

Introductory Text, 2 Kings 8:1-6

THE GEHAZI'S EFFECT



Opening verse: *Only Luke is with me. Take Mark and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for ministry [2 Timothy 4:11].*



The case of bouncing back after a fall from grace is not very common even in the Bible, yet God is a God that is interested in bringing us back when we fall. The story of Gehazi the servant of Elisha is one that has been used several times over to warn us of the consequences of sin, losing focus or being covetous, etc. Thus, when Gehazi sinned, Elisha did not spare him either, saying, **“The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed forever. And he went out from his presence as white as snow”** (2 Kings 5:27). Thus, Gehazi perhaps became the only person on record to have gotten full blown leprosy in an instant, “as white as snow”.

But surprisingly, Gehazi again appeared in Chapter 8 in the king's palace as one of his advisers. How? First, it is against the Law for a leper to enter the city, talk much of entering the palace; for he will be stoned to death if by any chance he makes contact with another person. For this reason, lepers are mandated to carry a bell and say, **“...unclean, unclean”**, as they come into town (Leviticus 13:42-46). So what happened to Gehazi? Simple, God healed him, and he bounced back. His restoration is one of the

mysteries hidden by the Holy Spirit. Similarly, John Mark in our opening verse bounced back and was termed “**profitable for ministry**”, after he was initially rejected by Paul for turning back (Acts 15:36-39).

Jonah also, refused God's Word after he was asked to go to Nineveh but headed for Tarshish. And as he continued on that journey, he kept going down, until God finally trapped him in the belly of a fish. But after repentance, “**...the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land**” (Jonah 2:10). However, the Lord did not stop there, rather, “**...the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time...**” (Jonah 3:1). Thus Jonah got a second chance and he bounced back and completed his assignment.

Peter also lost his place when he denied Christ thrice, saying, “**...I do not know the man**” (Matthew 26:72). But after repentance, heaven gave him a re-entry ticket when a message was sent through the women that came to Jesus' grave, saying, “**...go your way, tell the disciples and Peter...**” (Mark 16:7). You may have fallen, but God is ever interested in your rising. As you repent, you will bounce back spiritually and financially.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Father, for you've not abandoned me.
Through Christ I'm on my way up.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Micah 7:7-10, Proverbs 24:16, John 8:1-11.

Introductory Text, 2 Timothy 4:1-5

THE DANGER OF THE ONLINE CHURCH



Opening verse: *Not forsaking the assemblies of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching [Hebrews 10:25].*



When Jesus set up the Church, it was primarily for the sake of fellowshiping with the brethren. His thought was clearly stated in Mark 3:14, **“And he ordained twelve THAT THEY SHOULD BE WITH HIM, and that he might send them forth to preach”**. Fellowship or intimacy comes first before any other. Any time you put other things before fellowship you will miss God. It was the same thing when Martha complained to Jesus that Mary had left her alone in the kitchen to do all the cooking and serving, while she sits at Jesus' feet hearing the Word. But Jesus answered her, **“But one thing is needful, and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her”** (Luke 10:42). Though Jesus did not condemn Martha's service, but made her understand that the “needful” and the “good part” at that time was to fellowship with Him

However, the corona scourge, the pursuit to make ends meet, the innovations in the technology, etc. have driven men and women to the online church. That is, attending church services through social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube, etc. Today, some persons can attend services in 2 to 3 different churches right at the comfort of their home. While the Churches are at advantage with all these

innovations, the individual believer is at danger of losing his or her fellowship with the Father. If the physical Church was not needed, Jesus would not have established her (Matthew 16:18). The place of physically fellowshiping with one another is a major strength of the believer, Thus, Proverbs 27:17 declares, **“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another”** (NIV).

When you are hungry, and you take a bottle of soft drink with a doughnut, it will deceive your body by making you feel full but the body has not been given its proper food. The more you resort to fast food, the more your body is deceived until you end up with abnormal growth like obesity and others, etc. Same thing goes with our spirit, the more you stay away from physical fellowship, the less healthy and vulnerable your spirit becomes. Thus, you are potentially in 3 or 4 Churches online, but physically in none. You become a sheep without a shepherd, and very soon you will soon go astray and get lost.

The online Church was meant to handle your temporal moments of inconvenience, and not a place of permanent worship. Watch it!



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

The Church was established for my good and growth. There will I stay and flourish.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Genesis 3:1-11, Psalm 84:10, John 10:1-12.

Introductory Text, Philippians 2:1-11

MADE HIMSELF OF NO REPUTATION



Opening verse: *But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men [Philippians 2:7].*



Reputation is simply what somebody is known for. It is about how a man is viewed, seen or accepted by people or the society at large. Your financial status, education, position, and family etc. all add up to your reputation. It is for this reason people do everything to protect their reputation. Your reputation will affect your marriage, business, profession, career, circle of friends, etc. Government establishment, business organisations, NGOs, and business men and women thrive simply on their reputation of being trust worthy, credit worthy, business worthy, or for excellent delivery of service, supply of quality products, being timely, etc. Thus, a damaged reputation can cost you all of your life's work.

When Jesus came to the earth, He came in human form; yet He was part of the Godhead - the Trinity (Matthew 3:16-17). Though there's only one God, but manifests in 3 forms as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is God the Son, and He is not different from God the Father, it is one person. **"For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell"** (Colossians 1:19). Put in another way, **"For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily"** (Colossians 2:9). Yet Jesus

set aside his reputation as God and allowed the people He created to mock, beat, slap, spit, drag and nail Him to the cross.

Thus, while the Jews were expecting their king to come through the palace, Christ humbled himself and accepted to come through the manger – a place where animals are kept (Luke 2:12). Jesus left all His glory in heaven and came through the poorest family to be born as a child, no wonder they did not believe Him. Thus, everything that goes with kingship, glory, honour, riches and power, were all forsaken by Jesus, who instead accepted the tag of a servant and also died like a common criminal. (Isaiah 53:1-12).

To be a disciple or a follower of Christ, you must be ready to sacrifice your reputation; not in terms of being trustworthy, faithful or having integrity, etc. but it has to do with you setting aside your position and status in the society. When your education, financial status, profession or career gets in between you and Christ, it will render you ineffective for the Kingdom. We are called to a humble walk and a sacrificial lifestyle that blesses and reaches others in their downtrodden state.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I submit myself to you. Let your power and grace flow through me.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Mark 8:34-38, Numbers 12:3, Mark 10:17-25, Hebrews 13:11-14.

Introductory Text, Genesis 37:3-11
DREAMS AND VANITIES



Opening verse: *For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God [Ecclesiastes 5:7]*



God used dreams in the old times (Bible days) to speak to men, but we are now in the dispensation of the Holy Spirit; God now speak to men through the Spirit and through the Word. If your Christian life still depends wholly on dream, you will fall behind in the workings and ways of God. You will be weak and exploited by the devil, because the dream world has been invaded by the demonic. Demons carry the faces and voices of men of both the ones you know and the ones you don't know to speak to you and direct your life, **"...for Satan disguises himself as an angel of light"** (2 Corinthians 11:14).

Dreams are for babes, for those who are not yet matured to handle delicate spiritual things, hence God wait for them by night when they're asleep before He slips-in one or two words. **"In a dream, in the vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction"** (Job 33:15-16). Even at that, you are still required to cross check that dream with the Word to validate its source and correctness. Dream was never God's original plan, it was a plan "B", when men

began to slip deeper into sin and made the line of communication difficult. But for Adam, Noah, Abraham and Moses, etc. God spoke to them mouth to mouth.

Thus, if in this dispensation of the Holy Spirit, your actions, decisions and choices are still wholly depended on dreams, you will end up with vanities. To have vanities simply means to have no result for life. For God to speak to Peter about Cornelius, while still on the roof “...he fell into a trance” (Acts 10:10). In other word, Peter's eyes were wide open, he was not sleeping neither was he dreaming. In the case of Paul, on the way to Damascus, the Lord met him in a live form as a bright light, “**And he said, who are thou Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutes...**” (Acts 9:5). God wants to have a live interaction with you, as He did with Moses, not by dream (Numbers 12:6-8).

If you want quick progress and spiritual growth, you must leave the dream world and move higher to the place where you hear the Holy Spirit and the Word of God audibly. That is the place of champions.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I step up to the Spirit level, wisdom and understanding. I draw grace for life and victory.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Exodus 33:9-11, Acts 13:1-4, Acts 19:1-7, Revelations 1:9-20

Introductory Text, Exodus 33:17-23

SEEING GOD'S FACE



Opening verse: *The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth [Psalm 34:16].*



In the Old Testament God did not reveal His face to His people because His perfect will was not yet known. The Old Testament was a shadow of the things to come (Hebrews 10:1), but the New Testament was God's perfect will. More importantly, the people could not see His face because they were living in sin and rebellion to His ways. Hence He told Moses, “**...for there shall no man see me and live**” (Exodus 33:20). Why? Because His eyes were too pure, they could not behold iniquity. Thus, at any point sin crosses God's path, it was immediately consumed by the brightness and fire of His Presence. “**A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about**” (Psalm 97:3). Paul saw that brightness and was blinded for three days, when the Lord appeared to him on the way to Damascus (Acts 9:1-9).

However, the coming of Christ changed all things. What the Law could not do for the people, the shedding of the blood of Christ now gives us access and right to the Father. Thus before His final crucifixion, “**...after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James and John his brother, and bringeth them up into the high mountain apart. And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as**

sun, and his raiment was white as light. And behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him" (Matthew 17:1-3). Thus, what Moses and Elijah asked for was eventually shown to them on the mountain. Jesus Christ is that face of God. He is the full physical expression of the Father (Colossians 1:19, 2:9). He came to reveal all that was hidden from the men of old - the glory and the power.

Yet, His anger against sin remains unchanged. To them who walk in righteousness and godly fear, they will experience His favour and goodness; but for those who continue in sin, they will see His face as a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29). The sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu saw His fire and it consumed them (Leviticus 10:1-2). So was Korah, Dathan and Abiram who rebelled against Moses and were consumed by His wrath (Numbers 16:1-3, 32-33). When Ananias and Sapphira lied with their giving, they were also slain by this fire (Acts 5:1-10).

Christ has been revealed to us as the face of the Father, but you're the one that will determine which side you want to see; His fire or His love.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Jesus, through salvation I have seen the face of my Father. I will not see the fire.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Hebrews 10:26-31, Hebrews 12:28-29, Psalm 5:12.

Introductory Text, Acts 8:26-39

CELEBRATE YOUR SALVATION



Opening Verse: *Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature; old things are passed away, behold all things become NEW [2 Corinthians 5:17].*



Salvation is the major instrument that brings us into the new, hence the reason you should celebrate it. Through salvation, all your old records of sin, error, mistake and misdeeds are completely wiped out as if they never occurred, and a new sheet is opened to you. This new sheet implies new start, new opportunities, new strength, new glory, new testimonies, new victories, etc. In other word, God brings back the life you lost to sin in a plain sheet, and ask that you fill it with what you want. Salvation is the only instrument in the Kingdom that gives you the opportunity to add or delete from your life's record, good or bad. Thus, when the young man that suffered paralysis was carried by his friends to seek for Jesus, He saw their faith, and declared, "**...Son thy sins are forgiven thee**" (Mark 2:5).

Jacob for instance, left his father's house as a thief. First, he took his brother's birthright by taking advantage of him, and then again stole his blessings (Genesis 27). Seeing the evil that Jacob had done and knowing the anger of Esau his brother, Isaac their father agreed with Rebekah that Jacob should leave home for a season, until Esau's anger is pacified. But while fleeing from home because of Esau, on the

way, God met Jacob and said, “...I am the Lord God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou lies, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed. And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shall spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 28:13-14).

The question is, why should God promise to bless a fugitive? Simple! Because Jacob BELIEVED and ACCEPTED the God of his father, Abraham and Isaac; unlike Esau who rejected Him. On the premise of that relationship (salvation), God overlooked all the sins of Jacob and delivered the future into his hands. When a man believes and accepts God's Word, promises, prophecies, covenants, etc. God will do anything and everything for him, his past sins notwithstanding. Jesus Christ is that Word, Promise, Prophecy, Covenant, Righteousness and Salvation of God. **“For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell”** (Colossians 1:19).

Celebrate your salvation (relationship with Christ), because it is what brings you into all of God's blessings.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, thank you for my salvation through Christ Jesus. I celebrate this great blessings.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Colossians 1:13-23, Colossians 2:8-15,
1 Corinthians 1:30

Introductory Text, Matthew 17:1-8

LETTERS OR SPIRIT



Opening verse: *Who also hath made us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life [2 Corinthians 3:6].*



At creation, Adam was just a pack of soil put together in human form, but as the breath of God came upon him, he became a living soul (Genesis 2:7). The breath (Spirit) of God gave life to Adam. In the same way, scriptures (the Bible) are mere letters until breath comes upon them. Every written Word of God is only in its potential state until breath through prayers comes upon it. You can cram and quote scriptures as much as you like, that does nothing to the devil; you are only making noise. What gives life (energy) to scriptures is your breath (prayer). This is what turns it into a spirit form to produce result, **“For the kingdom of God is not in words but in power (spirit)”** (1 Corinthians 4:20).

If you ever desire to go beyond the level of the ordinary - the level of letters, and become a man of substance in the things of God, you must switch to the prayer gear. Prayer is what puts you at the level of power, where you command and have dominion. God loves prayer, God wants you to pray; but as long as you keep quoting scripture, you have nothing other than head knowledge. Prayer is what transmit the power behind the Word into your life. At Peniel, Jacob knew he needed to settle some issues in his life,

so he separated himself from his family to pray. At the end of that prayer session, this is how the angel puts it, “...thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou POWER with God and with men, and hast PREVAILED” (Genesis 32:28).

Prayer changes your identity and brings you to the place of power to prevail. When Jesus took the disciples to the mountain, He was transfigured (changed) before them and radiated like the sun. Why? Because it was the mountain of prayer, and nothing less. Scriptures were given to us to pray them into our lives, so that we might have the same experiences as those men and women in the Bible. You must go beyond letters (quoting) and enter the realm of the Spirit through prayers. Nothing on earth will submit to you, not even your destiny, until you enter the place of prayer. Ask Jabez. Divine result and destiny are waiting for you in the place of prayer. You will get there. Amen.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, my place in prayer will not be empty. I arise and enter there now.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Acts 4:31, 1 Chronicles 4:9-10.

Introductory Text, Luke 19:1-10

PROSPERITY AND RESOURCES



Opening verse: *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth [3 John 1:2]*



When you are hardworking, it will open you up to a great physical resources, but not prosperity. Prosperity is spiritual, and is far beyond the capacity to gather resources; hence it has to do with the body, soul and spirit of a man. Prosperity is the work of grace, it is a gift of God for believing and obeying Him. Abraham at the beginning did no physical work or had any vocation other than believe God; and as he walked with God and journey through life, he kept increasing. Before his death, scripture noted, **“And Abraham was old and well stricken in age: and the Lord had blessed Abraham in ALL THINGS”** (Genesis 24:1). Similarly, Joseph was a slave in Egypt, yet it was said of him, **“And the Lord was with Joseph and he was a prosperous man...”** (Genesis 39:2). Prosperity has to do with all things; body, soul and spirit.

Zaccheus was a rich man, he had every available resources anyone could wish for, yet his soul was famished; and for this he sought Jesus, seeing all his resources could not fill the vacuum of his soul. Also, the rich young ruler that came to Jesus had enormous resources in his hand. Scripture said **“...he had great possession”** (Matt. 19:22). But when his wealth couldn't handle the weight of the burden in his heart,

he came to Jesus and asked, “...**what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life**” (Matthew 19:16). It was the same thing with Nicodemus, a Pharisee who came to Jesus by night and sought for salvation (John 3:1-5).

Great resources has a way of giving us false security about life, but their deception soon wear out as age set in. When all that you have are material possessions and physical endowment, you are indeed poor. In the day of trouble, you will have no hiding place. “**Riches profit not in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death**” (Proverbs 11:4). Salvation through Christ is what secures our spirit, soul and body. This is the true prosperity that God desires for everyone. Such was the case of Isaac who in the days of famine, trusted in the Lord, and as he sowed, “**...the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great.**” (Genesis 26:13-14).

God wants you to have great resources, but not at the expense of your soul. Seek Him first, and He will prosper you, in body, soul and spirit.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

My soul rest in thee. In you Lord, I am secured and assured of the future.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Mark 8:36-37, Isaiah 48:17, Deuteronomy 8:18

Introductory Text, Acts 10:1-8

ANGELS DON'T PREACH THE GOSPEL



Opening verse: *And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert [Acts 8:26].*



Angels play a major role in God's work both in heaven and on earth. Right from Genesis, angels have been part of God's move on earth. They were there in the days of Noah and the flood, in the time of Abraham and the destruction of Sodom and Gonorrhoea, (Genesis 19:1); with Jacob at Peniel (Genesis 32:24); they shielded Israel while in Egypt and led them through the wilderness to the Promised Land (Exodus 23:20), they helped Joshua in the battle of the nations (Joshua 5:13-14); they led Israel in the days of the Judges and delivered the prophecy that birth Samson (Judges 13:3); they showed up in the days of the kings and prophets, and came to initiate the birth of Jesus (Luke 1:26-33), etc.

Angels do every of God's bidding, but not the preaching of the gospel. You will not find one line of scripture where an angel preached the gospel other than announce, guide, lead, reveal, preserve, show, help, instruct, or fight on behalf of God's people etc. For instance, at the coming of Jesus; **“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were**

sore afraid. **And the angel said unto them, fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord”** (Luke 2:8-11). The angel simply announced Christ birth.

Similarly, an angel of the Lord played a pivotal role in bringing the gospel to Africa through the encounter between Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch, yet the angel did not preach, as we see in our opening verse (Acts 8:26). The same was repeated when an angel appeared to Cornelius and instructed him to meet Peter to receive salvation through Christ. The implication of all of these is that the preaching of the gospel has been assigned to men. **“And he (Jesus) said unto them, go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”** (Mark 16:15).

If you refuse to declare the good news, someone else will deliver the bad news; and raise drunkards, drug addicts, school dropouts, and all kinds of societal misfits that will turnaround and torment you. Go and preach.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord Jesus, now I understand my place in the propagation of the gospel. I will not fail.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Proverbs 11:30, Daniel 12:3, Romans 15:18-24.

Introductory Text, Philippians 3:1-14

ENJOY TODAY



Opening verse. *Brethren I count not myself to have apprehended: but this is one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before [Philippians 3:13].*

Life and challenges go together; that's why as you finish solving one, another is rising to take its place. Yet there's none that is insurmountable. Scripture already assured us that we are more than conquerors through Christ who loves us (Romans 8:37). Whether you believe it or not, challenges are part of what makes life interesting, and helps to keep us on our toes. So, don't allow fear overwhelm you, every trouble or challenge will eventually go, and you will still be standing. Thus, one of the ways to deal with your challenges is to enjoy each day as they come. Don't let yesterday's trouble or tomorrow's fears weigh you down; think, deal and enjoy today, otherwise, you will be taking more than you can chew. **“Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself, sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof”** (Matthew 6:34).

Challenges have made many persons bow down in life, leaving them in a constant state of sorrow. Yet keeping a frowning face or being moody doesn't solve problems, they make them worse. **“A merry heart doeth good like medicine; but a broken spirit**

drieth the bones” (Proverbs 17:22). Do you know that most of Paul's letters were written while he was on the run from his persecutors, and some others while in prison? Yet he wrote to encourage and strengthen others, because he understood the power of being joyful. To the Philippian Church, he said, **“Finally my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same thing to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe”** (Philippian 3:1).

Thus, while teaching His disciples how to pray, Jesus revealed the secret of joyful living, **“Give us day by day our daily bread”** (Luke 11:3). God's purpose is that we live life day by day and not more. Any time you try to live beyond a day, you will have many troubles to contend with. Those who allow their past to keep hunting them, or the future to keep provoking them will not enjoy life. As believers, we do not live in denial of what is behind or before us, but we live by faith. So, let the mistakes of the past remain in the past and let the prospects of the future wait. The strength for tomorrow comes from the joy of the present. Enjoy today.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

No more will I give myself to the worries of the past or those yet to come. I rejoice today.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Ecclesiastes 3:11-13, Ecclesiastes 5:18-20, Mark 6:30-

Introductory Text, Matthew 26:47-57

DEMONS DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING



Opening verse. *And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are ye? [Acts 19:15].*



One reason why the Bible did not give much attention to demons is because they're below us spiritually. As long as you are in Christ, you have total dominion over demons (Ephesians 1:19-23). But some Christian authors have written more about demons than the Bible have revealed; that can only be by the Spirit. However, one of the short comings of demons is that they are like their master the devil, who is limited in time and space. God is everywhere at the same time (Omnipresent), but the devil is not; so are his demons. In other word, they don't know everything.

Take the case of the crucifixion for an example. God set the ball rolling and allowed Jesus to be arrested, beaten, judged and condemned to death. At the cross the devil rejoiced and mocked Him saying, **"He saved others, himself he could not save. If he be the King of Israel let him come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God, let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the son of God"** (Matthew 27:42-43). But three days after, it dawned on the devil that he actually lost that battle. Paul later wrote, **"...for had they known they would not have crucify the Lord of glory"** (1 Corinthians 2:8). If the devil and his

demons could not smell the crucifixion plan, they cannot track or stop you if you remain in God.

When the devil came to the garden to tempt Adam, he didn't know where the fruit not to be eaten was until Eve revealed it. For scripture noted, **“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, has God indeed said, you shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said to the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, you shall not eat it nor shall you touch it lest you die”** (Genesis 3:1-3 NKJV). Thus, it was Eve that made the serpent to know that the tree not to eat from was the one in the midst (centre) of the garden.

Demons don't know everything, don't be afraid. Reject every teaching that exalts them; they are below you. Go ahead and pursue your dreams, you will make it.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Jesus for the place I have in you. I am above and not beneath. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Rom 8:14-17, Colossians 2:8-23, Ephesians 1:19-21.

Introductory Text, Philippians 2:12-16

MAGIC WAND CHRISTIANITY?



Opening verse: *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing [James 1:3].*



The Christian life is a lifetime walk with the Lord. Thus, when the Lord called Abraham, it took the whole of his life, turning him 180 degrees the opposite direction, saying; “...**get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee**” (Genesis 12:1), and from that day Abraham never came back (Hebrews 11:13-15). Christianity is a journey; it is a process; and this keeps you going from one phase to another. Thus, as you journey (walk) along with God, you grow and enter into His fullness as Abraham did. Nothing on this road comes suddenly, you will have to “grow” into them: no magic.

In the beginning, God called things into being, and they appeared. This was done to kick-start the work of creation; but thereafter, everything had to undergo process. Christ himself, though was God in the flesh, yet had to be born through the womb of a woman and grow from childhood to adulthood before receiving His call. “**And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being as was supposed, the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli**” (Luke 3:23). Thus, Jesus Christ is God's perfect example; and this is the path we are called to follow.

Power, grace, anointing, fame or prosperity, etc. will not come to you overnight, they are a product of a work and walk with God.

Doing a 21 day fasting and prayer programme will not suddenly make you anointed like Paul, or make you super rich; but as you continue in the process of your walk, your life, blessings or glories are eventually delivered to you. Jesus told the disciples, **"...ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you..."** (Acts 1:8); but that power only came as, **"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication with the women..."** (Acts 1:14). Does this mean God cannot bless instantly? Yes He can, yet He wants you to grow; for that is where you acquire skill, wisdom and experience to manage what is given to you.

Without training or process you cannot be effective in life. That was why Adam couldn't sustain the garden and had to be thrown out. Jesus on the other hand after undergoing 30 years of training, executed the redemption programme, and at the end declared, "It is finished". That is what God wants to make out of you - a champion like Christ.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, your plan for me are good. I will stay in my training and master the art of life.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

James 1:2-8, 2 Peter 1:5-11, John 17:1-5.

Introductory Text, Luke 19:1-10

CELEBRATE YOUR SALVATION (PART 2)



Opening verse: *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son [Colossians 1:13].*



Salvation is not a single item, but a full package with many gifts. Through salvation, issues of your health, finance, marriage, family, career and eternity are all settled, etc. It is a one off contract that settles everything that concerns your life. No wonder Zaccheus was ready to give up as much as possible when the opportunity came his way, saying, “...**behold Lord the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him four fold**” (Luke 19:8). Until a man is born again, everything is against him. Thus, not minding his wealth, yet Zaccheus knew something was missing in his life, and when he found it in Christ, he was ready to surrender all.

Peter and his friends were at Lake Genesaret, and after an all-night fishing, they caught nothing. Dazed by this unusual occurrence, at dawn they started packing their nets to go back home. It was at this point Jesus appeared, and pleaded with Peter to use his boat for preaching. At the end of His preaching, Jesus thought of compensating Peter, and asked him to lunch into the deep. Surprised by this bold command, Peter said, “...**Master we have toiled all night and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy**

word I will let down the net” (Luke 5:5). As he obey, he had a net breaking and boat sinking catch. So much that his partner's boat was also filled and they started sinking. However, the greater surprise came, **“...when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all and followed him”** (Luke 5:11).

Thus, the prize of salvation is above all that life can offer you. No silver, gold, riches, or possession can be compared with it. No wonder they gave up all and followed Him. Later, Peter still went ahead to ask, **“...we have forsaken all, and followed thee, what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration, when the son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands for my name's sake, shall receive a hundred fold, and shall inherit everlasting life”** (Matthew 19:27-29)

Celebrate your salvation because it's the gate way to future elevation and prosperity.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Glory be to God, I have a secured future in Christ. No more fears, no more shame.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Revelation 21:9-14, Acts 4:33-37, Acts 10:24-26.

Introductory Text, Hebrews 11:8-19

NOT CALLED TO PERISH



Opening verse: *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life [John 3:16].*



Salvation is a call to life and not to destruction. Whatever were your past or present experiences, God's purpose is to give you life. Even the apostle John while quoting Jesus said, **"The thief cometh not but for to steal, and to kill and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"** (John 10:10). We have been promised abundant life, and that must be your focus and not your temporal setbacks or delay. Abraham and Sarah left their country of origin on the account of God's word; to bless and make them a nation, and what looked impossible eventually came to pass. Today, the nation of Israel is a testimony of God's faithfulness.

Are you currently experiencing disappointments, stagnation or sickness, etc. don't be afraid, but remain steadfast, resolute and focused on the one who called you into a walk with Him. If God didn't fail the men and women in the Bible who didn't have any reference point to look to, but still trusted God; He will not fail you who is surrounded by several persons who succeeded on the account of following God. When the disciples were caught in a storm in the middle of the sea, their cry was, **"...master, carest thou not that we perish?** (Mark 4:38). But on hearing

their cry, Jesus responded, **“And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, peace be still. And the wind ceased and there was a great calm”** (Mark 4:39). Whatever has taken you, Jesus will not leave or abandon you

Paul was similarly caught in a deadly storm called Euroclydon (Acts 27:14); but after a long wait on the Lord in fasting and prayer, Paul rose up and said to everyone in the ship, **“And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am and whom I serve, saying fear not....”** (Acts 27:22-24). The same word, “fear not” is what the Lord is saying to you right now. He will not allow you to be consumed or taken by the storms of life.

The stuff you're made up of is much stronger than what the world is throwing at you. Rise up and shake off that beast and move on.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Christ is my stay and strength. So, I speak to every storm, “peace be still.”

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Acts 28:1-6, 1 John 4:4, 2 Kings 6:16, 2 Corinthians 4:15-18.

Introductory Text, Genesis 12:10-20

BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS



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



Righteousness is one of the greatest gift given to the believer, and it comes by believing (Genesis 15:6). It is not achieved by good works, prayer, fasting, evangelism, giving or tithing, etc. It was given to you because you believed God's word, promise, judgement, wisdom, etc. It is that belief that brought you into salvation through Christ. It is this same instrument of righteousness that makes us think right, see right, speak right, judge right, act right, etc. Thus, righteousness places you in God's stead - playing God's role in every situation and place. It brings the life of God into you, that was why our opening verse concludes thus, "**...but the Spirit is life because of righteousness**" (Rm. 8:10)

Significant among the benefits of righteousness is that the moment it is deposited into your spiritual account (when you believe God), your misdemeanour are immediately wiped out as though they never happened. Abraham on two occasions lied about Sarah his wife, and on each occasion God turned around and fought for him. "**And Abimelech took sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and womenservants, and gave them unto Abraham, and restored him Sarah his wife**" (Genesis 20:14). Because of the righteousness in

Abraham's account, God stood and defended him, his character flaws notwithstanding.

Sarah also laughed and doubted the angels when she heard them telling Abraham that his wife will bare a son. And when she was confronted for laughing, she denied it, yet the angel said, “.....at the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son” (Genesis 18:14-15). Because of the righteousness of Abraham, God's word still came to pass. In the case of Isaac, while living in Gerar, famine hit the city and as he prepared to leave, God asked him to stay and sow in that land, saying, “....I will perform the oath which I swear unto Abraham thy father” (Genesis 26:3). At the end Isaac stayed and sowed and reaped a hundred fold, while others suffered great losses

Jacob got the same experience because of the righteousness of Abraham. Thus, when he arrived at Laban's house, he came with nothing, but at his departure after 21 years, he left with four wives, thirteen children, menservants, maidservants, cattle, sheep, camels, etc. (Genesis 30:43). He came as a single man but left as a nation because of righteousness. Don't get left behind, righteousness is the way to a secured future.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

The path of the just gets brighter and brighter by the day, so will my path be. Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Proverbs 11:4-8, Proverbs 14:34, Romans 6:12-13.

Introductory Text, Matthew 8:5-13

FIRE AND HAMMER



Opening verse : *Is not my word like as a fire?
Saith the LORD, and like a hammer that breaketh
the rock in pieces [Jeremiah 23:29].*



If there was a better way to describe the power, force and efficacy of the Word of God, none would match Jeremiah's. He described the Word as fire and hammer. While the hammer smashes things to pieces, fire burns and turn things to ashes. In other word, fire makes things disappear. Thus, what may escape the Word as hammer, will not escape it as fire. It is the same Word that has been given to you to engage with life, just as it was given to every man called of God. To Abraham, He said, **"...get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: and I will make thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shall be a blessing"** (Genesis 12:1-2). And as he obeyed, he ended up a great nation.

The Word is God's best gift, there cannot be any other than this, even as David rightly revealed, **"...for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name"** (Psalm 138:2). The implication is that, with the Word, you have what is higher than the heavens and the earth. It is the instrument to create all that you want, and at the same time, to stop all that are against you. With the Word in your mouth and in your spirit, you

can never be stranded in life. No wonder, when everyone pressed on Jesus to go with the centurion to his house and heal his servant, the man himself said, “...**speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed**” (Matthew 8:5).

Thus, the Word heals and delivers (Psalm 107:20); it opens blind eyes (Mark 10:51-52); quickens the lame (Acts 3:6-7); raises the dead back to life (Acts 9:40); makes provision (Luke 5:4-6); inspires, renews, strengthens, and ultimately makes us triumph over all. Nothing can resist or withstand the Word, for the Word is a builder and a destroyer at the same time, as Isaiah revealed, “**I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things**” (Isaiah 45:7). Thus, every Word of God has God in them; not one Word of God has less of Him.

Recall when Jesus and his disciples entered Gadara, and a mad man suddenly came at them; but with one word, “Go”, the demons in the mad man were thrown out (Matthew 8:32). Truly, the Word conquers the world.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I am under the divine backing of heaven. I have the Word to give me victory. Glory!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

John 1:1-5, 12-14, Psalm 33:6-9, Acts 20:32.

Introductory Text, Proverbs 1:22-33

SPIRITUALITY AND WISDOM



Opening verse : *Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding [Proverbs 4:7].*



The world, through witty wisdom has prospered and dominated every facets of life. From science and technology, to agriculture, engineering, computer, medicine, social science, art, fashion, automobile, business, sports and entertainment, etc. the world has the upper hand. But the Church has exalted spirituality above wisdom, and has not yet proved herself better. Thus, most crises you find in the Church has its root in lack of wisdom. Things that could have been easily solved by keeping quiet or overlook, escalated because we acted unwisely. Jesus Himself noted, “...for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light” (Luke 16:8). But God is a God of wisdom, and by wisdom He runs the heaven and the earth and balances all the forces at play. A man of God once said, a greater percent of what God does is by wisdom.

Examples of where wisdom prevailed over spirituality abound in the Bible. Once the Pharisees came and asked Jesus if it was proper to pay tribute (tax) or not. He simply asked for the coin which has Caesar's inscription on it, and then said, “...render therefore unto Cesar the things which are Cesar's; and unto God the things that are God's” (Matthew

22:21) and that ended the contention. On another occasion, He was quizzed into a corner when they brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And as the people pressed so that they can trap Him, He then responded, “...**He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her**” (John 8:7). On hearing this, they all dropped their stones and disappeared. Also, the disciples were asking Jesus who will betray Him, and Judas Iscariot also asked, “**Master is it I?**” Jesus simply responded, “...**thou has said**” (Matthew 26:25).

Being spiritual gives you a great advantage, but if you don't balance it with wisdom, you will end up a fool. Spirituality does not mean you should not control, enhance, educate, motivate and drive yourself towards a better, peaceful and fruitful life. Ever wondered why Christian couples shout, nag, troll and fight more often than unbelievers? You don't have to win every argument or discussions; sometimes we stoop down to win. Wisdom must guide every of your actions, decisions and choices, both within your home and outside, otherwise you will fall on many grounds.

Jesus Christ is wisdom personified, and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of wisdom. You can't have them both and still be a victim of life. Wise up.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Through Christ, I will walk in godly wisdom and triumph in every way. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Proverbs 4:5-9, Proverbs 16:32, James 1:5, James 3:13-18

Introductory Text, Matthew 16:13-19

PROFITING



Opening verse: *Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them: that thy profiting may appear to all [1 Timothy 4:15]*



The greatest fear of the devil is not hell; but the Church, the body of Christ. The devil knows he is bound to go to hell, it's a settled matter; for that is the prize of rebellion against God. Thus, the devil's mission is to cause as much distraction as possible, and take as many persons along with him. The Church is the only institution authorized and empowered to overcome him and his evil works. **“Behold I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you”** (Luke 10:17-19).

Part of the instruments given to the Church includes, faith, joy, hope, righteousness, holiness, godliness, contentment, the blood of the Lamb, the whole armour of God, etc. (Ephesians 6:10-18). Unless you put to work all these instruments, your victory is challengeable by the devil. Yet, our most potent weapon of warfare and victory is the Word. The Word of God is not only creative, but it is God (John 1:1-3). So, everything that was created by the Word is bound to submit to the Word - the devil inclusive. This is the secret of our profiting. Meditating, studying, praying, speaking in tongues, etc. are part of the ways of the Kingdom. Whenever you set aside

these practices, the devil will take you down, hence Paul's charge to Timothy in our opening verse.

The devil knows he has no solution to the weapons of the kingdom, so he uses mockery to weaken our faith in the Word and ways of God. The reason why some believers are not profiting is because they've submitted the weapons of the Kingdom to ridicule, comedy and laughter. Thus, the moment you've lost faith in God's word, works, ways and promises, you become defeatable. When Balaam the evil prophet saw he could not curse Israel, he counseled Balak the heathen king to send out their young women to dress seductively and draw Israel into fornication (Revelation 2:14). Balaam knew that the only way to defeat Israel is to make her sin against God's instructions and command (Numbers 31:16).

Thus, as long as you keep questioning, doubting and analyzing the Word and the ways of God; the devil has succeeded in putting you in a lesser and weaker place of life, where you cannot fight or make gain. You were called to make profit with your faith, not to suffer loss or defeat.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I will no longer fall to the deceit of the devil. I will go back to the whole armour of God.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

2 Timothy 2:15-16, 22-26, Psalm 119:9, Isaiah 33:14-16.

Introductory Text, 1 Kings 18:41-46

PRAYER AND GOD'S WILL



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



One of the things that causes delay for believers is the inability to know the right tool to accessing God's will. God has a will for everyone, but every of His will are spiritual in nature; not physical. In other word, they are located in the spirit realm and, it will take spiritual instrument to find them, not physical. Fasting, prophecy, speaking in tongues, study of the Word, or meditation are all tools for victorious Christian living, yet every one of them have their different roles. Take for instance, the study of the Word, this will give you knowledge of God's will; prophecy will show you location and time; fasting will generate power and anointing, but when it comes to bringing down God's will from the heavenly, prayer is the key.

Elijah prophesied that rain will fall after God had assured him of sending rain, yet he had to climb the mountain to pray. Even at that, it still took seven rounds of prayers before the heaven opened. **“And said to his servant, go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up and looked, and said, there is nothing. And he said, go again seven times”** (1 kings 18:43). Also, when the Lord spoke through the mouth of Jeremiah that Israel was going to spend

seventy (70) years in Babylon, and after which He will bring them out (Jeremiah 25:11); yet it took the prayer of Daniel to get that done. Thus as Daniel discovered this by scripture and fasted, notwithstanding it was his persistence in the place of prayer that got them out (Daniel 9:1-5).

Jesus told His disciples all that will happen to Him. His betrayal, arrest, death, and resurrection were well spoken ahead of time; yet when it got to that time, at Gethsemane, He had to pray earnestly so that the devil does not subvert God's perfect will. **“And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was at it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground”** (Luke 22:44). Anything and everything in the spirit realm is subject to change, unless you pray. God told Abraham that his people will spend 400 years in slavery, but they did not come out until the 430th year, because nobody prayed (Genesis 15:13, Exodus 12:40).

Whatever is the dream, vision, prophecy, etc. you have received or seen with your eyes, your knees (prayer) is what will bring them to you. Get back to the prayer room.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I will pray and bring down your will. Every of your purpose for me shall be accomplished.

Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 22:39-46, Proverbs 8:17, Jeremiah 29:10-14

Introductory Text, Acts 16:25-34

CELEBRATE YOUR SALVATION (PART 3)



Opening verse: *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].*

When the Holy Spirit diverted Paul's missionary route to Macedonia, from where they eventually settled in the city of Philippi, it looked like a failed move, because Paul and his partner ended up in the prison after the deliverance of the young girl possessed with the spirit of divination. However, while in the prison God showed up and wrought even a greater deliverance; and both the jailer and his entire family received salvation. To seal that move of the Spirit, scripture noted of the jailer (prison guard), **"And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house"** (Acts 16:34). Thus, the jailer celebrated his salvation.

Can you imagine how many more souls that will be won through the jailer, who will now have to preach Christ to every other prisoner? For once, he will no longer be part of the evil and wickedness that goes on in the prison, but will now have to fight it. In other word, God brought Paul and his team to Macedonia just to save a soul in Philippi. And through that one soul, several others will be saved. God's ways are awesome. Thus, the reason you should celebrate your salvation is because you're one of the doors of

the Kingdom, just as Christ is the DOOR (John 10:9). Through you, God's love, peace and reconciliation will be opened to others.

In other word, every move of God always starts with one person. Isaiah noted, **“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, here am I, send me”** (Isaiah 6:8). You are very critical to God's move on earth; and until you make yourself available, several other persons will be shut out of God's Kingdom. There are persons whose life and destinies are directly dependent on your salvation and obedience to God's call: you're the one that will bring them out of darkness. No wonder, when Jesus began His ministry between Galilee and Nazareth, it was said, **“The people which sat in darkness saw great light, and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up”** (Matthew 4:16).

Celebrate your salvation because you are the light to your world; and as Christ is called the SAVIOUR, so are you one of the saviours (Obadiah 1:21).



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I celebrate my salvation, because I am the light that will bring out others from darkness.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Matthew 5:13-16, Ezekiel 22:25-31, Ezekiel 33:1-11

Introductory Text, Revelation 12:7-12

THE BLOOD OF JESUS



Opening verse: *Moreover he sprinkled with blood the tabernacle, and all the vessels of ministry [Hebrews 9:21]*



Just as every craft, vocation or profession have instruments of operation, so is the Christian profession. God has equipped the body of Christ with both offensive and defensive weapons, sometimes it is surprising or ridiculous when a believer falls, fails or suffer loss. We were created to win every battle, because we've been given everything to make it so (2 Peter 1:3). Thus, the only possible reasons for failure, loss or defeat are either ignorance, carelessness, or lack of use of the weapons given to us, etc. For instance, the Word of God is sufficient to handle any kind of battle, no wonder Jeremiah said, **"Is not my word like as fire? Saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?"** (Jeremiah 23:29)

Yet, another strong weapon for Christian warfare is the blood of Jesus. But we have turned the blood to an object of joke, comedy and laughter, the very same instrument by which the angels overcame the devil (Revelation 12:11). Thus, looking at our opening verse we gain a glimpse to the effectiveness of the blood. First, it talks about Moses sprinkling the blood on **"...all the vessels of ministry."** What is ministry? Ministry is anything God has called you into either through your calling, talent, education or

training. This includes being a clergy, music artist, carpenter, truck driver, banker, engineer, etc. All of these represents ministry.

To execute your ministry, the Lord first needs your body. Thus, your body is the primary vessel of your ministry. Other vessels includes your working tools. For instance, the carpenter uses things like hammer, handsaw, jack plane, chisel, trowel, etc. Thus, Moses sprinkled the blood on the people and every vessel of ministry i.e. the cup, spoon, knives, etc. This daily practices was what gave Moses access into the throne room of God and victory over the enemy.

In the same way, but now with a stronger and better weapon, we have the blood of Jesus. It is given to us to do battle both as a defensive and offensive weapon. As Moses sprinkled the blood over the vessel of ministry, so must you use the blood of Jesus over every vessel of your ministry. Your home, the office, vehicles, furniture, appliances and every working tool make up your vessels of ministry. If the blood of bulls, goats and rams could work for Moses' generation, then the blood of Jesus can do much more; who had presented himself as a pure vessel unto God on our behalf.

MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER



Father, I believe in the blood of Jesus, and through this blood I overcome the demonic.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Hebrews 12:24, 1 John 1:7, Hebrews 9:11-15,
Hebrews 10:19-22

Introductory Text, Exodus 1:8-21

THE FEAR OF ISAAC



Opening verse: *Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely thou hadst sent me away now empty....” [Genesis 31:42].*



Some of the things that make us Christ-like are righteousness, love, mercy, truth, humility, godliness, etc. Yet godly fear or the fear of the Lord is one of our greatest strength as believers. Why? Because this is what restrains a man from sin. **“By mercy and truth, iniquity is purged, and by the fear of the Lord, men depart from sin”** (Proverbs 16:6). Also, Proverbs 8:13 says, **“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil, pride, and arrogancy and the evil way....”** While Proverbs 16:17 reasons, **“The highway of the upright is to depart from sin...”** In other word, the fear of the Lord takes men to the highway of life, and does not bring them down. No wonder, Joseph kept rising until he became the Prime Minister in a foreign land, after he refused the sexual advances of Potiphar's wife, saying, **“.....how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God”** (Genesis 39:9).

Thus, when Jacob spoke of “the fear of Isaac”, he was talking about what he saw in his father Isaac, which by extension came from Abraham. The family had walked with God and in His fear, thereby hating sin and every wickedness. In response, God prospered and protected the family right from the time of Abraham. No wonder, when Laban, Jacob's uncle

chased after him, “...**God came to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said unto him, take heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad**” (Genesis 31:24). It was a warning to Laban to steer clear from hurting Jacob. Thus, the young man was only reaping the reward of his father's walk with God - the fear of Isaac.

God places high premium and divine protection on those who walk in His fear. So, He spoke through the mouth of Prophet Isaiah saying, “**And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his strength**” (Isaiah 33:6). Thus, through the fear of the Lord, men will have an unhindered access to the deep things of God, enjoy stability, growth and victory in every area of life. They are the men and women that will be entrusted with the treasures and riches of the Kingdom. Until the fear of the Lord can be found in you, your walk (journey) with God have only just begun.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I shall be guided by the fear of the Lord. In this will I rise and have my victory. Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalm 25:12-14, Psalm 31:19-20, Psalm 66:18,
Genesis 39:1-12

Introductory Text, Hosea 7:1-16

UNTURNUED CAKE



Opening verse: *Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned [Hosea 7:8].*



Our opening verse describes Ephraim as a cake not turned. What does this mean? In baking, when you don't turn a cake, one side gets burnt, and the other, half done. In other words, with the same substance, one side is overcooked and the other undercooked. This is what is described as half-baked. In the same way, you have half-baked Christians in the church; that is, men and women who have been burnt by several failures, delays and disappointments, and with little or no success to show for life. Have you ever had to deal with an inexperienced tailor, auto mechanic, or carpenter, etc.? They end up destroying the very thing you gave them to fix. This is what half-baked Christians do.

Thus a half-baked Christian is one not given to the Word, neither can he apply it appropriately. The same Word that was given for his defence and warfare, the devil turns around and use it against him. When David fought Goliath, he had no sword in his hands, so when Goliath fell, he used Goliath sword to cut off his head (1 Samuel 17:51). The same feat was repeated by Benaiah, one of David's men; **“And he slew an Egyptian, a man of great stature, five cubits high; and in the Egyptian's hand was a spear like a weaver's beam; and he went down to**

him with a staff, and pluck the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear" (1 Chronicles 11:23).

The half-baked Christian fights all the laws and commandments that were meant for his good, well-being and victory. For instance, he will say, "You're the temple of God", so you need not go to Church, nor pray, fast or read the Bible, etc. but that God will work and bless you automatically, because you're His child. He or she will also fight and doubt divine healing, prophecy, tithing, sowing, and advises that you send your gifts to orphanage, or distribute food in the church rather than sow seed or tithe, etc. In summary, they are full of knowledge but lack power and character as Paul charged Timothy about such men, **"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof, from such turn away...Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth"** (2 Timothy 3:5, 7).

Unturned cakes turn the Word of God upside down, to trap and destroy themselves. Don't be like Ephraim, allow the Holy Spirit to guide and make you fit for God's use.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I surrender myself as a vessel for your use.
Incubate me with your Spirit O Lord.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

2 Timothy 3:1-7; 13-17, 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Introductory Text, Acts 8:1-8

THE GOD OF PATTERN



Opening verse: *According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it [Exodus 25:9].*

Every call of God comes with a pattern. This is not limited to clergy or ministry work, but also to every vocation or profession. That is why technology companies like Microsoft, Google, Apple, etc. all do the same thing but uses different pattern (operating systems). But believers do more of copycat thereby limiting themselves. That a particular model worked for your friend or that Church, does not automatically mean it will work for you. Even if it does, it may not produce the result God wants from you. There is no sin in copying what is good, but you must seek to get it the way God wants it. Thus, when God gives you an assignment or calls you to pursue a particular vocation, seek to get the pattern also, so you can get the result He wants.

Beginning from Abraham, Moses, Joshua, up to the New Testament Church, etc. God used different patterns, yet each person produced outstanding results. Thus, if you are going to stand out in your generation, you must get your instructions (pattern) right. The Lord warned Moses, “...**Look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount**” (Exodus 25:40). Also, Saul fought most of his battles using the armour, so when David

was to confront Goliath, he thought it good for David to use the same armour. But when David wore them, he couldn't move, **"And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him"** (1 Samuel 17:39). Thus, Saul's pattern couldn't fit into David's.

When Jesus came He made it abundantly clear that His ministry was to the Jews only (Matthew 15:24), but before His ascension, He told the disciples, **"...ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"** (Acts 1:8). Thus, they were called to go beyond Jerusalem to the uttermost part of the earth. But when the disciples refused to leave Jerusalem, it came at a great cost; with the Church scattered by persecution (Acts 8:1-4), and James beheaded (Acts 12:1). Every time you neglect your instruction or pattern, you pay heavily.

When you don't get your instructions right and complete from the Holy Spirit, you will copy and struggle. The Christian race was designed to be unique, workable and to produce result. Get your pattern right



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I yield myself to the Holy Spirit leading and instructions. I will get it right. Amen.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Acts 16:6-12, Matthew 10:5-8, 2 Corinthians 10:12-18.

Introductory Text , Luke 18:1-11

RESIST THE DEVIL



Opening verse: *Submit yourself therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you [James 4:7].*

To defeat the devil, all you need is simple obedience to the word of God. Unfortunately our disobedience has made the devil look bigger than he is. And until your obedience is fulfilled, there is no way you can be helped (2 Corinthians 10:6). Thus, our opening verse reminds us that we are to resist the devil, and not to romance with him. But as long as you keep giving reason for sin, failure, non-performance, etc. the devil will keep having what to throw at you and bring you down. If you keep pitying your flesh, you are not resisting the devil but romancing with him. The flesh is your “servant” not your lord; stop submitting to your flesh (1 Corinthians 6:12-13).

Two major things that are to your advantage which the devil does not have: he does not have time (Revelation 12:12); and he is not omnipresent (Job 1:7) That is, he is not everywhere at the same time, only God is. So, every time you're resisting him, you are eating into his time, and this unsettles him greatly. Thus, when he comes knocking at your door through sickness, failure, sorrow, fear, delay, etc. don't give-in to him. Resist him by saying no, after a while he will flee. Thus, as long as you keep fighting back through prayer, the word of God, by faith and

confession, the devil will leave you to seek other places.

Take for instance, the issue of fasting. When you're not fasting, you may not remember to eat until late morning or early afternoon, but the moment you announce you want to fast, hell will break loose with hunger pang. Sometimes, the hunger pang will come so strongly, it will look as if you will give up the next minute. This is because the flesh doesn't want to be under control but wants to control you. But when you fight back by delaying that meal, the body immediately adjust to your new time table. To resist the devil is to discomfort yourself (tame your body) for a short time in order to get what you want.

In Egypt, Moses performed many miracles. Yet the first four miracles performed by him were replicated by the magicians of Pharaoh. And as he continued, the magicians ran out of power and confessed, **"This is the finger of God"** (Exodus 8:18-19). Imagine Moses had given up after the first four miracles, the devil would have pride himself in his evil ability, but he lost out. It takes resistance to break the devil.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I confront the devil by the Word. I break his hold and power in Jesus Name.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Matthew 11:12, 1 Corinthians 10:23, 1 Corinthians 9:27.

Introductory Text, Hebrews 11:8-16

STRANGERS



Opening verse: *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia*
[1 Peter 1:1]



One of the major signs of genuine salvation is the constant desire to go home; in this case, heaven. The Spirit that is inside of us, the Spirit that cries “Abba Father” (Galatians 4:6); is a Spirit that wants to be with the Father. There is a constant pull from heaven for every Christian to come home, but for the sake of winning more souls, God allows us to stay a little while. Psalm 116:15, puts it clearly, **“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”** If you don't feel this heavenly pull or desire, check your salvation again.

Apostle Peter in our text reveals why we have this pull. It is because we are strangers. We do not belong here, heaven is our true home. In other word, we are in a place not created or suited for us. The Spirit in us repels this earthly environment because of the prevalent of sin. Evil, wickedness, sexual immorality, and all forms of unrighteousness has made the world unconducive for the Spirit we carry. No wonder, Paul commended the Thessalonian Church having turned to God from idol worship, **“And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come”** (1 Thessalonians 1:10).

As strangers, how then should we live? We must live carefully, soberly and watchfully. We mustn't invest all our lives here, for the world is passing away; and it will be destroyed by fire. John declares, **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God, abideth forever”** (1 John 2:15-17)

Like herders, strangers are constantly moving, not settling down in any place. This was the life style of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They kept looking for the city God had built, and this they passed from one generation to the other until they arrived at Canaan – the Promised Land. There is a land God has promised the believer, that is where your focus must be, not here. You are in a strange land, that's why we are called strangers.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I look toward a heavenly Jerusalem,
where my rest is. I will get there.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Colossian 3:1-4, 1 Peter 2:11, Philippians 1:21-23.

Introductory Text, 1 Kings 13:1-26

FINAL SALVATION



Opening verse: *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you [John 14:3]*

Our salvation is of 3 levels: initial salvation, on-going salvation and final salvation. To be born again is the first level called initial salvation, but this is not enough for your life time journey. Thus, the work of salvation is like a man who is to embark on a journey and he goes ahead to fill his fuel tank; but as he continues the journey he must keep refilling the tank, otherwise he won't get to his destination. That process of refilling your tank is the second level called on-going salvation. Thus after your initial salvation (being born again), you must keep walking in love, faith, prayer, obedience, righteousness, etc. so as to get to the end. The end of your walk with God (destination) is the third level called final salvation. Heaven is our final salvation and final destination.

Thus, the primary purpose of your salvation is to make heaven. It would amount to nothing, if after being born again you miss heaven. **“And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure”** (1 John 3:3). The young prophet in our introductory text missed out of his final salvation because he stopped walking, and the old prophet (the devil) caught up with him, and slew him with his 2 best instruments, a lie and a lion (1 Peter 5:10).

Reasons why you must make heaven is because, first, you will suffer most in the midst of all the other unbelievers left behind after rapture. Secondly, Satan will come directly for you, because while you were still in Christ, and praying and binding devils, they were directly hitting him. No wonder the devil made moves to take the body of Moses; but for Michael the arch angel, he would have succeeded (Jude 1:9).

In order to remain on the path of final salvation, Paul declared; **“Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize”** (1 Corinthians 9:26-27 NIV). The Message version of the same text reads thus; **“...I'm staying alert and in top condition. I'm not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself.”**

Heaven is a serious business; you've got to stay alert, not be caught napping, and be a fighter.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I will stay alert and not be caught napping until I get to my final salvation.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Hebrews 6:1-6, Hebrews 12:2, 2 Peter 3:8-13.

Introductory Text, Genesis 3:1-19

THE POWER OF NEW BIRTH



Opening verse: *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life [John 3:16]*



There is a big difference between an old item and a new one. Apart from the beauty that comes with the new, the other is that it will function better than the old one. If you take for instance a new car, the engine will produce greater power to drive it. The demand to be born again works exactly the same way. God's purpose is not only to give us beauty but also power. It is intended to give you leverage over the forces of nature and of darkness.

Before the fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden, everything was subject to him. The entire creation on air, land, and in the waters all answered to him at the snap of his finger, etc. But that changed after he sinned; everything that was subject to him rebelled against him because the nature of God that was on him had evaporated. It was that God nature the animals feared not Adam per se. So, when he was cast out of the garden, it dawned on him that he had to devise a way to survive otherwise he will be slain either by hunger, by the animals or by nature. Whichever way, he was now in a disadvantaged position.

Until you are born again, you will continue to

experience Adam's short fall. Thus, as long as the nature of God is not in you, every element of nature will also work against you. Men will oppose you, so will the forces of darkness come after you. Everywhere you turn to, you will be seen as an enemy; and nothing will work in your hands. But what salvation does is to immediately bring you under the cover of heaven, and declares you untouchable and unstoppable. **In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of his glory (Ephesians 1:13-14) NKJV.**

Thus, the new birth confers the Holy Spirit on you. He is the seal of those who belong to God. He is the God-nature given to us. His job includes to help us navigate through the earth, and escape every pitfall, lions, snakes, and scorpions of this world. He is there to help you experience the victory and glory of the new birth.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

The Lord is my shepherd. I am secured in Him and against the world. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Peter 1:3-5, Colossians 1:27, Ezekiel 9:1-7, 1
Corinthians 2:9-12

Introductory Text, Romans 15:18-23

WHY YOU MUST PREACH



Opening verse: *For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel*
[1 Corinthians 9:16]

Life comes with many demands. Right from child birth the demand to eat, drink and be clothed do not diminish. Others include the demand for education, holiday, work, good health, success, marriage, the list is endless. For the Christian, this list is not complete until you preach. When success becomes the overwhelming priority of a Christian, it shows the individual is far from the knowledge of the will and ways of God. Success is not our primary call, but to be with the Father. The place of intimacy, fellowship or communion takes priority over every other (Matthew 6:33)

Moreover, when Jesus called his disciples, “... **he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach**” (Mark 3:14). The reason why intimacy and fellowship takes priority over all others is because in Christ we have all. Christ has become our joy, peace, hope, glory, beauty, success, righteousness, sanctification, etc. (1 Corinthians 1:30, 1 Corinthians 3:21-23).

However, the reason preaching must take the center stage in our walk with God is because without preaching; God's love, will, plan and purpose cannot be known or made manifest. “**For whosoever call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How**

then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher” (Romans 10:13-14). Paul revealed further that without preaching God's intent for men will not be known, **“But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching....”** (Titus 1:3).

If all that God wanted was for you to be born again, He would have called you home immediately that was accomplished. But he kept you for a purpose, and that over-whelming purpose is to preach Christ. Until you preach, somebody will not be saved, healed, delivered, or blessed, etc. There is somebody there in the hospital waiting for your preaching; there is marriage at the verge of collapsing that your preaching will save; there are people who your preaching will bring them out from drugs, evil cult, pornography, prostitution, hopelessness, etc. We are saved to save others. Until you preach, you are yet to shine your light; and the world around you remains in darkness. If you don't drive away darkness (evil), it would eventually come to you. Go and preach.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I won't just lay back, but will step out to affect my world for Christ. Glory to God.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 Corinthians 1:17-24, 1 Corinthians. 9:16-24,
Hebrews 5:12-14.

Introductory Text, John 21:1-7

BUSYNESS OR BUSINESS



Opening verse: *And he said unto them, how is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business [Luke 2:49].*



Unknown to many, the word business has its origin in the Bible. It first appeared in Genesis, when Joseph went about his work in Potiphar's house (Gen. 39:11), and its usage continued throughout the Bible. It is the act of being involved or engaged in legitimate and spiritual activity that will further the Kingdom of God. Everything we do to enhance, support and help God's course on earth is part of what is called business. This is further supported by Jesus' declaration in our opening verse, "**...wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?**" (Luke 2:49). David himself used the term when he got to the house of Ahimelech, while running from Saul, he said, "**....the king's business required haste**" (1 Samuel 21:8).

Today, it is a word used to describe all forms of transactions, activities, engagements, work or trade that is both profit and non-profit oriented. Every business is meant to enhance, improve, develop, support and grow the individual, family and the corporate entity. Without legitimate businesses, the society at large will crumble under the weight of poverty and underdevelopment, etc. Therefore as

believers, we must be involved in every legitimate business to support our families, the society and the Church. Such men and women ultimately helps the Church to grow.

However, there are those who hide under the same umbrella of business, “....**doing no work but are busybodies**” (2 Thessalonian 3:11). When your work is not affecting lives, your community, the society and the Church, you've been trapped by busyness. That is, you're doing business, but the effect is not visible. When you can't attend Bible study, prayer meeting, vigil, evangelism, follow-up, or Sunday service for the sake of work, etc. you've been trapped by busyness. **“And the Lord said to Satan, whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, from going to and fro in the earth and walking up and down in it”** (Job 1:7). Busyness is all about going to and fro, and walking up and down. It is simply to keep you busy.

Anything that takes your time, fellowship, service or finance from God is of the devil. When the disciples abandoned the work of Christ and went fishing, they caught nothing. Good business will keep you prospering and also keep you in God's Presence. **“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul**



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I am committed to prospering; body, soul and spirit. I will not give-in to the devil.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 10:38-42, Joshua 1:8, Psalm 35:27

Introductory Text, 2 Samuel 20:1-7

PRAY EVERYWHERE



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



The subject of prayer cannot be overemphasized. It is the life wire for the Christian, especially in these days of intense trial of faith. Virtually everything is under the threat of collapsing, damage, loss or outright destruction (John 10:10): from marriage, business, economy, health, education, family relationship and child upbringing, etc. But as Christians we are not like the people of the world who have no hope, for we look up to our Father as Psalm 65:2 puts it, **“O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.”**

The demand to pray everywhere is not something to be taken lightly because evil and wickedness happen so quickly in our time, such that if you are to wait until you get home, or get to your prayer corner, mountain, or partner before praying, it would have been too late. Satan knows that his time is short (Revelation 12:12); so everything he does comes quickly and swiftly; delay in repelling the attack of the devil can be very fatal and irreversible. When the church delayed prayer over James, they got back a headless body (Acts 12:1-2).

You must operate as a mobile prayer house, if you're to win the end time battle. Everything about God's

Kingdom all boils down to time; thus our time of response will determine between life and death, joy or sorrow, deliverance or destruction, salvation or backsliding, etc. Those who will not be conscious of timing or pray as the occasion demands, will also lose everything the Kingdom has to offer just as the five foolish virgins did. For scripture said; **“Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open for us. But he answered and said, verily I say unto you, I know you not”** (Matthew 25:11-12).

Thus, our introductory text shows us in practical terms what will happen when you delay prayers. David had just been restored as the king after the rebellion led by Absalom, and immediately after Sheba rose in his place. To quell that rebellion, David asked Amasa to raise men and pursue Sheba, but Amasa delayed. That delay enabled Sheba to escape into one of the fenced cities, but for the quick intervention of Joab's men and a wise woman, Sheba would have caused greater harm.

Delay is very costly in spiritual things: every move of hell against your life and family must be matched with immediate and intense warfare and counter attack, that's the only way to defeat the devil. And that's why you pray everywhere.



MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

As I pray daily, I win daily. I am well instructed by
the Word of God. Hallelujah!

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 18:1-2, Colossians 4:2, 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3, 2
Corinthians 2:10-11

