



The Refinery Devotional

APRIL 2018

Start your day with Christ consciousness and
be refined unto all of God's goodness.

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You are FREE to make your contributions and praise reports via my inbox on Facebook @ Harrison Ayintete.

Blessings.

DAY 1

TOPIC: DO WE PLEASE MEN? (1)

TEXT: Galatians 1:10-12

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUNFUNMI

“For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

‘...You are heretic! You are preaching to please your hearers... Preach to please God...’ Those were the words that echoed in my ears some years back. These statements were made as a reaction by some persons to the gospel of the grace of God that I preached. These men believed the message of the gospel was too pleasing to the listeners. They opined that preaching to make people cry and wail for their sins, preaching about the fear of hell, and preaching about the ‘anger and terror’ of God against sinners is same as preaching to please God.

According to Bible history, this was one of the allegations that were made against Apostle Paul, to which his response was rhetorical in our scripture text. The Judaizers alleged that the preaching of the Apostle Paul was to please the Galatians such that He had to make the gospel easy to accommodate them. Undoubtedly, many New Testament believers have been accused of this fact as well. As a matter of fact, several ministers of the gospel have been publicly defamed. They have been called heretic, liars, false prophets and many other defamatory names all for the sake of the gospel.

Apostle Paul’s rebuttal to their allegation is that the gospel which he preached was not inspired by man neither was he sent by any man to preach. He went further to narrate how as a Jew he had sought to destroy the same message which he was now defending with his life. In other words, he emphasized the fact that the content of the gospel has never been any man’s invention. Hence, to say a man is preaching the intention of God to please men is mere folly. The fact that people rejoice and embrace this message does not mean the message is meant to encourage them to sin the more. The message is the power of God to save. It is the information that brings liberation from the law of sin and death.

It is expedient to remind ourselves of the content of the gospel.

“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

This is the gospel! This is the will of God! When we preach this exact message, we are definitely pleasing God and not men.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 2

TOPIC: DO GOOD TO ALL MEN

TEXT: Galatians 6:10

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

The Apostle Paul speaking to the believers in the Galatian Church enjoined them to do good unto all men. The word 'all' means 'every'; thus, it does not exclude any kind of man: believers, unbelievers, men, women and children— we are to do good to everybody. Note; the Apostle did not give a prior condition to doing good, he did not say 'do good to men that do good to you' or 'do good only to men who won you a contract' he stated emphatically that it is all men, this therefore means our disposition to doing good is regardless of whatever anyone does to us.

The Apostle is very specific on some people— members of the household of faith— that is, believers. The word 'especially' means 'chiefly or most of all'; thus, Apostle Paul makes it known that priority should be given to believers in Christ. Goodness towards believers is of utmost importance, and second to none. This means you shouldn't watch a fellow believer in need and go attend to someone outside the faith— no! We are to attend to that believer's needs first, for we are both members of the household of faith. Churches who go ahead and meet societal needs but fail to address believers' needs are doing the wrong thing; it ought to be believers first. In conclusion, the Apostle Paul tells us that as opportunity presents itself, we should do good unto all men but he also explains to us the correct order for it to be done; it is most of all first to believers and then to other men.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 3

TOPIC: IT IS GOD THAT JUSTIFIES

TEXT: Romans 8:33

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth.”

While we were yet in our sins, God had every right to condemn us, but instead He chose to give up His Son, Jesus, to die for us and rose from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father forever making intercession for us.

When you are tempted to believe that God watches your every move in order to punish you for your wrongdoings, let your heart be rest assured that He brings no charge against you, because, it is He that justifies you. He doesn’t do it because of your consistent plea of forgiveness but because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. You have been completely forgiven and made His righteousness in Christ.

When negative things happen to you and the devil reminds you that the reason you’re experiencing them is because the sins you committed in the past have come back to haunt you. Remind him that ‘There is therefore now no condemnation to anyone who is in Christ Jesus’ (Romans 8:1).

Beloved, you’re now God’s child and He never judges you because Jesus has been judged in your place. Your response to every negative situation is simply to stand on the truth of God’s word; resist the devil and enjoy the victory you have in Christ.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 4

TOPIC: MEDITATE DAILY!

TEXT: Joshua 1:8

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt 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."

As soon as Joshua took up the leadership role over the Israelites after Moses' death, God spoke to him certain words of admonition and instruction. One of such words is our text scripture today. Joshua was commanded to make a habit of meditation on the book of the law. He was instructed to do it every time. It is also very clear from this text that result of a life dedicated to meditation is the ability to observe or do what one meditates upon.

Jesus' instruction on meditation further gives clarity to what meditation does to us. Jesus clearly makes us know that the measure of virtue and knowledge that comes to a man is dependent on the amount of thought and study that one gives to the truth that one has heard:

"And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you--and more [besides] will be given to you who hear." (Mark 4:24) [AMP]

What then does meditation mean? Meditation, in this context, simply means to think deeply about the truth that one has heard. We, as believers, should not just stop at listening to God's word in church or even writing sermon notes. Every day, we must deliberately take out time to ponder, reflect and think through what we have learnt. By this, we are able to have better grasp of the things that we have learnt, our convictions are also strengthened thereby and at this juncture, doing the word becomes very easy.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 5

TOPIC: THIS IS HIS DIVINE OMNIPOTENCE!

TEXT: John 10:28-29

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.”

Today, many affirm that God is great but do not really understand what that means. For if they did, many notions and assertions about the assurance and security of the believer's salvation will have no place amidst the Church. When many think of God's greatness, they only think within the purview of His benevolence in meeting needs miraculously, healing diseases supernaturally, and securing one divinely. They often fail to extend His mightiness to their salvation. This ought not so to be. Jesus reveals to us in our texts of consideration that God's greatness is seen in His ability to save, and keep the saved forever saved!

Beloved, say not “God is great” only when He rains manna down from heaven miraculously for you. Say not “God is great” only when He delivers you out of the fowler's snare. Say not “God is great” only when He calms the raging seas. Say not “God is great” only when He stems the noisome pestilence. It is good to say He is great when these are done; but much more, say He is great because He is able to keep you saved forever. This is the greatness of God; that nothing, whether it be in the heavens above or in the earth below, shall be able to pluck the man who has put faith in Christ out of His holy hands.

Jude 1:24

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,”

Dearly beloved, this is His greatness: that He saves us and keeps us secure forevermore! In our eternal security is His divine omnipotence revealed!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 6

TOPIC: YOU HAVE ALL THESE AT SALVATION

TEXT: 2nd Peter 1:4

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“...Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust”

The epistles are replete with all the blessings prepared from the foundation of the world for anyone who believes in Jesus. It is amazing to know that none of these blessings are based on the believer's works or actions, but rather on the finished work of Christ. At salvation, the believer receives forgiveness of sins, he's justified and can never be condemned before God (Romans 5:1 and 8:1), he is sanctified (made holy) by Jesus' offering ONCE for all (Hebrews 10:14), he has passed from death to life and is already a citizen of heaven, and so, he can never go to hell (Ephesians 2:6; Philippians 3:20).

At salvation, the believer in Christ receives the indwelling of the Holy Ghost; he's now one with God. Hence, he has access to the Father anytime and any day (Ephesians 2:18). He is blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. He is the righteousness of God in Christ. He's a partaker of God's divine nature. He's a joint heir with Christ. He is seated with Christ in the fullness of all authority. He has the capacity to heal the sick, raise the dead and cast out devils (Mark 16:16-18).

Time would fail to mention all the blessings the believer has at salvation. But seeing we have such marvelous blessings in Christ, we do more for the gospel's sake. We are to tell people all that's in stock for anyone who believes in Jesus.

Further study: Romans 8:17, Ephesians 1:3, 2:6 & 19, John 3:16; 5:24, Ephesians 2:6.

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DAY 7

TOPIC: WE HAVE A LIVELY HOPE

TEXT: 1 PETER 1:3-4

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you"

This is so lovely— God begot us unto a lively hope! This is amazing! It means our birth as God's children is not without a hope; that is, we are not hopeless. This is good news! Furthermore, we are not just with hope; we have been born to a lively hope. The word 'lively' is the same as the word 'living'; that is, 'full of life'. This means we haven't been born into some hope that is dead or unsure; we have gotten a living hope, and we are always of a confident assurance. This is because Jesus Christ resurrected from the dead; hence, we have a lively hope because Jesus is alive and we are alive in Him.

Now, to what extent is our hope? We have gotten an incorruptible inheritance, reserved in heaven for us. Alleluia! The word 'incorruptible' means 'imperishable, immortal'; that is, 'not susceptible to death, living forever'. The word 'reserved' is same as 'to keep'. Therefore, we have been born in hope unto something that is forever— not susceptible to death, kept for us in heaven. Are we certain to have it? Very sure; for it is already reserved for us! The above texts debunk any gainsaying or fable that tries to establish that we shouldn't be sure of our hereafter. Supposedly 'solemn' sermons laced with questions like 'Will you make it? Are you of where you shall be on that day?' To such questions, we can affirm confidently that Jesus is alive and we are alive in Him forevermore! We have an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, never-fading, reserved in heaven for us!

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DAY 8

TOPIC: BE AS CHILDREN

TEXT: Matthew 19:14

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

"But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

A few times during Jesus' earthly ministry, He likened children to the kingdom of heaven, and one of such instances is our text scripture. Jesus brings to the fore that children are as the kingdom of heaven. By this, He means that there are many attributes found in children that can be likened to the culture or lifestyle of those that are in the kingdom of heaven (the believers).

For example, children are so known for the simplicity of their hearts. They can easily be trained and will not fight training. Children are also very innocent; they live a life free of grudges and malice. They are always at peace with everyone around them. Paul takes a cue from this in his epistle to the Corinthians:

"Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men". 1 Corinthians 14:20

Paul admonishes that the members of this church ought to be as mature as men in understanding but be as children in malice. This is very instructive! We must not be childish but we must be childlike. Always maintain a humble heart; ready to learn, ready to follow instructions, ready to receive corrections, ready to always forgive. By doing this, we will live as we are designed to live as believers.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 9

TOPIC: WE ARE HERALDS OF THE GOSPEL

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”

Every believer, as evidently seen in the texts above, has been given the ministry of reconciliation. We are all to be heralds (proclaimers, preachers) of the gospel of Christ. In other words, the work of preaching is not just that of the pastor, but that of every believer. Every believer must be given to evangelism, and very often.

Having said that, it's important also that we know what exactly the gospel is. The gospel is that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the whole world, was buried, and rose again on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). This is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16). This is the gospel of Christ! Anything short of this is another gospel, and it cannot save any man!

The ministry which we have all received of the Lord is about what God did in Christ for the whole world. Our texts of consideration let us know that it is a ministry of reconciliation. In other words, we are not to go about shouting people's sins into their eardrums. That may seem a noble thing to do, when viewed naturally. Yet, it is far from what the Bible tells us to do. True nobility in preaching is to boldly proclaim what Jesus has done for the whole world. It's to announce with all tenacity that Jesus is the propitiation for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). Anything apart from this becomes ignoble, no matter what aura of goodness it may seem to bear.

Today, and beyond, let us herald the gospel as we ought. It's the good news about the wonderful work of God in Christ. As we do, we will see whole cities turned unto the Lord, with great joy filling every heart!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 10

TOPIC: WE CANNOT BE LOST

TEXT: JOHN 6:39-40

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. [40] And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."

The above is an affirmative statement. Jesus reveals what the Father's will is, as concerning believers in Christ. It is clear from the above texts that it is the Father's will that no believer will be lost (perish) on the last day.

In the above texts, we find the fulcrum on which we are very sure that we cannot be lost in Christ, and much more that we would take up immortality on the last day; it is that we have everlasting life.

Owing to the above, it is very explicit that it is not of believers to keep themselves from perishing, but of Christ. It is also very clear that God's intention through Christ isn't to make any believer to lose salvation but that we may all be raised up on the last day. Beloved, we cannot be lost! We shall be raised up! We have eternal life and Christ will raise us up on the last day.

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DAY 11

TOPIC: THINK ABOUT THIS

TEXT: Acts 20:24

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUNFUNMI

“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 the gospel of the grace of God.”

Growing up as a young man, I would often think and ask ‘what is life all about?’ In other words, I questioned the essence of living on the earth. Not until I received Christ did I realize the essence of living. As it is today, many persons are desirous of greater positions in their respective careers; some crave for change in their social statuses. As a matter of fact, everyone desires to make it in life and become someone of great repute.

It is pertinent at this juncture to state that there is nothing wrong to desire to enjoy life and all its riches. It is explicitly stated in the word of God that God gives us all things richly to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17). In other words, all that God has created on earth has been given to man for his use and benefit. However, as a believer in Christ, the questions to ask are: ‘To what end are my desires and ambitions? What exactly is the essence of my riches, influence, power, control and status in life?’

The Living Bible gives a more detailed explanation to the thoughts of Apostle Paul in our scripture text thus;

‘But life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about God's mighty kindness and love.’

Apostle Paul’s disposition is that the worth of life is doing the work of God. This explains how he sought to use all the opportunities he had to preach the gospel and be a tremendous blessing to the growth of the early church. It is profound that life is worth nothing unless we use what we have or achieve here on earth for the work of God. Surely, at the end of the age, our wealth, social status, or influence will not avail anything save to the extent that we have used it for the sake of the gospel of Christ!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 12

TOPIC: WITH HONOR COMES BLESSINGS

TEXT: Mark 5:28

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“For she said, if I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.”

The woman with the issue of blood had just one demand: ‘that she be made whole’. It was recorded that she spoke within herself that ‘if I may but touch his clothes, I shall be whole’. She honoured Jesus enough to place a demand for her healing; for it was no news that Jesus went about healing all that were sick and oppressed of the devil.

Our text lets us know that the instant she touched Jesus’ garment, the fountain of her blood was dried up; for she was healed. And at that same instant Jesus knew virtue had left him. Funny enough, a large crowd thronged Jesus that day and there was the possibility that there were some people who were sick amongst them. But the Bible records that only this woman got her healing from amidst the crowd.

Beloved, sometimes, we get too familiar with the vessel God has put in our midst; hence, we do not get the blessings that we seek. It is of a truth that God is ever willing to heal, provide and deliver us; Hebrews 13:8 says ‘Jesus the same yesterday, today and forever’. What He did while He was here on earth, He is able also to do for us today. Just as the woman with the issue of blood did not just throng around Jesus that day for nothing, but placed honour on the person of Jesus and trusted in His ability to heal her, you can do same to get your healing today; that of your spouse, children or friends. Your finances, academics, marriage etc. are equally not left out. God is able to do much more than you can ever ask or think.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 13

TOPIC: GOD IS GREATER THAN OUR HEARTS

TEXT: 1 John 3:19-20

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

"19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things."

It's so saddening today to see that many believers cannot differentiate the works of the Holy Spirit, the human conscience, and the devil, one from another. It is not uncommon to hear a believer say that the Holy Spirit convicted him or her after he or she committed a particular sin or did something wrong. Such statement is so common that an average believers thinks that the work of the Holy Spirit is to point our sins to us whenever we fail to walk in the Spirit (whenever we fail to walk according to God's word). A sincere reading of the Bible makes it clear that such work isn't the Holy Spirit's.

It is not consistent that the same Holy Spirit that ought to help us out of sins also has the responsibility to condemn us. Our text points to what is responsible for condemning us; our hearts! By these, Apostle John means 'our conscience'. The conscience of every man is the seat of his perception which gives an approval as to what is right and a condemnation of what it perceives to be wrong based on what we know. Whenever we do wrong, our conscience judges us; little wonder the Bible encourages us to always maintain a conscience void of offence and to live with a clear conscience. By this, the Bible exhorts us not to deliberately do wrong things even when we know that we are wrong.

However, peradventure we sin, such that our hearts or consciences condemn us, Apostle Paul admonishes to reassure our hearts with the truth; God is love, He doesn't condemn us. We must never allow ourselves to sink into depression because our heart condemns us, or else Satan will take advantage of our consciences to condemn us the more.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 14

TOPIC: OBEY THEM THAT HAVE THE RULE OVER YOU

TEXT: HEBREWS 13:17

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

This is a very clear instruction; we are to obey them that have the rule over us. This establishes that we must assent to those who lead us spiritually. It shows clearly from the above that very often, we are going to receive instructions from those who lead us spiritually and the right response to these instructions is to submit. The word 'submit' means 'to yield'. We are to yield to our spiritual leaders.

Now, the above text did not say 'obey all leaders'; it says 'obey them that have the rule over you'. This is in particular; it is not general. Therefore, the above texts cannot be taken to mean 'obey every leader, every pastors; every father— no! It says 'your leader, your pastor'. It is clear why we must obey— it is so that they can labour without grief and murmurings but with joy; for it is not profitable for us whom they labour over when they do it with grief.

Dearly beloved, for our own benefits and for the ease of their work, let us keep at obeying or start to obey our spiritual leaders that they do their work with joy.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 15

TOPIC: DO WE PLEASE MEN? (2)

TEXT: Galatians 1: 1-3

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUNFUNMI

“Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;) And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia: Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ.”

In the first part of this devotional, we looked at the content of the gospel. We reemphasised the fact that we do not preach the gospel (as simple as it is) to please men. We rebutted the allegations of many that the message is made easy in order to encourage sin. Much more, we saw that God is the author of salvation; in other words, the message of the gospel is not inspired by man but by God.

Today, we would consider another aspect of this topic which deals with the challenge of many believers seeking the authorization of fellow men before they set out to preach the gospel with boldness. Many get discouraged to preach the gospel because some ‘great men of God’ are against it. It is necessary to reiterate that the gospel is not inspired by any man. Hence, there is no point seeking a man’s approval before opening one’s mouth to preach. Prior to Apostle Paul’s rebuttal to the allegations made against him which we have dealt with in the first part of this devotional, he had earlier introduced himself as a man sent by God. This we see clearly in our scripture text;

‘Paul, an apostle [special messenger appointed and commissioned and sent out] not from [any body of] men nor by or through any man, but by and through Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and God the Father, Who raised Him from among the dead’ [AMP]

This is the mind-set every believer must have. The believer was commissioned to preach the gospel the very day he received the life of Christ. God did this commissioning by giving us the Holy Ghost. No other commissioning can be greater than this. As a matter of fact, God has made us His ambassadors such that we are doing the work of reconciling men on earth in His stead. This fact is aptly put by Paul thus;

‘Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:20)

Dearly beloved, our work is unto God. We have no obligation to obey any man whose teachings or instructions are contrary to the gospel of Christ. We are not seeking men’s approval; we have God’s approval.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 16

TOPIC: SMALL BEGINNINGS

TEXT: Zechariah 4:10

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“For who hath despised the day of small things?...”

Small beginnings often come with hardwork and little helps. They usually offer tall resistance and modest encouragements. They typically see limited budgets and abundant setbacks. Luke 16:10 shows us that a man who is faithful while he has little will also be faithful when he has much, likewise a man who is unfaithful in little will also be unfaithful in much.

The scripture is replete with examples of people who had small beginnings, were faithful in them and the Lord increased them. Firstly, there's David who tendered his father's sheep in the fields and from there rose to be anointed as 'King of Israel'. Secondly, there's Nehemiah who rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem with a remnant despite the opposition and the odds that were against him. Then, there's Ruth who was widowed at a young age, worked in Boaz's field, who had a liking for her and married her. It's recorded that the messiah, Jesus, came through her lineage. We can go on and on mentioning Bible characters who had small beginnings but ended up becoming great. There's a lesson we can learn from all of their stories; we are not to despise small beginnings.

Child of God, whatever it is your hand has found to do, be it a secular job/business or the work of the Lord, do it with all diligence. Be faithful in it; give it all your best. The work might be hard and the help little, but do not relent, because at the end you would rejoice that you didn't give up at the beginning. At the end, you would reap a greater harvest than you anticipated. Most importantly, always remember that God's favour is upon your life because of Jesus.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 17

TOPIC: WE BELONG TO THE MIGHTY GOD!

TEXT: Jude 1:24

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,”

There is a very popular song that has the lyrics “I belong to the mighty God”, but many have sung this song without much understanding. The words “I belong to the mighty God” are an affirmation that you’re God’s possession. In very simple terms, you are His belonging. This means God owns us, and not that we own Him. The belonging cannot lose itself. Only the owner can lose it by either neglect, or misplacement, or by a deliberate act arising from disenchantment with the said belonging. The belonging is the owner’s responsibility. An owner is responsible to the degree that he is able to keep his belongings safe and secure.

The implication of this is that the popular question of whether a believer can lose himself is very unnecessary, as the believer doesn’t own himself. That question is often addressed to the wrong person. The right person to address this question to is God. He must be asked “Almighty God, can you lose this precious saint whom you purchased with the precious blood of your Son, Jesus?” Perhaps a keen reader would have seen the answer to this question already. He has just been referred to as “Almighty God”. What is God's almightiness if the one who He gave His all to save is lost and perishes?

Any God that loses the one who He saved is not worthy to be God. This is no God, but an inept, unable fellow who has tricked us into thinking He is powerful. But this is not our God! This is not our Father and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our God is powerful. He is greater than all. He saves, keeps, preserves unto the uttermost. This salvation is His power. It is His omnipotence!

Hence, we say we can never perish, we affirm that we can never be lost, we shout it upon the mountains, and it echoes all around the corners of the earth: Our God is greater than all, and there is not one who He has saved who shall be lost. As God, our Saviour, abides forever, so shall we, His saved, abide evermore!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD’S GOODNESS!

DAY 18

TOPIC: BE ENCOURAGED; GOD IS FOR YOU!

TEXT: 1 Samuel 30:4-6

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

"4 Then David and the people that [were] with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. 5 And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. 6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God."

The story from our text chapter is one of the bad occurrences that David experienced in his service as a king. He was not around when the Amalekites invaded his city, captured valuables and caused a lot of destruction; in fact, his two wives were also captured. David was so frustrated alongside his people that they wept till they had no more strength to weep. One can only imagine the havoc that must have made a whole king to cry like a baby. It became more frustrating when the citizens of his city began to consider stoning him. It made David look like a total failure. All the investments of people, wives, properties etc. had been taken from them.

In a short while, David changed his response to the situation. He decided to not remain in such defeated state; he encouraged himself in the Lord. He took strength from acknowledging who God has been to him and what He is capable of doing for him. Summarily, He recovered all that had been captured by going after the Amalekites (1 Samuel 30:18).

Are you passing through a very frustrating phase of your life, such that all hope seems to be lost? You should take encouragement from David's story. Nothing will ever change if you continue to cry and wail. The best you will do is to exhaust all your power if you continue to blame yourself and cry. You need to remind yourself of the past victories you have had through God and reassure your heart of success in the future. Jump out of that defeat and be encouraged! God is for you, and victory is yours!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 19

TOPIC: UNDERSTANDING THE LOVE OF GOD

TEXT: 1 John 4:18-19

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us."

The Greek word translated as 'fear' in the above text is the word 'phobos and it means 'to be exceeding fearful, terrified or afraid'. Hence, the statement 'there is no fear in love' means that there is no terror in love. The Apostle John explains God's love to us in context and our response to this love. The Apostle John explains to us that our response to God is on the basis on His love for us.

Having stated clearly the above, that we respond to God's love based on His love, for us and that there is no fear in love; it thus means that God's love for us takes away fear from us such that we are not to be terrified of Him.

The character of God's love and the response to God's love is fearless, full of assurance, and confident. God is so loving that He makes us His dwelling place; never leaving nor forsaking us forever—you should rejoice about that! Love dwells in us, and we respond to that love.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 20

TOPIC: THOU SHALL NOT MARRY

TEXT: 1 Timothy 4: 1-4

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUNFUNMI

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.”

In our scripture text, Apostle Paul outlined some of the false doctrines that would be preached by many false preachers in the last days. Part of these teachings includes ‘forbidding to marry’. One would not have ever thought that a teaching that forbids people from marrying is a false doctrine.

Today, some persons claim that it is the will of God that a man and woman stay single all through their lives. They opine that staying single (not marrying) ushers one into a deeper realm into the things of the Spirit. They use their lives as examples of how God has brought them into a deeper level of relationship because they did not marry. Some even go further to state that Apostle Paul was able to achieve so much in his ministry because he refrained from marriage. This is outrightly inconsistent with the word of God. Forbidding a man to marry is nothing but false doctrine.

Apostle Paul himself wrote this with his own hands;

‘But the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some in the church will turn away from Christ and become eager followers of teachers with devil-inspired ideas. These teachers will tell lies with straight faces and do it so often that their consciences won't even bother them. They will say it is wrong to be married...’ (1 Timothy 4:1-3. The Living Bible)

Again, Paul says one of the things people will say in the last days is that **‘it is wrong to be married’**. According to the Apostle Paul, this opinion is a devil-inspired idea. Beloved, whoever forbids you from marrying at all is definitely not speaking the mind of God. Stay with the word of God and be renewed in your mind.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 21

TOPIC: YOU ARE COMPLETE IN HIM

TEXT: Colossians 2:10

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“And you are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power... ”

God desires that we see ourselves as He sees us. If He says we are complete in Christ, then we are complete in Him. For in Christ dwells all the fullness of God (Colossians 2:9); not certain aspects of God but all of God's essence. Christ possesses the unbounded power of God; the totality of God's attributes. He is not merely godlike; He is God himself. This same fullness of God comes into your life when you receive Jesus— you immediately have all of God! It is of a truth that Jesus has and is all you need. He is the centre of everything for the believer. You are perfect in Him. You are made full in Him. You did not receive Him on an instalment plan, but all of Him at the point of receiving Him.

Very often, you might tend to feel incapable of operating in spiritual activities or living a godly life, because you feel you are imperfect and lack the ability to be of any use. But thanks to God, who sees us complete in Christ. Despite our flaws and human imperfections, the power of God fully resides in our recreated spirits.

Child of God, Christ is made our sufficiency; hence, our dependency should be on Him at all times. We are to walk daily in the completeness we have in Christ. Our focus shouldn't be on our weaknesses or on how we feel, but on how complete we are in Him who is in all things and above all things. When we do so, we see His strength manifest in us.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 22

TOPIC: ONLY IN THE LORD

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 7:39

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.”

In the context of the text above, the Apostle Paul was admonishing saints about marriage. He had written from previous verses how it is good that a man has his own wife, and a woman her own husband. The phrases "let every man have his own..." and "let every woman have his own" here would imply that the choice of a man and woman is very important in the decision of whom to marry.

In our text-verse, Paul makes it more explicit. The phrase "...whom she will" means that marriage is a play out of people's will. It means that people's choices are very important when it comes to marrying. However, Paul gives a clear-cut instruction to the believer who is about making the choice of marriage. He/She is to marry only in the Lord. This means that the right of a believer to exercise his or her will concerning who to marry has a jurisdiction. The believer can exercise such a choice only in the Lord. He/She can only get married to a believer, and not an unbeliever.

Therefore, we aren't to get overly emotional when it comes to marriage and say we are marrying unbelievers. That mustn't be heard! It is against apostolic instructions. We are believers; light in the Lord. We must walk as children of light! We are to marry from amongst our midst. We are to choose from among believers. This way, we are able to foster the progress of God's plan of salvation on the earth. We are also able to have beautiful and godly marriages when we heed this instruction.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 23

TOPIC: AS THE ELECT OF GOD

TEXT: Colossians 3:12-13

Written by: OLUMIDE ADEDOTUN

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; [13] Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

The man in Christ is the elect of God. Every believer is holy and is the beloved of God. The Apostle Paul addresses believers in the verses above; he instructs that believers put on some virtues that befit the nature they have received of God. Clearly stated above are some of the ways a believer ought always to behave for he has put away the old man and its deeds.

We have been called to good works. The Apostle Paul, in his writing to the Ephesian Church, instructed them not to be partakers with sinners when he was making reference to the conduct of sinners. In other words, our conduct as believers must be different from that of sinners. He says:

"Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord." (Ephesians 5:7-10)

Apostle Paul unveils to them and, by extension, to all believers how we can judge our conduct—it should be in all goodness, which is righteousness, which is truth; and it must attest to that which is acceptable unto God. Apostle Paul lets us know that we are light in Lord, and therefore should walk as such.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 24

TOPIC: OUR GOSPEL

TEXT: Romans 16:25

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,”

As always with dishonesty in Bible interpretation, ridiculous conclusions are always made. Some have said the Apostle Paul had “his own gospel”. Hence, there is an “aspect of the Bible” that each person has been called to preach. Some say they have been called to “preach holiness”, while some others say they have been called to “preach prosperity”. Some also say theirs is to “preach the word of faith”, not actually understanding what the word of faith is. Such claims are nothing but concoctions from sordid imaginations. They are always alibis to excuse such people’s laziness and lack of diligence in Bible study. We are to teach the Bible; nothing more, nothing less.

2 Timothy 2:15

“15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

This didn’t say “study an aspect of the Bible”. A good preacher rightly divides the word of truth. This means his study is through the entire scriptures. He studies through scriptures, engaging the rules of proper Bible interpretation, and comes to the same conclusions the scriptures communicate. Having said that, what exactly did Apostle Paul mean by “my gospel” in Romans 16:25? In that same verse, Paul explains the words “my gospel” as the “preaching of Jesus Christ”. In other words, Paul’s words did not mean that he was preaching an aspect of the gospel or that there was some exclusive gospel committed to him to preach. His gospel was the preaching of Jesus Christ. And he wasn’t the only who did this. Philip the deacon did. Peter the apostle did. James did. Jude did. Paul’s gospel is the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Anything asides this is not his gospel. Not our gospel. Not the gospel.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

“1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”

This is the gospel! This was Paul’s gospel! This is our gospel!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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DAY 25

TOPIC: VALUE THE BROTHERHOOD!

TEXT: Roman 12:10

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

"[Be] kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;"

The New Testament rule is founded on love; God's love for mankind. Everyone who has received this love is also commanded to love others and, most importantly, other believers. As an extension of our love for the brotherhood, we are to esteem every believer very highly (Philippians 2:3). This is because the value of every believer is the value of the sacrifice that was offered to redeem him or her. Jesus is our value!

Ordinarily, as humans, we cannot but need the help of other humans; how much more now that we are believers? We will also need the help of other believers at one point or the other. We must realize that the Bible refers to every believer as members of Jesus' body; hence, we are useful one to another. This is the theme of our text chapter. God didn't create any new creature to be independent. Just like every part of the body functions properly as a result of its association with other parts. For example, our fingers wouldn't perform their functions properly if they were not carried by the arm. This is the same for every part of the human body.

This is so true that even Jesus (while He walked on the earth) needed help from people at one point or the other. He needed people to help his ministry materially, needed His disciples to help His ministry, needed someone's colt to ride on triumphantly into Jerusalem etc. Paul also needed co-labourers who helped him in ministry; he had people who helped him escape inside a basket when he would have been killed etc. As believers, we all need men and, most importantly, other believers in our daily life. We must ensure that we honour and esteem other believers.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 26

TOPIC: GROW IN GRACE

TEXT: 2 Peter 3:18

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUNFUNMI

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

Growth is an important characteristic of living. It is the process of development, enlargement and expansion. To say something is growing depicts that such a thing is increasing in size, number, value or strength. There is an undoubted joy in the heart of a progenitor when his offspring grows and develops. When a baby utters his first word and also makes a successful attempt to walk around, the mother grins as the baby’s action is a proof of growth. The believer in Christ must be desirous of growth. This is aptly put by Apostle Peter in his first epistle thus; *‘as new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:’* (1 Peter 2:2) In other words, the believer must be eager to grow.

As written in our text, the Apostle further instructed that the believer is to grow in grace. It is worthy of note that the instruction is not to grow in the works of the law. This cannot even be the case as we are not under the law in the first place; we are under (in) grace. Knowing that grace is the personality of Christ (John 1:14), we know that to grow in grace simply means to develop in the enjoyment and usage of all that grace has given to us. In other words, we are to seek eagerly to maximise all that is available for us in Christ.

This growth can only be achieved by knowing all that Christ has provided by his death, resurrection and glorification. Little wonder the Apostle proceeded to say: *‘and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ’*. Spiritual growth is achieved by the acknowledgement of everything that Christ has done for us and all that he is doing through us. It is all about focusing on Jesus and having the knowledge of Him.

Say this; I grow in grace. I acknowledge all that Christ has done for me and all that He is doing through me. I maximise all that is available for me in Christ.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 27

TOPIC: NO WHAT IF'S

TEXT: Romans 4:20-21

Written by: MAY AYINTETE

“He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief ; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God ; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”

Even though God's promise to Abraham of an heir were contrary to all natural and human expectations; Abraham still believed God. His faith in God was based on the truth that God was able to perform what He (God) had promised. Right from when God told him to leave his fatherland to a country he knew nothing about, he had trusted God all the way.

It was never recorded that Abraham doubted God. What we saw was that against all the glaring situations that surrounded him, he was fully persuaded of God's all-sufficiency. Despite the reality that he and Sarah weren't getting any younger, and were way past child bearing age, he fully depended upon God for the performance of His (God's) own promise and so gave the glory to God for His faithfulness.

Brethren beloved, are there situations in your life that have defied any solution? Or people have mocked you that no one can come to your aid as your problems have lingered beyond normal? Take a cue from Abraham; he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; that is, he did not consider the circumstances that surrounded him but was fully focused on God and His promise. Whatever it is that gives you sleepless nights and makes you cry, trust in God, and be fully persuaded that God is able to meet you at the point of your needs.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 28

TOPIC: GIVING PRIORITY TO TONGUES

TEXT: Jude 1:20

Written by: ALOBA TOWOJU

"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,"

One of the core things taught and practised by Jesus is the act of Praying. Jesus instructed his disciples without any iota of ambiguity that they ought to always pray and not to be weary of such. Moreover, shortly after the resurrection of Jesus was the birth of a new set of people. They are the new creatures— believers in the death and the resurrection of Jesus! They also continued in this instruction; however, in a more effective manner.

The first gathering they had was started with a remarkable event; praying in tongues. They had been taught the act of praying before then, but much more than that was a promise given to them by Jesus Himself that they were going speak in other tongues after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Little wonder it wasn't strange to them when they witnessed it. Amazingly, they prayed in tongues for a period of three hours despite being their first experience. They henceforth made it a practice and some of the apostles wrote about praying in tongues in their epistles.

Just as the early church gave full attention to praying in tongues in their meetings, every believer will be doing excellently well to make a practice of prayer and more importantly tongues in their personal devotions and church meetings. Praying is one of the primary ways in which a believer builds up himself or herself. Make it a habit to pray in tongues than ever before!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 29

TOPIC: LET US BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT!

TEXT: Ephesians 5:18-19

Written by: ADEBAYO KOLAWOLE SAMUEL

“18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”

This is very instructive; the believer must be given to the things of the Spirit. Now, the precedence was that Paul was discussing the believer's conduct. He was explaining what the believer's conduct ought to be, as a result of who he is in Christ. In Ephesians 5:2, “he said walk in love”. In Ephesians 5:8, he said “now are you light in the Lord; walk as children of light”. The believer's walk is his pattern of life. There's a path to tread for the believer already explained in the epistles. This is his nature.

It's not in the believer's nature to fornicate, tell lies, defraud, be dishonest, be in strife and offense, envy, and such things. When a believer does such things, he acts like one who is in the flesh. He acts as unto carnal. He walks as the natural man. He is now the spiritual man. Hence, he cannot act like the flesh anymore. He is in the Spirit now and forevermore. Amen.

Now, Paul says something very important in verses 18-19 (our text-verses). He discusses being filled/drunk with the Spirit as part of the believer's walk in light. Thus, it is the believer's nature to be filled/drunk with the Spirit. How will he do this? By speaking psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. This is speaking in tongues and interpretation. This is prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:14-16).

Hence, when a believer refuses to be given to the things of the Spirit, he is not walking in the Spirit. He is not walking in his nature. He is acting like the flesh, acting like one in whom the Spirit does not now reside forevermore. He is acting beside himself. It is not in the believer's nature to neglect being filled with the Spirit. The believer was born from above. He is above, seated at the right hand of the Father, where there is laughter and joy forevermore. This is his realm now. It is the realm of joy. It is the realm of utterance. He must now speak. This is his walk. This is his nature. This is his conduct!

Now are we light in the Lord; let us walk as children of light. Let us talk in tongues. Let us interpret. Let us burst forth with laughter. Let us be full of joy. Let us rejoice. Let us be filled with the Spirit!

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

WE ARE REFINED UNTO ALL OF GOD'S GOODNESS!

DAY 30

TOPIC: SING WITH THE SPIRIT

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 14:15

Written by: ALADE OLUWASEGUN

“What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”

It is worthy of note that the whole chapter of our scripture text is helpful to clear all obscurity on the subject of tongues, interpretation of tongues, and its usage. After expounding the benefits of tongues and its interpretation in the previous verses, the Apostle Paul then says “I will pray with the Spirit...and sing with the Spirit”.

The word “will” denotes a wish or desire to do something. This means that He made up his mind to pray and also sing with the spirit. We should also note that the writer used the words “pray and sing” in the same context. Hence, the same way the believer prays with the spirit (i.e. praying tongues) is the same way he can add melody to the words he utters by the Spirit to make them songs. Singing with the Spirit does not require some other special ability. It is by the Spirit.

Beloved, you have the utterance to pray and sing with the Spirit. And, as you are edified when you pray in tongues, you are also edified when you sing in tongues. Today, take out time to fill your heart with melody and sing a new song by the Spirit. You have utterance.

AWESOME! GLORY TO GOD!

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