that fought your parents will not let you be.

Jacob, while running from Esau went to stay with Laban his uncle, thinking in a few years' time, it will all be over, and he will go back home. But to his surprise, even after 20 years of servitude, Laban still did not want him to go. It took God's intervention after Jacob had shut himself up to an all-night prayer before he could escape on the 21st year. If you don't force prayer, Satan will force your life to stand still. Wake up!



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I take up the mantle of prayer. I will not rest until my victory is sure. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Genesis 31:9-13, Romans 13:11-14, Jonah 1:6, Ephesians 5:14-17.

Introductory Text, Luke 4:16-21

PRIESTHOOD AND KNOWLEDGE



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

Knowledge is a major tool in the kingdom of God; it is one of our weapon of warfare (Daniel 11:32). If you are lacking in knowledge, you will not only be unfruitful and unskillful in the things of God, but more devastating is that you will make yourself a ready meat for the devil. Thus the underuse and misplacement of the Word of God puts you at the mercy of the destroyer. Who then is a Priest? By the Old Testament definition it is that man who stands before the altar to make sacrifice or minister on behalf of the people.

But 1 Peter 2:9 says, “...ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who had called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God; which had not obtained mercy, but now had obtained mercy”. By this definition, every believer is a priest through the work of redemption in Christ; thus salvation has qualified you for this office. This is the first knowledge you must have if you're going to excel in your Christian life. If you don't know that you are a priest the devil will cheat you. Thus, you have authority and power to bind and cast out demons

(Luke 10:19). To operate effectively at this level, you need more than knowledge; but also understanding and right application of the Word. These three dimensions of the Word are what will make you handle the devil like a toy (Luke 10:17-18).

A priest must be vast in the Word of God, because it is one of the first sign of approval or that which makes you qualify for that office. Hence Paul said to Timothy, **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed but rightly dividing the word of truth”** (2 Timothy 2:15). The Word is where you will extract all the missiles to use against the devil and his demons. It is the antidote to failure, poverty, sickness, sorrow, fear, worry, etc. The Word will also supply all the spiritual vitamins you need for healing, deliverance, joy, prosperity, etc. The knowledge of the Word is the proof of your priesthood.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Through thy Word, I see the Light, and I break out of every darkness and misery. Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Jeremiah 23:29, Ecclesiastes 8:4, Psalm 119:103, Job 23:12,

Introductory Text, Psalm 92:1-15

PRAYER AND FELLOWSHIP



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



Jesus established the Church as a vehicle to drive the Christian life. When He came, the system He met could not fit His purpose, so He created the Church. The institution of the Scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, chief priests, and the culture of the Jews was so strong and heavily corrupted, He couldn't run heaven's agenda on that platform. In His denunciation of the system, He listed series of woes and evil practiced by these men (Matthew 23:1-36). Paul followed the same path as he fought against the infiltration of the Church by the Jewish culture. In one encounter, he said, **"This matter arose because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves. We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with you"** (Galatian 2:4-5 NIV)

Today however, economic, social, racial, gender injustice and inequalities; as well as evil and wicked oppression etc. has greatly affected the believer and Christianity. So, what you find in Christendom are people praying in the direction of their problems. It is either prayer for the fruit of the womb, employment, breakthroughs, marriage, healing, deliverance from witchcraft attack, evil

manipulations, etc. Some have even taken it a step further, when they pray for their family or loved ones to die. All of these are not the primary purpose of prayer.

Prayer was first and foremost designed for fellowship. And as we fellowship with Him, He takes over the issues of your life. Take for instance, you decided to visit your friend who happens to be medical doctor, on a casual or social ground. But while you were there, you started coughing uncontrollably, and then he gives you a medication that eventually took care of the cough. Though your visit was casual, but in the process you got healed as well. It is the same with prayer: as we fellowship with him, He takes away our trouble. No wonder scripture said of Enoch, **“And Enoch walked with God, and he was not; for God took him”** (Genesis 5:24). Thus, in the place of sweet communion with God, Enoch was taken away.

One may ask, “Can't I get angry with the enemy in the place of prayers?” Yes you can, yet prayer is primarily about fellowship and not a time to curse, complain, kill or destroy as Job did. So, let your prayer be more of a sweet fellowship, so that you may reap the fruit of His Presence.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I have chosen to praise and worship you more, than complain.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Job 3:1-13, Psalm 16:11, Psalm 100:1-5, Mark 3:13-14.

Introductory Text, Genesis 31:38-42

JESUS THE SON, JESUS THE SAVIOUR



Opening verse: *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sin [Matthew 1:21].*



Our opening text captures the two personalities in Christ; Jesus the Son, and Jesus the Saviour. These two are completely different persons in one. Jesus as a Son is the one that came by birth. To get here, He was planted as a seed in the mother's womb and by the end of nine months, He was born (Matthew 1:20-21). Naturally, to be born, you have no role to play other than wait for the time of your emergence.

However, Jesus as a Saviour is a different person altogether. This is the Person that involves His calling and destiny, hence he had to go through the cross. This is the phase of pain, shame, suffering, delay, sacrifice, slapping and punching etc. It was a position and title that had to be EARNED and not one to be given or done by his parents. Hebrews put it thus, **"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). In summary, to be a Son, Jesus did no work; but to be a Saviour, He had to work it out through the Cross - the symbol of suffering.

In the same way, there are two personalities in you: the one that comes by birth, and the one that comes by destiny. Your destiny is not going to be birthed by your mother or father, but by you. You will have to work it out as Jacob did under Laban. He gave a brief of his ordeal thus; **“.... The heat consumed me in the daytime and the cold by night, and sleep fled from my eyes”** (Genesis 31:40 NIV). Though Isaac his father had prayed for him, yet Jacob had to work out his destiny on the field with his hands. So, don't just sit down and cross your legs thinking every prayer or prophecies you have received will automatically begin to yield their dividend to you, no! It doesn't work like that. Even Jesus didn't get His that way; **“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).

If you desire to see your destiny, then get to work. Destinies are birthed in the place of work, dedication, commitment, faith and prayers.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I will not allow my destiny to slip away, but by His Grace, I will work at it.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

John 5:17, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, 1 Corinthians 15:9-10.

Introductory Text, Acts 11:19-26

FEED YOUR BORN AGAIN SPIRIT



Opening verse: *As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby; if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious [1 Peter 2:2].*

Man is a container of spirits. Mary Magdalene was found with seven devils before her deliverance (Luke 8:2), and the mad man of Gadarene had a Legion of spirits (about 5000) to contend with until Jesus set him free (Mark 5:9). These spirits are picked up as we grow and interact with others. **“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”** (Prov. 22:24-25). In other word, anger is a spirit; so is malice, sorrow, bitterness, joy, patience, etc. They all play their roles in shaping our Christian life.

When we get born again, the Spirit of Christ enters us to join the others who have been there for ages. Thus at the time of salvation, your born-again spirit will take a smaller place both in terms of size and power, because he is new comer. But his coming immediately triggers contention and fighting for who takes charge of your being. This fighting between your born again spirit and the sinful nature (the bad guys) is aptly captured by the Apostle Paul, **“For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature; for I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do; but the evil I do not**

want to do, this I keep doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it" (Romans 7:18-20 NIV).

Thus, the only way to stop the sinful nature (the bad guys), from making you do what you do not want to do, is by feeding your born again spirit. As you feed him with the Word, prayer, fasting, etc. he begins to grow bigger and stronger, thereby taking more space and having a greater authority in decision making. If this process of feeding the born again spirit is vigorously pursued, the sinful nature eventually loses its hold (effectively decimated); giving you power to live above sin, **"For he that is dead is freed from sin"** (Romans 6:7). That was what brought the revival in Antioch; for the people were fed with the Word until they became like Christ, hence they were called Christians.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Henceforth, I will rigorously feed my born again spirit with the Word and prayers, until I become like Him.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Timothy 4:12-16, 2 Timothy 2:15, Luke 11:24-26,

Introductory Text, 2 Timothy 3:1-14

DEALING WITH FAKE



Opening verse: *And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light [2 Corinthians 11:14].*



Every vocation, profession or trade has fake. There are fake doctors, lawyers, engineers, pilots, accountants, auto mechanics, barbers, etc. As it is with different professions, so it is with the products and the items we use both at home and in the office. So, there are fake wrist watches, shoes, clothes, soaps, creams, drugs, currency, etc. Even in the most advanced countries, with the best control measures in place, separating the fake from the original is still a continuing thorny issue. Thus, fake is not simply a human problem, but it's a spirit; and that spirit came from Satan. Our opening verse reveals that Satan himself disguises as an angel of light, and deceiving many. It is that spirit we are contending with, not the men and women producing fake things.

Thus, as long as the devil is still a major player in the world, there will always be a fake of the original in everything. It should therefore not be surprising to find a fake church, pastor or minister of the gospel; it is the same spirit behind them all. **“Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons. These people are hypocrites and liars and**

their conscience are dead” (1 Timothy 4:1-2 NLT). Yet in the midst of all that the devil is doing, there are still very genuine churches, ministries and ministers of God. It is therefore wrong to call all churches or ministers fake, all because you came across one that deceived you. It is like calling every doctor in town fake, because you fell into the hand of a wrong (quack) one.

How do you deal with fakes? By walking away. When you get to the market, and you identify a fake product in a particular store. All you do is to walk away and go search for the original in another store. It is the same thing with ministers and churches. When you discover it's fake, walk away from that church and go look for where your soul and spirit can be properly fed with the Word. Paul described these men and churches thus, **“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away”** (2 Timothy 3:5). To “turn away” is the recipe to fake things and fake people. Don't let them stop you from going for the original. Be guided.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for the originality of your Word and Spirit. No room for fake, I shall be properly guided.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Matthew 7:15-20, Acts 17:10-12, 1 John 4:1-6,
2 Timothy 2:16-19.

Introductory Text, Genesis 28:1-22

STRIVE



Opening verse: *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure [Philippians 2:13].*



God hates laziness and this is supported by dozens of scriptures. It is the same reason why almost every person He called, were taken from the place of work. When the Lord met Abraham, he was on a journey from the land of Chaldees to Haran; there the Lord called him out and took him on another journey that lasted 175 years (Genesis 12:1-5; 25:7). Moses was called in the wilderness while leading the flocks of his father in law (Exodus 3:1-2). Joshua was first called to lead Israel to war with the Amalekites because he was a man of valour (Exodus 17:9).

Samuel served Eli the priest as a child till the man died before he took over the office (1 Samuel 2:11, 18). Samson, Jephthah, Saul and David were all warriors; Elijah went on a forty day journey with no food or water to find the mountain where God was waiting for him (1 Kings 19:8); and Elisha was the biggest farmer in town in his days before his call to serve under Elijah (1 Kings 19:19-21). Among the disciples were fishermen, traders, lawyer (Titus 3:13), doctor (Colossians 4:14), tax officer, etc. Paul himself was a lawyer and a tent maker (Acts 18:1-3; 22:3).

Why will God not put anything in the hand of the

lazy person? Because he/she will not be able to retain, sustain and build upon what is put in his/her hands. Thus, every investment or resources placed in such hands will end in waste, because the individual will see it as too much of a work to get the job done, so he will abandon the work (calling, assignment). No wonder Solomon said, **“The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting...”** (Proverbs 12:27 NKJV). He went further saying, **“Because of laziness the building decays, and through idleness of hands the house leaks”** (Ecclesiastes 10:18). Today, many lives are leaking away.

For Jacob to inherit the blessing of Abraham, Isaac and the promise of God at Bethel, God sent him on a 21 year “training” in the house of Laban (Genesis 31:41). Not because God couldn't give it to him immediately, but it was to prepare him both in terms of capacity and wisdom to be able to handle the wealth that was coming his way. God will not deliver anything into your hand until you prove yourself worthy. As you strive in prayer, so must you in your daily pursuit; for the Kingdom has no place for idle hands.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I will strive daily and win daily. I will not fail or fall until I'm made.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Corinthians 15:9-10, Proverbs 20:4, Proverbs 24:30-34, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15.

Introductory Text, Joshua 24:1-16

IT TAKES DETERMINATION



Opening verse: *Be strong and of a good courage; for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them [Joshua 1:6].*

For 40 years while Moses led Israel, Joshua was with him. Joshua saw everything Moses went through; the delay, betrayal, unbelief of the people, the trouble, failures, backstabbing, striving, contentions and humiliation; Joshua saw them all. Joshua also saw the miracles, victories and triumph of the people of God. When he took over, he started with war that lasted his life time. By the time he was sharing the land to the twelve tribes, Joshua was already in his eighties. Thus, Joshua had seen the ups and down of following God, yet at the close of his life, he told Israel, “...as for me and my house we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).

If you are not determined to follow God, you will have enough reasons to turn back. “**The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle**” (Psalm 78:9). Yet God is a God of process, and He will take you through your own process, so that you'll be strong to withstand every devil you meet on the way. Following God is not a walk in the park, it involves the good and the bad. Habakkuk painted it this way, “**Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olives shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off**

from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls; yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation” (Habakkuk 3:17-18).

Adversities were not meant to destroy you, they were meant to make you stronger, wiser and better (Proverbs 24:10). God allows adversities to come first, so as to create a room for your future. Get ready for life, and stop complaining; the glories ahead of you are much more than your present trouble. God never planned to leave you half way or get you stranded, He will carry you through every storm. When Israel refused to go ahead to take the Promised Land in the days of Moses, Joshua and Caleb stood their ground. They both eventually became the benefactors of God's promises and grace.

If all you were expecting was a smooth journey on the way to destiny, then you got it wrong. For God only promised us a possible life if we dare to believe Him, “**...for with God all things are possible**” (Mark 10:27).



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Through Christ, I'm determined to push through every adversity. I will not be deceived by the devil.
Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

2 Corinthians 4:8-18, Isaiah 43:1-3, Hebrews 10:35-39.

Introductory Text, Hebrews 11:8-19

REPENTANCE AND REMISSION



Opening verse: *And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem [Luke 24:47].*

Repentance and the remission of sin is the original mandate given to the Church to preach to the world (Acts 2:19). Why? Because God is more interested in your salvation (escape) than in your destruction. **“Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? Saith the Lord God: and not that he should return from his way and live?”** (Ezekiel 18:23). But many of us seems to be more interested in preaching about hell, than in giving hope to men. We do this with the intension of creating fear in the heart of people and thereby lead them to repentance. However, you were meant to force repentance, but to preach it. As in our opening verse, this was Jesus' directive to the disciples as He prepares to ascend to heaven.

Thus while repentance is to change, relinquish or turn-away from sin; remission is to be pardoned, forgiven, discharged or released (let-go). Remission is actually the deletion of sin as if it never happened, but this will not be given until you repent. **“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy”** (Proverbs 28:13). God is not interested in destruction but reconstruction, and to reinstate the fellow back to Himself. This is so because when you sin

(disobey), you actually die in God's presence (Genesis 2:16-17); but what gives you life and bring you back to God's presence is repentance and remission.

To understand the work and power of repentance and remission, let us look at the case of Abraham and Sarah. In the Old Testament, Abraham questioned God for not giving him a child (Genesis 15:1-3), and also lied about Sarah (Genesis 13:11-13). Sarah on her own part doubted the angels and laughed when they said she was going to carry a baby (Genesis 18:12-18). Yet in the New Testament, both couples were placed highly among the heroes of faith, and no mention was made of their lies or doubt (Hebrews 11:8-11). Why? Because when you've repented and your sin remitted, it is considered you never sinned (it is wiped off the record). This is what Christ came to offer us.

So, don't allow the mistake or sin of over a decade or two to still hold you captive. Have you genuinely repented? Then, go back to the fellowship of the brethren and continue the pursuit of your dreams, goals and aspirations. You have been forgiven; there are no more accusations against you. Praise God!



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Lord for I have been forgiven and discharged, no more guilt or fear, but faith.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

John 8:1-11, Romans 6:1-7, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Introductory Text , Romans 6:1-14

DEATH ABOLISHED



Opening verse: *But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who had abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel [2 Timothy 1:10].*

Scripturally speaking, death is simply, separation from God. It is to be excluded from (or denied of) God's Presence, provision, protection, glory, comfort, peace and all that goes with it. **"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is the fullness of joy, at thy right hand are pleasures forever"** (Psalm 16:11). This is more than the 'physical death' that takes men's life and get them buried in a grave. For the unbeliever, the physical death marks the end of their life and hope, because they were already separated from God while still alive in sin. But for the believer, physical death is a means of transport to eternal bliss and rest with God; because death was abolished the moment you accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour. **"We know that we have passed from death unto life..."** (1 John 3:14)

Principal among the things Christ came to give us is life and immortality. Death (separation) came when man sinned in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:3), so we are rejoined to the Father through Christ (salvation). This He affirmed through the gospel of John, **"...I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh to the Father but by me"** (John 14:6). Earlier, He said, **"... I am come that they might have**

life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). How did Jesus accomplish this? Through the cross. On the cross, He took our place as the “sinner”; receiving the stripes, the pain, bleeding and suffering for sin. We literally switched position; **“Surely, he had borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows....But he was wounded for our transgression, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him... (Isaiah 53:4-6).**

We were not only healed of sickness and diseases, but of all that came with the devil. Death has been defeated; we no longer die, we transit. That was why scripture noted after the stoning of Stephen, **“And he kneeled down and cried with a loud voice, Lord lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, HE FELL ASLEEP”** (Acts 7:60). Thus, at the end of life here, we pull off mortality and SLEEP, and wake up on the other side with immortality with the Father. Don't be afraid of physical death, you already died in Christ. What you now have is His life, glory, righteousness and victory over sin. Hallelujah!



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Jesus, you have defeated death. Now I have life and immortality. Praise God

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Corinthian 15:55-58, Colossians 2:12-15, 1 Thessalonian 4:13-15.

Introductory Text, Acts 1:15-26

THE STONES WILL CRY OUT



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].*

God has replacement plan. As much as God loves you, and you're unique, He can still replace you if you make yourself unfit for the purpose you were meant for. Whenever God gives you an assignment; whether prayer, evangelism, visitation, encouragement, sowing of seed, prisons and hospital evangelism, etc. He has also made ready your replacement, in case you fail or refuse outrightly. Someone might say, how about Jonah? The man refused God's assignment and God didn't get a replacement for him. Well, the story of Jonah was meant to teach us that nobody can refuse God; He can make you do whatever He wants you to do. Yet, the instrument of replacement has been His way right from the beginning.

When Adam failed, his replacement programme was immediately triggered; **“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shall bruise his heel”** (Genesis 3:15). That seed was Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:16). When Cain failed, God raised Seth and wiped off the name of Cain from the record of creation. For scripture put it thus, **“And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his likeness, after his image; and called his**

name Seth" (Genesis 5:3). It was written as if Cain had died in the previous chapter, yet he was still alive. But before God, Cain was dead.

So, when Jesus told the Pharisees that "the stones will cry out", it was a warning. God can use anybody and anything to accomplish His purpose. When Israel got stranded in the wilderness, with nowhere to get water, He used the rock (Exodus 17:1-6); when Balaam the priest could no longer hear God's voice, the Lord opened the mouth of a donkey to speak to him (Numbers 22:28); and when Eli's loyalty was divided between God and his sons, God abandoned him and used Samuel who was still a child to communicate his judgement and to continue the priesthood (1 Samuel 3:10-14). Same thing happened to the prodigal son, whose place was taken by the servants in the house. That was why when he returned, he said, "**...make me as one of thy hired servant**" (Luke 15:19).

Whatever God has committed into your hand, give it your best shot, for it is only a privilege. You are not the only one on God's list; you have a replacement.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Lord for the opportunity to serve. I will give my best and not be replaced.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Ecclesiastes 9:10, Acts 15:36-41, 1 Kings 19:9-18

Introductory Text, Mark 4:35-41

DEFEAT YOUR STORM



Opening verse: *But he knoweth the way that I take; when he had tried me, I shall come forth as gold [Job 23:10].*



Storm is part of life; you don't pray against it, but deal with it. In other words, everyone must devise ways to defeat their storm. It is like praying that a child who is learning how to walk should not fall. This is not possible because the falling and rising is the actual process of learning to walk. Thus after several falls, the child begins to understand how to stabilize, walk and run. In the same way, storms help you to learn, grow and overcome life issues. The way you handle your storm therefore will determine your outcome in life. If you face it early, you will grow quickly and your result will be obvious for all to see; but if you do not, your growth will be stunted.

On the way to Gadarene, the disciples along with Jesus encountered a storm in the middle of the sea. **“And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, master, carest thou not that we PERISH”** (Mark 4:38). For the disciples, storms meant “to perish”. They didn't see any way out of that trouble, but an end to their lives. This is how some people see storm; and when you operate with such mindset or mentality, you won't come out of life successful.

But for Job, he saw a storm in a complete different way. His view and mindset was clearly spelt out in our opening verse, “...when he had tried me, I shall come forth as gold” (Job 23:10). One of the major character of gold is to shine; and to bring out that shining quality, it needs a lot of fire. Thus, as you heat it with fire, it gets brighter and more beautiful. So for Job, he saw storm as what will make him get better and stronger. This is the mindset that defeats storms. It is seeing good out of every bad situation: being ready to bear, endure, withstand and finally overcome every trouble. The troubles of life don't just go away, they only give way to superior power. Be that superior power.

Thus, not minding all that the devil threw at Job, he eventually overcame. In one of his confession, he said, “...all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come” (Job 14:14). He waited patiently and defeated his storm. Carry the unbreakable spirit, and defeat your storm. Praise God.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I have Christ in me, and by His strength I can do all things and achieve my goals. Hallelujah.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Philippians 4:13, 2 Corinthians 2:14,
2 Corinthians 4:8-11.

Introductory Text, Acts 27:13-25

DEFEAT YOUR STORM (PART 2)



Opening verse: *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me [Philippians 4:13]..*



We all go through storms but our outcomes are differently. Thus, the way you handle your storm will determine your outcome. When Jacob came out of Peniel, he came out with a broken hip, and started limping. That encounter gave him the name Israel - the one that prevailed (Genesis 32:24-32). But after his healing in the hand of the Lord, Moses referred to him by the name Jeshurun, meaning walk straight or the upright one. Thus, his experience gave him three names; Jacob, Israel and Jeshurun (Deuteronomy 33:5, 26). This shows us that there are three basic outcomes from every storm. The first is, whether you will come out or not; and secondly, how soon you come out; while the third has to do with what shape you will take after your storm.

Peter and Judas Iscariot both had a similar storm. While Peter denied Christ (Matt. 26:69-70), Judas Iscariot sold Him for thirty silver (Matthew 26:14-15). But after the denial, Peter “...**went out and wept bitterly**” (Matthew 26:75). He thus repented genuinely, and went back to join the disciples again. For Jesus had opened the door to his reentry when He said to Mary Magdalene, “**But go your way and tell the disciples and Peter...**” (Mark 16:7). Jesus

singled out the name of Peter to emphasize his reentry. But Judas went through the same storm, and never came out (Matthew 27:5).

On the second possibility, which has to do with how soon you come out of your storm, the story of Job is very instructive. When he fell into his storm, he started complaining, cursing, trolling, and justifying himself; and for this reason, his recovery time took longer than necessary (Job 42:10). But for the disciples, as soon as they fell into their storm, they immediately called on Jesus and the storm was silenced (Mark 4:39). Thus, what you do in the time of your storm will determine how long you stay in that situation. Complain will only keep you longer in your storm.

The third possibility is what we read in our introductory text. This has to do with what shape you take after your storm. Paul on the way to Rome after his arrest in Jerusalem shows us that you can go through a storm and still come out unscratched. Though the ship was broken, yet there was no loss of life. What was the secret behind his escape? He engaged the heaven in the time of his storm, and got angelic assistance on his side. This is what you do to defeat your storm.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I overcome every storm as I look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of my faith.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 22:39-44, Job 38:12-13, Genesis 32:24-26.

Introductory Text, Acts 6:1-10

PRAYER AND FAITH



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



There is nothing like praying too much; prayer is necessary for life and for living. Jesus encouraged us to pray and not to faint, just as Paul said, **“Pray without ceasing”** (1 Thessalonian 5:17). But you can be praying in foolishness. How? Every prayer needs a platform for it to deliver its works (reward). If you pray without doing any work, you have denied your prayers the platform it needs. If you go and spend a 100 day on the prayer mountain, and come back doing nothing, you have prayed in foolishness. If for instance, you're believing God for healing; and after several prayer sessions, you go back home and lie on the bed, you have killed those prayers. But if you get back home and go about your normal work schedule, even in pain, you have provided a platform for healing. It is the same for every area of our lives; for God cannot do anything unless you give Him a space to operate.

Many are binding the devil, and casting out demons; but they are not at the same time searching for work, sending out their curriculum vitae (resume), improving and upgrading themselves. When at the end nothing happens, they turn their anger and frustration on God, the Church and the society at large. The Apostle James warned that, **“.....faith**

(spiritual activity) without works is dead. Was not Abraham justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?" (James 2:20-21). What are you adding to your spiritual activities to give you an edge over others? **"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).

Stephen and Philip were the product of the revival that broke out in Jerusalem. But after they were ordained, they did not go back home to sit down or end up at 'serving table' as they were instructed, but they went further and engaged the anointing they received through prayers, **"And Stephen full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people"** (Acts 6:8). Similarly, through the ministry of Philip in Samaria, **".... unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lamed, were healed"** (Acts 8:7).

Go back up your prayers with credible works, then wonders will naturally follow you.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I will pray, I will also walk by faith and enter into my breakthrough. I will no longer have delayed manifestations.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

James 2:14-24, 1 Kings 18:41-46, 2 Kings 7:3-8.

Introductory Text, 1 Samuel 16:1-5

WISDOM OR CRAFTINESS



Opening verse: *He catches the wise in their own craftiness, and the counsel of the cunning comes quickly upon them [Job 5:13 NKJV].*



The line between the wise and the crafty is very thin and blurred, thus one can confuse one for the other. The reason is that both wisdom and craftiness use the same instrument of words and actions for operation. A wise man is very good with words, and his actions are determined by the situation at hand. Same is the crafty, but their purpose or results differ. For instance, a police officer uses gun to enforce the law, a thief also uses the same gun, but to execute criminality. They use the same instrument but their purposes are different.

While wisdom is of God, craftiness is of the devil. Thus by the wisdom of God creation came into existence. Psalm 104:24 notes, **“O Lord how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.”** Just as creation came by the wisdom of God, so does its destruction comes by the craftiness (evil) of the devil. Prophet Isaiah describes him thus, **“That made the world as a wilderness, and destroy the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners”** (Isai 14:17). The summary is, if you walk in wisdom, you're of God; if you walk in craftiness, you're of the devil. What's the difference between these two?

Wisdom always end in peace, quietness, love, unity, forgiveness and reconciliation, etc. But craftiness is the direct opposite. Every time your words or actions make people feel used, despised, ignored, angry, bitter, stupid, foolish, degrading, unwanted, etc. craftiness has played a greater role than wisdom. Thus the end product of craftiness is to hurt, outsmart or outplay the other person. When Jacob used pottage to take the destiny of Esau it was craftiness at play (Genesis 25:29-34). Also when Absalom took over the throne from his father David, it was craftiness at play. For Scripture noted, “...so **Absalom stole the heart of the men of Israel**” (2 Samuel 15:6).

Delilah used craftiness to nail Samson (Judges 16:16-19), and the young prophet sent to prophesy against the altar of Jeroboam was captured by the craftiness of the old prophet (1 Kings 13:15-18). But when God sent Samuel to go and anoint David, He gave him the word to use, thereby averting trouble. At the end, there was no loss or damage, and no soul was hurt or killed. The end product of wisdom is peace. Watch that action of yours, if it's of wisdom or craftiness.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I will be led by the wisdom of God and not by the craftiness of the devil. Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

James 3:13-18, 1 Corinthians 1:24-25, Luke 20:20-26.

Introductory Text, Romans 10:1-13

OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS



Opening verse: *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference [Romans 3:22].*



One of the greatest mystery of the Kingdom of God is righteousness; and it comes by mere believing. Abraham was called righteous not because he did anything significant or carried one big stuff for God, but because he believed God (Gen. 15:6). Thus, from the beginning God had tied righteousness to faith in Him, in His Word or promises, etc. In other word, the moment you accept or believe whatever God says or do, you are immediately declared righteous. So simple, but very true. It is this righteousness which gives you access to everything of God. Good health, peace, joy, hope, protection, provision, prosperity and eternity all come through righteousness. Thus, righteousness is our short cut to the Kingdom benefits. **“For he will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth”** (Romans 9:28)

Thus, whatever you get in life as a believer is not so much because you prayed so well, fasted, sowed a seed, gave tithe, ministered to the poor and less privileged, etc, but because of righteousness. Righteousness is not the work of moral uprightness, good works or religious piety, but a gift to all that

believe God. That gift is Jesus Christ (Romans 5:21). He is the Word of God (John 1:14), He is the Promise of God (Galatians 3:16), He is our righteousness; **“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God”** (2 Corinthians 5:21). Thus, every time you stand before God, you are not the one seen, but the Christ in you. The day you accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour, your person died and the Christ identity was given to you (Romans 6:3-5).

With your new identity in Christ, you are over and above the devil and the world. You are not to suffer what other men suffer but live and triumph over them. That was why the demon in the mad man taken by the sons of Sceva for deliverance, said to them, **“...Jesus I know, and Paul I know, who are ye?”** (Acts 19:13-15). You are well known, feared and respected in the kingdom of darkness; take advantage of this. Don't allow doubt, fear, sickness or any trouble rob you of the advantage you have in Christ. Righteousness will always triumph over them all; you are untouchable. That is who you are. Hallelujah!



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Christ has become my righteousness. I am not afraid or dismayed, I am winning all the way.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Romans 6:1-11, 2 Corinthians 2:14-16, Galatians 2:16.

