

Introductory Text, Daniel 6:1-10

## PRAYER GETS THE WORK DONE



**Opening verse:** *Evening and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice [Psalm 55:17].*



**H**ave you noticed that whenever we have a lot to do, we tend to skip personal prayers, and sometimes the Church, while we are engaged with that “big work”. The impression or message is that, prayer or Church is time wasting. The truth is that, the present day Christian sees prayer, or activities of the Church as a distraction or a time wasting venture. But note, whenever prayer becomes a burden or boredom, know that you are very close to a major satanic attack. Because the enemy does not attack in the time of prayer, knowing you're under the cover of God at such times. So, to gain access into your life, he will have to devise ways to stop you from praying. For example, as long as Job was praying, the devil could not bring him down, but said to God, **“Hast not thou made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side...?”** (Job 1:10).

Why then should I pray when I have a lot of stuff to do? Because prayers was meant for tough times and situation. We were meant to pray when time is against us, and when we lack knowledge and capacity on the task before us. Prayer is for when the road is rough and bumpy, when the work to be done

is huge: that's the time to be in God's Presence. Come to think of it, why should I pray when I can handle my stuff by myself, and within my time limit and energy?

Thus, prayer is primarily for big things, and big moments. Why? Because that's when we need direction, strength, wisdom, inspiration, etc. When Daniel in our introductory text saw that everything was against him, he prayed more, not less. **"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being opened in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knee three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God as he did aforetime"** (Daniel 6:10). We are to pray more in times of pressure, because that's when you need God most. Though He's also available at small moments.

Jesus prayed often, but when it was time to go to the cross, He raised the bar higher and prayed until His sweat was like drops of blood (Luke 22:44). Why? Because that was His biggest moment. So, stay in God's Presence when your schedule is big, that's how you get the job done.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, you are big enough to handle my big moments. There will I draw strength.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalm 11:1, Psalm 88:9-13, Matthew 26:36-46.

Introductory Text, Psalm 32:1-11

## REPENTANCE BEFORE REFRESHING



**Opening verse:** *Repent ye therefore, and be converted that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord [Acts 3:19].*



**M**any reasons account for why believers lack power; one of such is what Peter addressed in our opening verse – repentance and refreshing. What is the difference between these two? Repentance is to turn away from sin; a complete break away from sin, but to be refreshed is simply about renewal, re-fire or recharge, etc. But how can you get renewed when you've not yet repented? Unless of course you want to be renewed in sin. Unfortunately, that is the situation today; people move from church to church, from pastor to pastor, and from one programme to another, with the hope of getting recharged or renewed, without dealing with sin. Unless you deal with sin, you can't be refreshed in God's presence. Repentance must precede refreshing.

You can't cover up for sin, rebellion, disobedience or pride by changing pastor or church, it will always show after a while. It is same as putting an old wine in a new bottle (Matthew 9:16-17). Deliverance, anointing or breakthrough service cannot heal sin, neither is there remedy in fasting; sin has to be repented of, otherwise it will keep popping up everywhere you go. When David kept excusing his sin, God left him and he lost his peace: but restoration

came when, **"I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin"** (Psalm 32:5). God forgives sin when it is repented of.

Solomon puts it thus, **"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy"** (Proverbs 28:13). Times of refreshing is for those who have acknowledged their sin, with a broken hearted, contrite spirit and faith, etc. them will God refresh, renew and recharge. When Peter acknowledged his sin after denying Christ, the Lord opened the door of his reentry into the fold, saying to Mary Magdalene, **"Go your way and tell the disciples and Peter...."** (Mark 16:7). That same door is still open to as many that would choose to walk back and retrace their steps to the Father. The prodigal son found that door and entered (Luke 15:20), so was John Mark after his initial failures (Acts 15:36-38). No wonder the same Paul who rejected him later said, **"Take Mark and bring him with thee, for he is profitable for ministry"** (2 Timothy 4:11). Don't get left out, repent and be refreshed.



#### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord, I acknowledge my sin and submit to your dealings. Let my soul be refreshed.

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#### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalm 38:18, Acts 2:38-41, Acts 17:30-31, Luke 3:7-14

Introductory Text, 1 Samuel 13:1-14

## IT'S A WAITING KINGDOM



**Opening verse:** *Therefore thus saith the Lord God, behold I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste [Isaiah 28:16].*



**I**n Christendom, our experiences change with time. Thus, within the first three years of giving your life to Christ, things will happen faster. Your prayer request and expectations will get quick response; but as you grow older in Christ, things will begin to drag. In fact, there will be some requests that may never get answered. Why is this so? As a babe in Christ, you need quicker attention so as to encourage and build your faith; but as an adult in the Lord, you will be required to wait for God, just as others waited for you to be attended to. It is similar to what our parents do when we were younger, thus they responded quickly to our cry for food, but as we age, we begin to learn to wait for the food to be prepared, because responsibility comes with age.

Thus, some of the delays you experience is not because you're abandoned or forgotten, but because God is preparing "your meal". Abraham waited for 25 years after God's promise before he received Isaac in person (Genesis 21:5). Jacob waited 21 years before God released him from the house of Laban (Gen. 29:20, 27, 30). Moses waited 40 years before God's visit and release (Acts 7:30). Jesus waited 30 years before He entered into ministry and divine assignment (Luke 3:23). Peter waited until Jesus was

through with his preaching before he got his boat sinking catch (Luke 5:4-6). The disciples were asked to go and wait until the Holy Ghost came at Pentecost (Acts 1:4). Paul waited 3 days for Ananias before his eyes were opened (Acts 9:9). Presently, as New Testament saints, we are all waiting for the return of the Lord.

Sometimes the things of God don't come quickly, rather He makes us wait until we are matured to handle His will. **“For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry”** (Habakkuk 2:3). So the issue is not the waiting, but what you do while waiting; and this is where many miss their blessing. Saul in our introductory text lost his kingship and place with God because he couldn't wait.

The Holy Spirit is your best friend in your season of waiting; He will comfort, guide and teach, etc. as you yield to Him.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Holy Spirit, thou art my help and comforter. I will wait until my change comes. Hallelujah

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Isaiah 40:27-31, Hebrews 13:5-6, Job 14:14.

Introductory Text, 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

## THE WORLD CAN'T HAVE HIM



**Opening verse:** *Even the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you [John 14:17].*



**G**od's plan and purpose was to make believers have dominion over the earth and His works; and this He made very clear from the beginning (Genesis 2:26-28), but not many of us have submitted to God's dealings, hence the delay. The instrument of God's dominion for the New Testament believer is the Holy Spirit. This is because every acts and moves of God; past, present and future are all domiciled in the Holy Spirit. **"For eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by the Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God"** (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

The Holy Spirit was given to the believer to make him have an edge over the world and over men. He was sent to guide, teach, instruct, educate, empower and reveal all the secrets of God and of the earth, so that we do not struggle. If you have the Holy Spirit in you and you submit to Him and understand His workings, you will be a century ahead of others. When Ananias told a lie about the price of the land he sold, **"...Peter said, Ananias why hath Satan filled**

**thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost...."** (Acts 5:3). How did Peter know that Ananias was lying? Because the Holy Spirit revealed it to him. This is our advantage over the world.

The same advantage was seen in the ministry of Paul. His call, send forth and enablement was by the Spirit as we see in Acts 13:2-4, **"As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So, they being sent forth by the Holy Ghost...."** Thus, his ministry was marked with undeniable healings, miracles, signs and wonders. He conquered cities and nations; and converted the rich, the poor, nobles and kings. His result was simply outstanding.

It is for this same purpose that God denied the world of the workings of the Spirit because they feed on lies; but you have Him, and He lives in you. Mount on His Wings, and let Him take you to higher places.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Holy Spirit, you are the propelling force of heaven; move me to greater heights.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

1 John 2:20, Romans 8:9-11, Galatians 5:16-18



Introductory Text, Acts 6:1-10

## APPOINTING CHURCH LEADERS



**Opening verse:** *And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip...."*  
[Acts 6:5].



**T**he foundation of the New Testament Church is, "**...ye must be born again**" (John 3:7). The moment that is missing, the Church is not different from any other social gathering or club. When Stephen and the other six men were chosen to lead the Church, it was on the basis that they had encountered Christ, full of faith and of the Holy Ghost. The greatest disservice a man of God can do to the Church is to appoint persons who do not know Christ into ANY leadership position in the Church. Such individual will lead either by his flesh, education, ignorance or crafty mind. When Simon the sorcerer entered the Church as one of the baptized brethren, on seeing Peter lay hands and men receive the Holy Ghost, "**...he offered them money, saying, give me also this power, that whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost**" (Acts 8:18-19).

Today, the Church is lacking grace, power and authority because of the absence of correct leadership. Most gospel artists and instrumentalist sing and play in club houses and disco halls on Saturday night and return to church on Sunday morning. Some ministers of God are also used for political rally and speech making, because they can

“speak well”. Also, some Church children teachers double as entertainers of children in worldly party settings; as well as ushers, etc. But Jesus warned us, **“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate one, and love the other, or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other, ye cannot serve God and mammon”** (Matt. 6:24).

Rather than look for men full of the Holy Ghost, we have turned our focus to mundane things like cars, dresses, education, and proper diction in appointing men. No wonder the pulpit is full of grammar but empty of power to save sinners, build faith, impact grace, preach righteousness, heal the sick, set the captives free, etc. The church is getting weaker by the day, because we have appointed people who cannot fast or pray, neither do they read the Bible; so they use senses, logic and motivational messages to run the Church. Thus, men with ulterior motives and no calling have hijacked the pulpit

But when the apostles chose right, the result was obvious, **“And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly and great company of the priests were obedient to the faith”** (Acts 6:7).



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, thank you for choosing me. I will impact the Church and the world positively for Christ.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Acts 8:5-8, Acts 13:1-11, 1 Corinthians 4:20, 2 Timothy 3:1-9.

Introductory Text, Acts 1:15-26

## APPOINTING CHURCH LEADERS [PART 2]



**Opening Verse:** *As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them [Acts 13:2]*



**W**hen a woman delivers, her baby is not given to another woman to breast feed, except in the case of sickness or death. As it is with humans, so it is with the Church. The Church is a personality, which has a spirit, soul and body. The Holy Spirit birthed the Church on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-5); the Holy Spirit is the one that breast feeds the Church. When Church leaders are chosen only on the basis of education, financial status, or status in the society, etc. then you're breast feeding the church from the wrong mother and with the wrong milk. A Church that is run by men not filled with the Holy Spirit, will lack power, grace and direction. It is a grave error.

Without the Holy Spirit, you cannot read the Bible, neither can you make any sense out of it, nor preach, pray, fast, evangelise, or counsel, etc. In other word, every activity of the Church will be a struggle, that is why the work of the Holy Spirit is to quicken i.e. give life to our mortal body (Romans 8:11). Paul in another verse noted, "**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 8:27). Thus, words like

QUICKEN, HELP and MAKE, tell of the work of the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, Church work and church activities will bore you to death. No wonder, the present day believer spend more time on internet, smart phone or newspaper, etc.

After the death of Judas Iscariot, his apostolic office needed replacement, so the disciples gathered together to pray. But before the result could come, **“And they gave forth their lots: and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles”** (Acts 1:26). In other word, Matthias was chosen by the making of men, and the result of that choice was a 'silent ministry', with no effect or work recorded in Matthias name. But for Paul and Barnabas, scripture recorded, **“And as they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, separate me Barnabas and Saul (Paul) for the work whereunto I have called them”** (Acts 13:2). The result of this selection was an outstanding ministry and of world impact.

Get back to the Holy Spirit, and let Him take you unto greater works.



#### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I yield myself to the Spirit use and enablement. I shall do exploits in Jesus' Name

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#### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Acts 13:1-4, Mark 1:16-18, Ezekiel 22:30-31.

Introductory Text, Mark 10:17-27

## APPOINTING CHURCH LEADERS [PART 2]



**Opening verse:** *When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathea name Joseph, who himself was Jesus' disciple [Matthew 27:57].*



**T**he Church needs educated people and the church needs finance. It will be difficult to run the modern day Church without any of these two factors in place; yet they must not take the place of the Holy Spirit. Thus, men that are filled by the Holy Ghost must come first before any other. Until the issue of salvation is settled, the Church is not in safe hands; because men will use their advantage or strength to put the church under. Joseph of Arimathea was a rich man, yet he was able to function properly in the church because he submitted to Christ. So he used his influence to demand for the body of Christ for burial after the crucifixion (Matthew 27:57-60).

Nicodemus was an educated man, a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews; yet the issue of being born again was settled before Christ admitted him into the fold (John 3:1). So it was easy for him to defend Jesus when the rulers of the city sent for His arrest, saying, **“Doth our law judge any man before it hear him, and know what he doeth?”** (John 7:51). Same can be said of Zaccheus, a rich tax collector who also came and joined Jesus. Thus, when he repented and restituted, it was easy for him to be given a place in

the Kingdom, with Jesus saying, **“This day is salvation come to this house, for so much as he also is a son of Abraham”** (Luke 19:9). Thus, using men that have yielded to Christ, gives the Church a good standing.

But the Church will be less in power and in the grace of God, if her leaders are appointed only on the basis of education, financial status, etc. That was the case of the rich young ruler, who wanted to use his financial clout to negotiate a place for himself, but Jesus saw it and said, **“...one thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross and follow me”**. And because his craftiness was uncovered, he rejected Jesus' offer and walked away (Mark 10:21-22). Thus, men and women who have not received Christ and filled with the Spirit will walk away any time the condition is no longer suitable: because their reputation and finance is of greater value to them.

To be used of God, you must have submitted to Christ, your social and economic status notwithstanding.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I am fully committed to the course of the Kingdom, and her expansion. Hallelujah

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

John 3:1-15, Acts 2:37-41, Acts 19:1-7.

Introductory Text, Jeremiah 42:1-12

## END OF DISCUSSION



**Opening verse:** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God [John 1:1].*



**A**s believers we all desire to hear God, especially in the time of trouble. In trying to do this, some will go on fasting and prayer, or put-in long hours of studying, meditation, worship, etc. All of these practices and efforts are good, yet everything God has to say has already been said and written. The written Word is all that God has to say to you, nothing more. If by any chance you get any other Word from the Lord; that is just a privilege, the work of grace, or favour, etc. Someone might say, "But there are moments you want to get a present word (Rhema) to deal with a present situation". Yes, you are correct, yet God will still refer you back to the written Word. **"Forever O Lord, thy Word is settled in heaven"** (Psalm 119:89). The written Word is the end of all discussion.

Thus, every contention, controversy, disagreement or trouble ends with the Word of God. Whatever is the trouble around your life, family or business, and you can't find solace or solution in the written Word (which is impossible), you will not find it in any other place. The moment you begin to go beyond the written Word, you will automatically open the door to Satanism or demonism. When you begin to crave for prophecy, vision, dream, voices from the spirit

realm or for one angel to speak to you, the devil will take advantage of you; for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14). This was the case with Saul, thus when he sought for God through all the available righteous channels and no response came, **“Then said Saul unto his servants, seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her. And his servants said unto him, behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor”** (1 Samuel 28:7). Thus, an anointed king ended up at the feet of a witch.

Same thing happened to the remnants that survived Nebuchadnezzar's onslaught. After they demanded of Jeremiah a Word from the Lord, but when the Word that came did not meet their expectations, they said, **“...we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven...”** (Jeremiah 44:17). Every time you go outside the written Word, you will fall to demons. The Word of God should suffice you in any situation, watch it.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I surrender to your Word. It is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalm 138:2, Ecclesiastes 7:29, Isaiah 31:1-5, Jeremiah 23:28-32



Introductory Text, 2 Corinthians 11:22-33

## DEATH PRODUCES LIFE



**Opening verse:** *For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh [2 Corinthians 4:11].*



**I**saiah described God's ways thus, **"For my thoughts are not your thought, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts"** (Isaiah 55:8-9). So, when Jesus went to the cross and died, the Pharisees, Sadducees and chief priests rejoiced thinking it was all over. For them, the man that stood and hindered their ministry was now done away with. But they were wrong, for by the third day news started trickling in that Christ is risen. In the Kingdom, to live or to produce life, you must die first, and this was Christ exemplified (Romans 6:1-11). This principle runs through everything that God does, but when you're not familiar with His ways, you will probably become downcast or give up hope when going through your "death" season.

In explaining this Kingdom pattern, Paul said, **"...that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die"** (1 Corinthians 15:36). Jesus himself reminded us that, **"...except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone..."** (John 12:24). Thus, salvation came by death. Christ died, and His resurrected life is what produces life for us; and to

receive that life, you must also die to the world, the flesh and to sin. It is to become numb to the things and the ways of this world. Thus to pray, you must die to pleasure; to fast, you must die to food; to study the Word, you must die to worldly distractions, leisure and entertainment, to hold vigil, you must die to sleep, etc. Everything you are going to get from the Kingdom must cost you something. Until a part of you die, you cannot get life (result) from your walk with Christ.

Just as you can't be holy, when you still love the world, both can't fly together; they are mutually exclusive. It is the reason why Paul said, "**....I die daily**" (1 Corinthians 15:31). He had to die to everything he loved, so as to become what Christ wanted him to be. That story is what we read in our introductory text in his letter to the Corinthian Church.

Jesus has set an example for us through the work of redemption (cross); if you are going to be anything significant in the Kingdom, you must die to your flesh.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I surrender my flesh, desires and motives;  
and I embrace death in Christ, that I might have  
life. Amen.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Galatians 2:20, Philippians 1:21, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Introductory Text, Esther 3:1-11

## WORDS AS DECREES



**Opening verse.** *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life [John 6:63]..*



**T**he heavens and the earth, and everything inside of them are the creation of Words: God spoke and they came to pass (Psalm 33:6-9). Similarly, because the devil is a spirit being, when he speaks, and you don't cancel those words, they will come to pass. When the men and women of the Tower of Babel made up their mind and spoke to build a tower that will enter heaven, they made rapid progress, until God came to terminate that project (Genesis 11:1-9). When Satan said he will be like the Most High and sit on the throne of God (Isaiah 14:13-15), it took angel Michael and his men to stop that evil agenda (Revelation 12:7-12). When Esau said he was going to kill his brother Jacob, it was the quick intervention of Isaac and Rebekah that stopped him (Genesis 27:41-45). What you don't stop will stop you; if you play with the devil, he will wipe you out. Wake up!

Everything starts with words, and it will take your own God-given Word to counter every move against your life. Thus, Hosea said, **"Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto him, take away all iniquity and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips"** (Hosea 14:2). For the

enemy to attack you they release words first into the atmosphere. And this they will continue until they find a perfect day, time and moment to strike. This was what Haman did against the Jews before meeting the King, when he had consulted with diviners, sorcerers and magicians (Esther 3:7), etc. Thus, when the Lord reveals the word of the enemy to you, either directly, or by dream, vision or revelation, and you treat it with a wave of the hand, they will come to pass; because words are decrees.

No word is ordinary, they are spiritual in nature, and are therefore creative. They can bring good or evil, depending on how you deplore them. For instance, if an individual tells you in a dream, "Stop, wait for me until I get back", if you don't wake up and cancel that word, your life will 'Stop' till eternity. If what you're told is, "Go down, I will come and meet you", if you don't reverse it, your life will go down, because words are decrees in spirit realm. Stand, and reject every word not consistent with God's Word and promise for you. That's the way we get our life back and running.



**MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER**  
By the authority in the Name of Jesus, I  
terminate every word spoken against my life.

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**ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES**  
Isaiah 8:9-10, Lamentation 3:37, Psalm 118:17-18.

Introductory Text, Acts 1:12-14

## CONTINUE



**Opening verse.** *These all continue with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren [Acts 1:14].*



**F**rom the beginning, the propensity to sin has not diminished, rather it has increased. Thus, apart from the sin that is innate, we are surrounded by evil and demonic entertainment; and the flesh has a limit to what it can resist. Thus, at some point, your flesh will react to the attractions in the environment. The only defence to your born again spirit is that you continue in the word, prayer, fasting, church fellowship, etc. If you do not continue, you will fall. The reason the disciples were able to survive the severe persecution in their days was because **“they continued daily”**. They took Jesus' counsel seriously and did not spare themselves; they met daily and generated enough power to confront the enemy.

After church service or fellowship with other brethren, you will go home to be alone. There the devil will be waiting for you on the television, radio, internet, social media, etc. where he has more than enough entertainments, nudity, jokes and comedy to destroy your faith. If you don't continue in what you've learnt or that which you have been told, the devil will bring you down. Scripture said of the Berean Christians; **“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the**

**word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scripture daily, whether those things were so”** (Acts 17:11). The strength of Christianity is in the place of continuity; that was why the disciples were unstoppable, moving from one breakthrough to another.

Thus, your Christian life will never be measured by what you were yesterday, but what you are today. You may have slain a lion and a bear yesterday, but there's a Goliath you must deal with today (1 Samuel 17:36). You are measured by your current status: no wonder Saul the king hid himself when Goliath appeared. God warned Moses, **“The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar, it shall never go out”** (Leviticus 6:13). As long as your burner (life) has fire on it, the flies (demons) won't come, but the moment your fire goes off, they will swoop-in to lick up what is on the burner. Many have become dry with no oil (anointing), because they have been licked up by many flies.

Don't stay in the past, enter into the new by the fire of the Word, prayer and worship burning in your life. Make room for new testimonies, revelations, prophecies and encounters, that's what makes Christianity colour...full.

#### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER



My life is under the guard of the Holy Ghost, I will not be a victim of demonic flies. Amen

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#### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Isaiah 43:15-21, 2 Timothy 1:6-7, 14, Colossians 4:17

Introductory Text, 1 Kings 18:19-30

## YOU ARE GOD CRAFTED



**Opening verse:** *For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them [Ephe. 2:10].*



**A**t creation, what we were made up of and made for was clearly spelt out; **“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth”** (Genesis 1:27-28). This is our DNA; and now that you're in Christ, God has come to tabernacle in you. As Jesus is the full physical expression of God, so are we. We are the people that the world sees and get to know how God looks and works. Hallelujah!

Nothing was meant to break you down or unsettle you. You were designed to win all the times. Obstacles were meant to build and take you a step higher, not to bring you down or stop you. What cannot stop God cannot stop you, because you're God's temple; He uses your body to work and walk through the earth, taking it strip after strip. When Jezebel rose up to take over the reign of government in Israel, God raised Elijah to counter her structure of Baal (1 Kings 18:40). Thus, with all her witchcraft, she couldn't open the heaven for three and the half years,

until Elijah returned. To finish that job, God again raised Jehu, who terminated Jezebel's life, reign and completely obliterated all the structures of Baal (2 Kings 9:33-37).

Balaam a priest, but gave himself to unrighteousness, tried to use enchantment and divination against Moses and the nation of Israel in the wilderness. When he saw that his enchantments couldn't work, he declared, **“Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there divination against Israel...”** (Numbers 23:23), and counsel the Midianites to draw Israel into sexual sin. He was later killed in the battle against the Midianites, as God instructed Moses (Numbers 31:8, 16). Your life is so precious to God, He will do anything to keep it. As long as you are in Christ, demonic spiritual powers will always fall for you.

You're God's workmanship, you're God's crafting; made not just to last, but to succeed. You must go beyond mere survival, and enter the realm of abundance, excellence, victory, and glory even in the midst of odds. That's who you are.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I am God's crafting, designed to win and not fail.  
No work of witchcraft can stop me.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Exodus 22:18, 1 Samuel 17:41-47, 2 Kings 9:30-37



Introductory Text, Romans 15:18-25

## THE GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD



**Opening verse:** *But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify of the gospel of the grace of God [Acts 20:24].*

The Apostle Paul had a lot of unpleasant experiences, testing and trial, but while relaying his experience with the Ephesian church, he made a very important revelation of what the gospel is. This is reflected in our opening verse, “...to testify of the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24). What does this really mean? Simple! It is that through the gospel, the grace of God is revealed and released. Until the gospel is preached, the grace of God is limited, stopped or contained. However, we first and foremost understand that Jesus Christ is the Grace of God (John 1:17). Also the blessing, wisdom, knowledge, ways, purpose of God represents His grace; and the vehicle that brings all of these to mankind is the gospel.

The aftermath of the failure of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, was that the world and humanity was plunged into darkness. But with the coming of the gospel, everything changed; **“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). Thus, the coming of Jesus brought an end to darkness and death. Today, men now have right, power and authority over the devil and his works. **“And the seventy returned**

again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven” (Luke 10:17-18).

The grace of God also came with healing in its wings, delivering many from sicknesses and infirmities. When the woman with the issue of blood was healed after 12 years, it was the grace of God in operation. When the lame man by the pool of Bethesda was raised up after 38 years, it was the work of the grace of God. When Peter called Dorcas back to life, the grace of God was revealed. When revival broke out in Antioch, it was also the grace of God, as Barnabas revealed, **“Who when he came, and had seen the grace of God...”** (Acts 11:23).

Every aspect of the working of God comes through His grace; yet without the gospel, that grace is contained. The Lord is depending on you to spread the gospel and let His grace reach the world.



#### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I submit myself as a vessel for the release of your grace of God to the world

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#### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Acts 1:8, Matthew 5:13-16, Titus 2:11-15.

Introductory Text, Luke 4:16-22

## READ



**Opening verse:** *Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine [1 Timothy 4:13].*

**K**nowledge is one of our weapon of warfare; that is why the absence of it puts us in a disadvantaged position with the enemy (Hosea 4:6). Thus knowledge can be acquired through many avenues like watching, listening, reading, etc. But of all the avenues, reading opens us to the largest volume of knowledge. While the knowledge acquired through other avenues can easily be lost, reading helps to deposit every knowledge into our subconscious being. No wonder it is said that, "Readers are leaders". Thus, if you're not reading, you are receding. Hence for Paul, education was his major edge over the other apostles; for he was both a lawyer and a Pharisee, two qualifications that helped further his ministry (Acts 22:3, 23:6).

When Joshua was to take over from Moses, God warned him of the consequence of not reading, saying, "**This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shall meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success**" (Joshua 1:8). Riding on this counsel, Joshua rose to conquer 31 nations and their kings, and

successfully distributed the Promised Land to Israel (Joshua 12:24). Thus, Joshua was a great success.

Similarly, while rounding off his ministry, Jesus reminded the disciples, “...when I sent you without purse and script and shoes, lacked ye anything? And they said nothing....but now, he that hath no purse, let him take it, and likewise his script, and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one” (Luke 22:35-36). A script is simply a paper for writing. Thus Jesus was only telling his disciples the importance of education and its role in future ministry. But the disciples did not fully hearken to Jesus' counsel, thus they got the shoe (evangelism) and the sword (power through prayer), they left out the script (education), and Paul overtook them.

Seeing the power and advantage of education, the same Paul charged Timothy, “**Till I come give attendance to reading...**” (1 Timothy 4:13). To further drive home his point, in his second letter to Timothy, Paul again said, “**Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth**” (2 Timothy 2:15). Thus, the lack of reading the Bible and acquiring knowledge about the workings and dealings of God have left many believers short changed, and vulnerable to the devil. Get knowledge, and be above.



#### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Daily I'm growing in the Word and in the knowledge of God, and impacting my world.

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#### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

2 Timothy 4:13, Daniel 11:32, Isaiah 5:13, Acts 26:22-25.

Introductory Text, Luke 17:20-37

## THE MINISTRY OF THE PHARISEE



**Opening verse:** *And it was the Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes. Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, he put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and I do see* [John 9:14-15].

Someone categorized the world into 3 groups: those that make things happen, those that watch things happen, and those that do not know things are happening. For the unbelievers, they belong to the last group, because they do not know what is happening regarding God's programme. Thus, daily the Kingdom of God is advancing, gathering and preparing men for heaven, but they are busy eating, drinking, buying and selling. It was the same in the days of Noah, as well as in Sodom and Gomorrah, as we read in our introductory text. Thus, the unbeliever is on its way to destruction, without knowing. Jesus warned thus, **"Remember Lot's wife"** (Luke 17:32).

The ministry of the Pharisee on the other hand belongs to those who watch things happen. Their primary job is to analyze things, as events unfolds before their eyes. Every work, teaching, healing, deliverance and prophecy of Jesus was subject to analysis, of that which was right or wrong. They were there to tell what should be done, and what should not be. They were critical of everything but doers of nothing. When Jesus healed the man born blind they said, **"This man is not of God because he keepeth not the Sabbath day..."** (John 9:16). When

Jesus went to Zaccheus house to eat, they said, **“he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner”** (Luke 19:7).

When He healed the man by the pool of Bethesda who had suffered for 38 years, they asked the man to go back, because it was the Sabbath day (John 5:9). When the man that suffered paralysis was to be healed, Jesus said, **“Son, thy sins be forgiven thee”**, they got angry saying, **“...who can forgive sins but God only”** (Mark 2:7). They called Jesus a glutton when they saw him ate, but said John the Baptist was demon possessed while he fasted daily. When they couldn't match the power by which Jesus operated, they said, He uses Beelzebub - a demon. The job of the Pharisee is to find fault, discourage and damage others, unfortunately they are still in the church today.

But you must make up your mind to be among those that make things happen. Be a doer and a preacher of the Word. Exercise power and authority, doing exploits in Jesus Name.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I choose to be a doer and not a watcher  
or a talker. Glory to God.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 7:31-35, Luke 11:14-19, Luke 10:1-7, 17-19

Introductory Text, John 3:1-15

## CHRISTIANIZED OR BORN-AGAIN



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



**T**he present Church has men and women who are “Christians” but not born again. They are Christians because they got born into a Christian family, and bear the name Peter, Paul, John, etc. They are Christians because the Church has become a place for social gathering rather than a place of transformation. They have become Christians because they came for business. They are Christians because they came seeking for marriage partners, job, fruit of the womb, healing, deliverance, etc. There are several reasons why people are Christians; but until a man is born again he cannot face the devil. Your talent, financial status, physical endowment, position, education, or status in the society are no match for the power of hell. That was the summary of Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus.

How do you know a man that is born again? Change! What he likes doing, where he loves going, the things he watches, eat, drink or wear, suddenly lose their appeal on him. Paul puts it this way, **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are pass away; behold all things are become new”** (2 Corinthians 5:17). Sometimes, the change is

so drastic that the individual is at loss as to what happened to him. When Zaccheus met Jesus, the encounter so affected him that he said, “...**behold Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by accusation, I restore him fourfold**” (Luke 19:8). The “former” Zaccheus would never have thought of doing that, but the entrance of Christ, brought him to submission.

To be Christianized is to know how to operate in the church, but not having the Spirit of Christ. It is to lead the prayer or worship session but empty of Christ. It is to operate the keyboard, play the drum, blow the sax, teach in the children or youth church but have nothing to do with Jesus. Thus, for this fellow, everything in the church is an art with different scene; so, as a good actor, the individual can play any role effectively. That was what Ananias and Sapphira did, they gave as “an act of doing good” as others did, but theirs was without the Spirit; so was Simon the sorcerer, they were all actors.

Let your prayer, worship, giving and service, etc. be of the Spirit, then will you have a place in the Kingdom.



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

I am separated from the world to offer Spirit service and worship to the Lord. Amen.

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#### **ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES**

Acts 5:1-10, Acts 8:9-13, 18-21, 2 Timothy 3:5-7.



Introductory Text, Acts 10:9-23

## WORDS ARE DECREES [PART 2]



**Opening verse :** *I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than you all [1 Corinthians 14:18].*



**T**he story of Cornelius is surrounded by angelic and Holy Spirit interventions. First was when the angel asked Cornelius to send for Peter at Joppa (Acts 10:5), and the other time was when the Holy Spirit spoke to Peter after the trance, that he should go and attend to the men He sent through Cornelius (Acts 10:19-20). Notice that the word given to both men were immediately obeyed. Why? Because words are decrees. When words are released in the spirit realm or into the atmosphere by the Holy Spirit they are bound to be obeyed, except countered by a higher Word, force or being. But God is the Most High, so is His Word. **“Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?”** (Jeremiah 23:29).

Thus, God's Word can come in different forms: as spoken word, prophesy, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, and as tongues. When we speak in tongues, we are giving our mouth to the Spirit, and because the language of the Spirit of God, every word spoken are immediately effected. Every time you speak in tongues, you're not only releasing mysteries (1 Corinthians 14:2), but at the same time countering demonic and satanic forces, undoing curses, breaking evil yokes and covenants, etc.

Tongues helps to navigate you through the spirit realm, by avoiding bumps, potholes and road blocks, thereby making your effort and journey shorter and easier. No wonder Paul exceeded all the other apostles (1 Corinthians 15:9-10).

Although Paul encouraged we speak more privately rather than in public, yet he spoke in tongues more than every one of them. Why? Because tongues are words of the Spirit, which eventually keep us above every other Word, force or being. It is one of the gift given to the Church, that was why everyone that were baptized with the Holy Ghost spoke in tongues as evidenced in the case of Cornelius and his men. **“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word...For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God”** (Acts10:44, 46).

When you speak in tongues; you're opening doors in the spirit, creating what you want, and eliminating what you don't want. You can literally change your world by speaking in tongues because they are decrees, as Job noted; **“Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways”** (Job 22:28).



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I decree in Jesus Name, every word spoken against me, be destroyed, and God's will be manifested.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Isaiah 42:18-22, Luke 9:51-56, Ezekiel 11:1-13, Ezekiel 37:1-14.

Introductory Text, 1 Samuel 17:32-51

## FIGHTING ON ENEMY'S TERMS?



**Opening verse:** *And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, why are ye come out to set your battles in array? Am not I a Philistine, and you servants of Saul? Choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me [1 Samuel 17:8].*

**W**hen Goliath came out against the nation of Israel and their armies, he spelt out the terms very clearly. **“...choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me...I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together”** (1 Samuel 17:8, 10). On hearing this, Saul and his armies started looking for who will fight Goliath. The moment you start fighting the enemy on his own term, he has successfully reduced you by 50%, and broken your focus from depending on God to depending on self (flesh). What followed that request was obvious, thus, **“When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistines, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid”** (1 Samuel 17:11). As believers, if you are going to win your battles, whether spiritual or physical, you must stay with God.

David understood the mind game Goliath was playing; having fought a lion and a bear, so he quickly shifted the ground back to God saying, **“...thou comest to me with a sword; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel whom thou hast defied”** (1 Samuel 17:45). And the Name of the Lord brought down Goliath with just a piece of stone. Our ground for

fighting and winning is the Name of the Lord; the moment you shift from that ground, you become vulnerable. The devil specializes on this trick, so he tried to use the same on Jesus on the mount of temptation; but twice Jesus responded, "It is written" (Matthew 4:1-7).

During Paul's experience of severe trial, persecution and affliction, he sought the Lord to take away his pain, but the response was, "**....My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness...**" (2 Corinthian 12:9). God's strength is released to you the more you depend on Him; and this is what gives us the victory, not ours. Any time the devil wants to devour a man, he pulls him out from depending on God to depending on self, where the individual's strength is his educational qualification, financial status, physical endowment, family background and connection, etc.

But to defeat the devil, fight on God's terms: His Word, Promises, Covenants, truth, Righteousness, etc. then you will win.



#### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I stand on God's Word and Promises, and I defeat every of my foes and troubles. Amen

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#### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Proverbs 18:10, Zachariah 4:6, Philippians 2:13.

Introductory Text, Hebrews 12:3-11

## SILENCE OR REBUKE



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



**G**od made man in His image, form and likeness; that is why sometimes we mirror in His ways. For instance, men chastises their kids when they find them doing wrong, but if after several corrections and warnings, the child refuses to yield, he or she is left alone. This is very typical of the way God handles men; **“Ephraim is joined to idols, let him alone”** (Hosea 4:17). God's silence is worse than His rebuke. It is better that God rebukes you for sin, than He keeps silent. Silence with God can mean abandonment. **“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to reprobate mind, to do those things which were not convenient”** (Romans 1:28). Basic signs that God has abandoned a people is increase in lawlessness, sexual immorality, violence, acute poverty, etc.

When you make it difficult for people to correct, counsel, direct or rebuke you, you will go into error and miss life. When Cain rebelled against God's counsel, he never recovered from that error. He was eventually deleted from God's creation, which was why in Genesis 5, Seth was mentioned as Adam's son with no reference to Cain. Esau rebelled against his father and mother because of Jacob; so he went and marry from the tribe God had warned them about (Genesis 27:8-9). Thus, the Edomites who were the

descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:1); were eventually wiped out. **“But I have made Esau bare, I have uncovered his secret places, and he shall not be able to hide himself: his seed is spoiled, and his brethren, and his neighbours, and he is not”** (Jeremiah 49:10).

The prize of silence from heaven is destruction. So when you bring an issue before God, and you don't hear anything, don't take any action. **“Now whenever the cloud lifted from the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out on their journey, following it. But if the cloud did not rise, they remained where they were until it lifted”** (Exodus 40:36-37 NLT). That cloud was God's Presence which followed Israel and gave them direction. God's rebuke is the sign of His Presence still in your life, when you refuse that rebuke He will let you go. David understood this, that was why he wrote in Psalm 23:4, **“...thy rod and thy staff they comfort me”**. These were instruments of chastisement, yet he said, it comforts him.

But unlike Esau, Jacob accepted God's rebuke and chastisement and became Israel (a nation). Your destiny is hidden in God's rebuke, don't rebel.



#### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I submit to your discipline; I shall not rebel.  
A great nation will I become.

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#### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 15:10-19, Romans 1:18-32, Psalm 51:1-19.

Introductory Text, Acts 7:17-38

## SCHOOLING UNDER THE HOLY GHOST



**Opening verse:** *Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. And the Jews marveled saying, how know this man letters, having never learnt? [John 7:14-15].*

**F**ormal education is very necessary for growth, for through it we acquire knowledge that makes us fit into the society. Without a formal education, an individual will be greatly hindered on several fronts. However, for the believer, in addition to formal education, he must be schooled by the Holy Ghost. Here you are taught, instructed and led by the Spirit on the ways of God. Moses was well learned in the Egyptian education (Acts 7:22), yet he had to undergo a 40 year tutelage under the Holy Spirit supervision. Daily he was taken to the wilderness with sheep, goats and rams; and there God taught him about waiting, obedience, submission, righteousness, faithfulness, longsuffering, etc. And at the end of 40 years, he was qualified to be used by God. No wonder, Numbers 12:3 said of him thus, **“Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth”**.

The challenge with the present day Christian is that they have formal education, but with little or no education from the Holy Spirit. We have so much head knowledge, but lacking in the knowledge of the ways of God. We are not very different from the generation that Moses pastored as written in Psalm 103:7, **“He made know his ways unto Moses, his**

**acts unto the children of Israel**". If all you know is about the acts of God (i.e. blessings or miracles), and not His character, you will be inadequate for His use. The school of the Holy Ghost is where you learn about the ways (character) of God and triumph in life.

David was a candidate of that school, so he was able to manage Saul's excesses and escaped every of his trap. **"And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the Lord was with him"** (1 Samuel 18:14). The same learning was found in Jesus, so much that the people wondered saying, **"...how knoweth this man letters, having never learned?"** (John 7:15). Though Jesus had no formal education, yet He was taught of the Holy Ghost in wisdom, knowledge, power and understanding. In one occasion after healing the deaf and dumb, the people said of Him, **"...he hath done all things well..."** (Mark 7:37).

Every education that is short of knowing Christ and the ways of God will leave you vulnerable to the devil. Submit to the Holy Spirit, and let Him take you higher.



#### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Holy Spirit I submit to your leading and teaching.  
Instruct me in the way I should go.

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#### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 4:16-21, Acts 19:1-7, 1 Samuel 18:1-14.



Introductory Text, 1 Corinthians 10:1-14

## IF IT IS WRITTEN, IT IS POSSIBLE



**Opening verse:** *But he answered and said, it is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God [Matthew 4:4].*

The Bible is a compilation of several events from the beginning to the end of life. It is the story of creation; what has happened and what will happen. It tells of the wars of God, His victories, covenants, promises, commandments and laws, etc. It reveals the Jews as the first chosen of God through Abraham: their journey to Egypt, their deliverance, sin, rebellion and rejection of the love of God. But God kept sending them prophets and kings to lead them, until His perfect will was revealed in Christ. Through Jesus, the Gentile nations were grafted into the beloved of God and covenant carriers along with Israel. Today, through Jesus Christ, we have all become joint heirs and partakers of the heavenly promise and Kingdom of God (Romans 8:16-17).

Israel's story is the story of every man. They were chosen and used as examples of how God works with men. Every of their trials, test, triumph, success and failures are typical of what will happen to every man as we walk in obedience or rebellion. **"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples, and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come"** (1 Corinthians 10:11). Thus, when they walked in obedience, faith, righteousness, godly fear, prayed

and fasted they got victory, and turned the hand of God against their enemy. You will have the same experience if you follow the same path. As long as it is written, it is possible.

However, when they rebelled and rejected the love of God, and turned back to Egypt in their heart, and gave themselves to the worship of Baal, the sun, moon, stars, etc. they suffered defeat and humiliation. If you give yourself to the same practice through sorcery, divination, necromancy and witchcraft, you will also suffer defeat. Thus, Idolatry and poverty go together. The moment you give yourself to idolatry, you will not escape poverty, sickness, misery, shame and a wasted life. **“They joined themselves unto Baal-peor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead. Thus they provoked him to anger with their inventions: and the plague brake in upon them”** (Psalm 106:28-29).

Our lives are determined by what is written, even Jesus triumphed through what is written. You have to determine which side of what is written you want to be; the good or the bad. The choice is yours.

#### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER



I submit to the written word of God for good; I shall have pleasant experiences. Amen.

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#### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Matthew 4:1-10, Psalm 149:1-9, (Read all of Psalm 106).

Introductory Text, Revelation 1:9-20

## JESUS AS SAVIOUR, JESUS AS JUDGE



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



**B**iblically, the world is classified into two generations. The Bible generation who saw Jesus come as a SAVIOUR; and the other generation will be ours, we shall see Him as a JUDGE whether dead or alive. As a Saviour, He walked among the people in meekness, gentleness, love, mercy and kindness, etc. He came to provide, instruct, direct and guide the people to the ways of God. He was there to weep with them and carry their burden; and at the end, He was arrested, beaten, stripped naked and nailed to the cross; with everyone watching and mocking. **“Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and the elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now....”** (Matthew 27:41-43).

However, as a Judge, Jesus will be coming with a sword in His hands and fire in His eyes. He is not coming as a Lamb, but as a Lion; He is not coming to shed tears, but to make many shed tears; He is not coming to preach the gospel, but to enforce the gospel; He is not coming to run from men, He is coming to fight; He is not coming for discussion, but

for destruction. John described His look thus, **“And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shining in his strength”** (Revelation 1:16). Paul had an understanding of this, so while admonishing the Church, he wrote, **“Knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...”** (2 Corinthians 5:11).

However, the present Church is busy petting and pampering sinners, telling them only about Jesus as a Saviour, and not as a Judge. But if you're going to meet Him as a Judge, you will take John's counsel very seriously; **“...when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as he is pure”** (1 John 3:2-3). That means all forms of careless living, worldliness and walking by the dictates of the flesh must be dropped. The Kingdom life, service and helping humanity must become our way of living if we hope to escape Him as a Judge.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, when Christ shall come as Saviour and Judge, I will not be found unworthy.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

2 Corinthians 5:9-11, 2 Timothy 2:19-22, 1 Thessalonian 4:1-9, 1 Peter 1:13-19

Introductory Text, 2 Corinthians 12:1-12

## GREAT FULL



**Opening verse:** *The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it [Psalm 68:11].*



**T**he gospel is not just a piece of writings, letters or records of events, but the actual power of God in written form; and through it God's righteousness, promises, will and blessings are revealed and released to men, etc. Until the gospel is preached, all of God's purpose is under lock. No wonder Paul boldly declared, **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith"** (Romans 1:16-17).

The gospel is beyond heaven and hell, it is the life of God given to men so that they can live and reign on earth. Someone might say, "How about those who have not heard or receive the gospel, are they not living? Yes they are, but there's a difference between life and living. Living is the ability to breathe-in and out, and be engaged in daily pursuit of food and drinks until the individual clocks 70 or 80 years of age and passes on. Life on the other hand, is to have Christ in you; it is beyond living, but a pursuit of purpose, of God and life eternal (1 John 5:11-13). That was why Jesus said, **"...I am the way, the truth and**

**the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me**  
(John 14:6).

Our greatness comes when we preach the gospel and let other men have access to this same life. When the disciples joined Jesus, they were mere fishermen; uneducated, unlearned and unknown. But at the end of 3 years, they had become fishers of men and known all over Jerusalem. They became so influential and powerful, that men, **“Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet”** (Acts 4:37). Similarly, when Paul took up that mantle from the apostles, the Holy Spirit drove him round every nation, including, Europe, Asia, the Arabia and the Middle East. Today, the revelations, teachings and letters of Paul makes up over 50% of the New Testament. Truly, our greatness comes when we partake in spreading the gospel, just as Jesus' said to the disciples, **“...greater works than these shall he do...”** (John 14:12)

Join the company of the great today by spreading the good news. Go ahead and tell it everywhere, you won't regret it. Hallelujah!



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Thank you Father for the reward in preaching the gospel. I am committed to spreading it far and wide.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Matthew 19:27-30, Daniel 12:3, Revelations 21:9-14.

Introductory Text, 1 Kings 10:14-29

## GOD OF THE PRESENT



*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble [Psalm 46:1].*

The early days of Solomon were very impressive. Before his birth, God spoke about him and promised to give him rest, and make him a builder of the temple (1 Chronicles 22:9-10); hence he became king at a young age while his father David was still alive. He was blessed with wealth, riches, wisdom, knowledge and glory. When the Queen of Sheba came to visit him, on seeing the palace, men, food and protocols around the king, scripture noted, “...**there was no more spirit in her**”; and when she finally caught her breath, she said, “...**thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard** (1 Kings 10:5, 7). But after so much success, in his old age, it was said of Solomon, “...**and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father... And the Lord was angry with Solomon...**” (1 Kings 11:4, 9).

God is not impressed with your past, or of the glory in your future, but His interest is in your present state. What you are presently is what matters to God, no wonder Jesus is declared, “...**the same yesterday, today and forever**” (Hebrews 13:8). In other word God doesn't change (Malachi 3:6), but man is not like that; we have a past, present and future. For some of us, our past was our best; while for some others, the

future is what holds their best. For example, Eli the priest had a great future ahead of him, for God promised to make his lineage priest forever, but when he failed God, scripture noted, **"...I said indeed that thy house and the house of thy father, should walk before me forever: but now the Lord said, be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed"** (1 Samuel 2:30). Thus in one day, Eli and his entire family lineage were wiped out.

In your walk with God, your past or future is not as important as your present state, because that is what you will be judged by (Ezekiel 18:21-24). That was why Jesus warned the Church of Ephesus, saying, **"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent..."** (Revelation 2:4-5). What is your first love? Is it prayer, the Word, evangelism, follow-up of new converts, fasting, sowing, giving, and other acts of kindness? etc. Return back to them, so you don't miss your reward. God is interested in what you're doing now.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, I rededicate myself to you and the service of the Kingdom. I will not fail. Amen.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Philippians 3:7-14, Ezekiel 18:21-24, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.



Introductory Text , Matthew 2:1-16

## ENEMY OR ADVERSARY



**Opening verse:** *But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemy, and an adversary unto thine adversaries [Exodus 23:22].*

When the Lord spoke to Moses as they embarked on the journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, He distinguished the enemy from the adversary as underlined in our opening verse. Why this? Because spiritually, an enemy is different from an adversary, though they may look the same physically. Thus, an enemy is one that hates you and will do anything to stop or eliminate you, but an adversary by dictionary definition is just an opponent, one who competes with you. His or her target is to do what you do and then do it better or outperform you. For instance, if you buy a car, he also wants to buy a car, to prove he can do what you're doing. An adversary is simply a competitor.

Thus, an adversary looks like a lesser threat to an enemy, yet the Bible calls the devil an adversary in 1 Peter 5:8; **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may destroy”** This is because the devil always appears harmless at the initial stage, until he gets you trapped. When he got to the Garden of Eden, scripture use the word “subtil” (subtle) to describe him, which means unassuming, not noticeable, not a threat, etc. So, to

get what he came for, he only asked a simply question, “...yea hath God said ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? (Genesis 3:1). This unassuming or harmless question is what he used to get the information he needed, and thereafter turned the world upside down.

When Herod heard of Jesus as the king of the Jews, he simply sought to know him, saying, “**Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also**” (Matthew 2:8). But when the evil of his heart was revealed, and God sent the wise men away by another route; then the same Herod who said all he wanted was to come and worship the new born king, ordered for mass execution of all the children that were two years old and below.

An adversary is a killer on the inside. He or she is worse than your enemy, because the enemy is already known. But be careful of that person who wants to be what you are; for behind that competitive spirit is a devil waiting to devour.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

I hide under the shadow of the Almighty, and secured from the arrow of my adversary.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Proverbs 27:4, Numbers 12:1-10, Psalm 91:1-16.

Introductory Text, Numbers 22:1-20

## CONVERSION OR PERVERSION



**Opening verse:** *Repent ye therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord [Acts 3:19].*

When a car with a manual gear stands together with the same model of car that carries an automatic gear system, they are effectively two different cars. But when a car originally made with a manual gear system is altered and an automatic gear is fixed on it, it is a perversion of the original. This is similar to what Jacob did when he used goat's hair on his hands to deceive his father, hence Isaac said, "**...the voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau**" (Genesis 27:22). There are people who have successfully mastered the ways, moves and slangs of the born again believer, so that on the outside they are "Christians", but on a closer look, they are not. Paul described them thus, "**Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away**" (2 Timothy 3:5).

Christianity is not what you form or create, but a natural display from the change within. There's so much forming in the church, such that it will take an extra grace to differentiate the real from the fake. This has nothing to do with perfection, as we are all work in progress, but when a man genuinely receives Christ, there is a change that is undeniable. This is what is called conversion. It is a break from

the past lifestyle to a new one, **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are past away; behold all things are become new”** (2 Corinthians 5:17). This change is matched with a continuous striving to get better.

But the Christianity that allows you to do things your own way and not Christ way is perversion; just as you fix an automatic gear into a car that was originally manually built. When God told Balaam not to go with the men that Balak the king of the Amorites sent, he kept bargaining because of what he will get until God allowed him. On the way, God met him to kill him but was delivered by his ass, **“And the angel of the LORD said unto him, wherefore has thou smitten thine ass this three times? Behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is PERVERSE before me”** (Numbers 22:32). Perversion simply means, going on a different direction.

When you create a way outside God's way, you are not safe. Submit to God's way, and you will come out better.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, continue your work in me, until Christ be fully formed in me. Hallelujah!

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Proverbs 14:12, John 15:18-21, Romans 12:1-2, Mark 8:34-35.

Introductory Text, 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

## CONSCIENCE OR THE HOLY SPIRIT



**Opening verse:** *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself: but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come [John 16:13].*

**A** thermometer reads temperature, hot or cold; but a thermostat regulates temperature. It helps to keep the temperature at a desired setting, not minding the changes in the weather. Our conscience works like the thermostat; whatever are the changes in the society, it helps to keep us sane. Your conscience is what helps to keep you human in an inhumane world. With your conscience still alive, you can know what is good or bad so that you can make right decisions. But the world has gone beyond good or bad; what you see in most times is not actually the case, so it is difficult to be corrected by your conscience. Isaiah described our present world thus, **"...that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness: that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter"** (Isaiah 5:20).

The world is controlled by the spiritual and not the physical. That is why your conscience cannot do a perfect job. And going by prophet Isaiah's description, the world has already switched the good for bad and bad for good. To handle these intricacies, God has given us the Holy Spirit; His job is to tell you the mind of God concerning anything, so that even when something is actually good, the

Holy Spirit will go further to tell you if it is meant for you or not: because not everything good is meant for you. **“Now we have received, not the spirit of this world, but the Spirit which is of God: that we might know the things which are freely given to us of God”** (1 Corinthian 2:12)

If as a believer, you are still operating only at the level of conscience, your judgement, choices, decisions, actions and inactions will be greatly flawed; and there will be no difference between you and the world. What they suffer you will suffer, what stops them will stop you, because you don't have something better. The Holy Spirit is your better option; given ONLY to believers, so that we might have an edge over the world. **“Even the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you”** (John 14:17).

Let the Spirit leads, while you follow; that's how we get victory over the world.



#### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Holy Spirit I submit to your leading and promptings. Guide me into God's perfect will for  
me

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#### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Romans 8:1-17, Galatians 5:18.

Introductory Text, 2 Corinthians 11:22-33

## PUSH YOURSELF



**Opening verse:** *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus [Philippians 3:14].*



**L**ife will not give you what you deserve but what you demand. Neither will life answer to you at the level of comfort or convenience, but by how much you push yourself. Jesus said, **“The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time the good news of the Kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it”** (Luke 16:16 NIV). God's will for your life is an excellent one, but you have to bring down all the spanners the devil will throw at you. Unless you fight distractions (the things that men call enjoyment), you will not emerge.

The story of Paul is an example of a man who pushed himself. In every way and at every junction, the devil kept raising oppositions, troubles, sickness and even death to stop him, and in one occasion he said, **“We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we have received the sentence of death...”** (2 Corinthians 1:8-9). Yet he pressed himself until he broke through into divine purpose. In the same way, there's a purpose why you are here, you were not sent to earth just to add up to

the number of men.

Daily, your destiny is calling and crying, waiting for the day of manifestation. Good life with righteousness is achievable, but you must stretch yourself beyond what you're currently doing. Life will not be given to you at the level of comfort, but at the level of fighting. Everyone you know, heard of or read about that succeeded were all fighters at one point or the other, they gave up pleasure to achieve purpose; that is the way to good life.

Jesus, came out of the poorest home in Israel. At his dedication, his parents could not afford a ram, sheep, goat or chicken, but a dove; an animal used by the poorest of the poor. He started by learning carpentry, his father's vocation for the first 30 years, before diving into ministry. At the peak of His ministry, apart from feeding the multitudes, He had 12 disciples, and fed them and their family daily for 3 years. If Jesus could succeed in the midst of severe opposition and acute poverty, you will succeed. Give yourself that extra push now, and let your destiny manifest.



### **MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER**

My success starts now. I will no longer give-in to the devil's wiles. I'm on my way up

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### **ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES**

2 Peter 1:3-4, Deuteronomy 2:24, Romans 8:18-19.



Introductory Text, Deuteronomy 28:1-14

## THE HISTORY OF POVERTY



**Opening verse:** *"...cursed is the ground for thy sake, in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life [Genesis 3:17].*



**T**he first time God cursed the earth was in Genesis after Adam disobeyed the Lord. Part of this is what we read in our opening verse. That curse opened the door to poverty. Thus the end result of sin is poverty. The second time came as a warning to Israel as they marched toward the Promised Land. God gave them blessings if they obey Him, and listed a series of evil that will happen to them if they disobey. The summary of all the consequences of disobedience was again poverty (Deuteronomy 28:15-68). Ever since, every nation that lived in sin and disobedience automatically came under a curse. But thanks be to God, Jesus became a curse so that we might inherit the blessings: the cross broke the curse (Galatians 3:13).

Thus, salvation has redeemed you from every form of poverty; don't get caught with that spirit again. Poverty is not a sign of holiness, it is a curse. That is why Proverbs 19:7 said, **"All the brothers of the poor hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him. He may pursue them with words, yet they abandon him"** Can you imagine being hated, despised, and rejected by everyone? When Job's wife saw that all their wealth was gone including their sons and daughters, she said to him, **"...doust thou**

**still retain thine integrity? Curse God and die”** (Job 2:9). She simply meant, “You're no longer of no value”.

Of all the different categories of poverty, spiritual poverty is worse. Not having Christ opens you to all the curses running through the earth. Every demon in the air makes a home out of your life. **“When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first”** (Luke 11:24-26).

Whether it be financial, material, or poverty of the mind, you're battling with, fight it in every way; because poverty makes you stink and less human in the midst of others. Take hold of knowledge, wisdom, strength, diligence and hard work, and defeat your poverty, Christ has paid for your prosperity; go and get it.



### **MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER**

The door of prosperity is opened to me, for Christ did so when he rose from the dead.

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### **ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES**

3 John 1:2, Psalm 35:27, Isaiah 48:17, Galatians 3:13-14.

Introductory Text, 2 Kings 4:1-7

## THE HISTORY OF POVERTY [PART 2]



**Opening verse:** *And the Lord God took the man, and put into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it [Genesis 2:15].*



**T**he first assignment God gave Adam in the Garden of Eden was “to dress it and to keep it”. It was simply a call to work. If you're battling financial poverty, working will do you a lot of good than prayer and fasting. God designed man to work, and it is through working we generate income. Prayer, fasting and other spiritual activities were meant to generate power, grace and anointing, which eventually opens the door of favour. When the widow of one of the prophets under Elisha came crying to him, that the creditors were come to take her two sons; Elisha didn't give her money, but used his power to prophesy an overflow of the oil in her custody. She then went and traded (work) with the oil, and got the money to pay her debt and to feed her family.

You won't break the hold of financial poverty, if the only thing you do is fast and pray; rather you will get poorer. **“Work brings profit, but mere talk leads to poverty”** (Proverbs 14:23 NLT). When Isaac received the word of the Lord in Gerar, he did not go and sleep, fast or pray, but he went and engaged his hands; **“Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the**

**Lord blessed him"** (Genesis 26:12).

Poverty is the consequence of sin and disobedience (Genesis 3:17-18), and as long as men continue to live in sin, poverty will not go. When the disciples of Jesus complained about the waste of the perfume used for anointing Him, rather than it being sold and the money used for the poor, Jesus said, **"You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me"** (John 12:8 NLT). There will always be poor people, you are the one that will decide whether you want to be among them or not. Thus, what you do with the strength, grace, anointing, power, talent, potential, skill and wisdom given to you or generated through prayer, will tell if you will remain among the poor.

The story of talents in Matthew 25:14-30 goes thus: three men were called and given talents according to their several abilities; two of them went and traded (work) with their talents and came back with profit: but one did nothing with his, he came back with story. Do you want profit or story? Go trade (work) with your talent and prosper.



### MY DECLARATION AND PRAYER

Father, you have given me all that I need for life and godliness, I will not fail.

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### ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

Proverbs 24:30-34, Proverbs 20:4, Proverbs 21:25

