







# PROPHETIC MANNA 2024

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#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

To the immortal, invisible and only wise God be the glory and praise for the success of this year's edition of Prophetic Manna. Prophetic Manna is a part of the effort to fulfil the mandate of raising the end-time army for God in all spheres of life. To this end, building spiritually robust individuals through consistent intimacy with God is the goal of the devotional.

This work is a synergy of many minds. I am forever grateful for the inspiration, counsel and wisdom of the convener, Rev Bolaji Odejide whose commitment and passion to see believers mature to the full stature of Christ is equal to none.

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We give God the glory for everything and thank Him for the privilege of service.

# GIVE THANKS TO GOD Psalms 57:8-10

The act and habit of giving thanks to God is a matter of the heart. Genuine thanksgiving is not just about singing songs, it is more of the total acknowledgement of the goodness of God in all things. It is a new year and God's faithfulness and love over you is evident. One of the best things you can give to God in return for His love and faithfulness over you is your thanks.

God saw you through last year; many things happened, but you are here in the new year. If you think there was nothing special you achieved last year and you cannot point to any success as a reason to give thanks; that you are alive is more than enough reason. For the safety, deliverance, healing and every other good gift that money cannot buy which you have enjoyed, you should thank God. Give thanks to God today and let it be a habit throughout the year regardless of your circumstance. Moreso, it is the beginning of another year and God is starting with you; He is for you and by the end of the year you will have uncountable reasons to thank Him. Thank Him for what you trust Him to do for you this year.

Action Point: God is good and worthy of thanks. Prophetic Declaration: The praise of the Lord shall not depart from my mouth.

# BLESS THE LORD Psalms 103:1-4

Yesterday, you were admonished to give thanks to God. It is the second day of the new year and the same subject is still addressed. This is because God is indeed worthy of your praises and thanks. The times are hard and if you have survived all ordeals and you are here, you should thank God. You should think deeply, beyond your unanswered prayers and see how in ways you did not even expect, God came through for you last year. His blessings, provisions, protection, guidance, mercies, favour, breakthroughs, and victories in battles (seen and unseen) are some of the numerous things you can bless the Lord for.

God gave you the gift of salvation, He healed your diseases and protected you from all evil, crowned you with love, health, blessings, and many more. Look around you and you will see that God is worthy of your praise. Don't be like the Israelites who forget quickly after experiencing God's mighty saving hand. Don't let your eyes be clouded with problems or negativity. God is worthy of thanks because He has been good to you.

Action Point: Sing hymns of thanksgiving. Prophetic Declaration: Reasons to always bless the Lord will never cease in my life.

# THE CONSISTENT GOD Joshua 3:7

Consistency is one of the attributes of God that cannot be questioned. The consistency of God is the measure of the degree of His steadfastness, constancy, dependability, reliability and lack of change or deviation. Joshua's greatness and lifting by God is not just an end unto himself, but also another opportunity to clearly show the people of Israel that the God who was with Moses is the same God with Joshua. God was not only interested in giving Joshua a high credit in the sight of the people of Israel because he was an available instrument for his work, He was also interested in making the people know how consistent and unchanging He is by nature. God gave Joshua a word of assurance to remind him of how He had been in the time past and how consistent He will be in the present time.

It is a new year and the God who has kept you through the previous years will still keep you. You have had victories and you will have more victories this year because God is consistent. He is not changing His nature, not this year, not ever.

Action Point: God is consistently good. Prophetic Declaration: My life will be a testimony of God's consistent goodness.

# GOD'S GOOD PLAN 2 Samuel 6:8-12

Great are the works of the Lord. Glorious and majestic are His deeds. Who could have thought that the ark that led to the death of Uzzah would be the reason the Lord would bless the household of Obed-Edom? Everything turned out for his good, even though that wasn't the intention of David.

This year, the Lord has a good plan for you. He has cancelled the enemy's plan towards you and turned situations around for your good. No matter how bad the circumstances may look now, it will end in your favour, and you will rejoice this year. Not minding your situation, say aloud, "Things are working for my good, and testimonies await me this year in Jesus' name." The devil is just trying all he can to make you give up because he knows what's in this year for you. Refuse to give him a chance. Keep confessing the victory and assurance you have in Christ till it becomes your reality. The plan of God for you is beautiful and good. Do not listen to any lie from the devil. Stand your ground on receiving the manifestation of that beautiful plan of God.

Action Point: Profess positive things about the year. Prophetic Declaration: All circumstances and situations turn around for my good.

# ASK FOR GOD'S LEADING I 2 Samuel 2:1-4

God cares about you and wants to be involved in every aspect of your life. God, your Father cares so much about you that he paid for your life with the blood of His only begotten son (like He did for everyone). He cares for you and wants to lead you every step of your life sojourn.

You need God's leading in every area of life; academically, professionally, maritally and so on. You need to know His mind per time in every aspect of your life and that will require that you ask Him. In learning and following God's leading for your life lies your victory this year because His leading will keep you out of error. However, you will not know if you do not ask. Therefore, as you begin a new year, ask the Lord for direction on what to do and how to do it. Remember that there is a way that seems right to a man, but the end is destruction. Allow the Lord to lead you this year. Do not lean on your understanding. Make the resolution to seek God's leading always every day of the year.

Action Point: Allow God to lead you this year. Prophetic Declaration: I have God's Spirit in me.

# ASK FOR GOD'S LEADING II 2 Samuel 5:17-25

King David was among the few people in the Bible who got the commendation of the Lord. It was recorded of him to be a man after God's heart. You might wonder what exactly he did to get this divine commendation, with many ideas running through your mind as answers. Truthfully, many things can be responsible for the commendation. However, an important one is his willingness to be led by God. David always asked the Lord what he should do per time.

David being a king understood the importance of taking and giving orders. More importantly, he knew that hearing from God is not a one-off thing. He inquired of the Lord all through the process till he attained success. As you journey into the year, it isn't enough to start up a thing on the command of the Lord. It is crucial to know that when God instructs you on an assignment, you will need His direction all through the process. He wants to instruct and guide you through the assignment and lead you to success.

Action Point: Do not only hear the instruction but follow God's leading throughout the process. Prophetic Declaration: The Lord leads me to success.

# BLESSINGS AT BETHEL Genesis 35:1, 9-12

One of the attributes of God is that He is Omnipresent; He is present in all places and at all times. However, you should know that His manifestation is not made known everywhere, and this is what determines where His blessings are and who gets blessed or not. Many factors have been revealed from the scriptures which guarantee His manifestation in a place and anyone's life. One key factor to seeing the manifestation of God is the ability to hear His voice, trust His leadings and obey His direction at all times; even when it doesn't make sense to you.

This year, do not only make efforts based on your calculations. Allow God to lead you. Do not take action because everyone around you is doing it. If they have done those things as led by God, they will have success. If you have merely copied other people, there will be no result to show for the efforts. God's instructions to individuals are different. He knows His plan for each person and guides them in the direction of His provision. God's blessings for you are in the location He directs (is directing) you to.

Action Point: Enquire about God's plans for you this year. Prophetic Declaration: I am divinely placed at the centre of God's will for me.

# THE DESTINY CHANGER Genesis 32:28

Jacob was known to be a deceitful man from his name. He had deceived his father through the help of his mother to receive the inheritance that belonged to his brother, and his life was a mess. Jacob was on his way to make restitution with his brother when God encountered him, and his life and name were changed for good. God gave him a new life, a new name and a new story.

God has the power to change and transform anyone or anything as He pleases. The change in Jacob's name is significant on several levels; it is a confirmation from God to Jacob that he will be protected and provided for in his journey. Are you hopeless, damaged or helpless? God is ready to change your situation for good; He is ready to give you a new name. All you need to do is to trust in Him and believe in His power. Your present troubles are temporary; keep being persistent through prayers. Jacob did not relent till he was blessed. You are to do the same; do not give up yet, keep asking till your joy is full. Your miracle is coming this year.

Action Point: Believe in the destiny changer. Prophetic Declaration: I am strengthened to wait on God.

# DIVINE RESTORATION I Jeremiah 30:1-3

Restoration is the act of renewing something, causing it to be back to its original state. Before restoration can occur, there must have been a shift from the original state of that thing. God told Jeremiah to write His promises of comfort in a book so they would be available to the exiled after Jerusalem's fall. This book will be a book of hope that restoration will surely come after the fall, and God will bring the nations of Judah and Israel into a new relationship with Him. He will reverse his former judgements by bringing them back to the land.

God wants the record to be preserved for people to recognize it as the hand of God. He sent His word to the Israelites through Prophet Jeremiah that He would restore them to the land. God is still in the business of restoring man to Himself and He will still restore. Do not give up on that situation yet. Do not be afraid, for God will restore you. He is your God and He is the restorer of all things.

Action Point: Do not give up on that situation. Prophetic Declaration: My lost grounds are restored to me.

# DIVINE RESTORATION II Joel 2:25

As discussed yesterday, restoration is reinstating, and renewing back to the original state. It comes when a review of the past activities carried out. When God wants to restore, He will go into your past to see those aspects that are faulty. God is aware of the pains of the past years. However, when a person is restored or a situation experiences a turn-around, shame of different forms is rolled away. For the Israelites, the shame of being captives in a foreign land was rolled away because of the divine visitation from the restorer.

Divine restoration silences the voice of the mockers, brings about a change of status, and an unfortunate man becomes successful. We serve a God who can do the impossible. When God restores, you will know it is absolutely God. It has no human input, it is always by divine arrangement, it brings back accumulated blessings and wasted years are restored. God is still at work in your life, all you need to do is trust the process. Believe in Him and you shall not be ashamed.

Action Point: Do you desire restoration? Ask for it. Prophetic Declaration: My status is changing and there is no more delay.

# ASSURED IN GOD'S HELP Psalms 60:11-12

The word assurance is a state of being sure about something. Being assured in God portrays a strong feeling of confidence that you have about His being. God gives His children the gift of full assurance in Him. This stands to be a precious source of dependence and consolation for believers who have faith and trust in Him. The proof that God is reliable and ever faithful to always come to your aid gives you an assurance to rely on Him and get all the help you need rather than to rely or fix your mind on man. Man can fail, but God can never fail.

This year, your total trust and hope for help should be in God and not in any man. The Bible emphasizes that the help of a man is vain but with God, you can be confident that you would be victorious. You stand to receive God's help when you accept the insufficiency of all creatures and trust Him to do that which only He can do. He will use men (and can be any man) but your trust should be in Him and not the men He will use.

Action Point:Vain is the help of man. Prophetic Declaration: I receive help from above.

# A PRAYER OF DELIVERANCE Psalms 59:1-2

We live in a world where wickedness is now the order of the day. Believers go through a lot of pain, attack and distress. The word of God also made us know that being a believer does not exempt us from attacks from enemies or afflictions. But when this time of affliction comes and the enemies are standing against you, one of the ways out is to cry to God in prayer. Believers are expected and instructed to cry out to God in times of trouble. God is the only one who is capable and powerful enough to deliver you from the snares and the afflictions of the enemies.

In our text for today, David also prayed a prayer of deliverance, appealing to God to deliver him by His mercy. Crying out to God is a fervent expression of faith in God that He is powerful enough to act on your behalf and deliver you. So, prayer is an important spiritual weapon that can be used to overcome your enemies. When you cry to God in prayer for deliverance, you commit yourself to His hands and acknowledge that He is the only one who can deliver you.

Action Point: Prayer is a potent weapon. Prophetic Declaration: I am victorious over my enemies.

### THE FEAR OF THE LORD Psalms 25: 12 - 14

If there's something that is largely scarce in this dispensation and is significantly responsible for many of the woes human society currently suffers, it is the fear of the Lord. People no longer fear God. They have no reference for His sovereignty, so evil has dominated many people's hearts and multiplies itself through their thoughts, words, and actions. The absence of the fear of the Lord is the consequent domination of evil in our society today.

Some supposed believers are not excluded from this lack of the fear of the Lord, more reasons why we see disunited churches, ungodly actions from Christians and much evil around us. The scripture emphasizes that the fear of God will teach you the way you should choose (verse 12). To fear God means to submissively worship Him as Lord, to take instructions from Him always and to make Him your absolute reference in all situations. You must acknowledge Him as the ultimate source of your strength, power and being. Then, you will receive revelations of His deep secrets to live a fulfilling life.

Action Point: Desist from every action that is not consistent with Christ. Prophetic Declaration: I shall be secure in this land.

# SERVING GOD CONTINUALLY Daniel 6: 3-13

Many believers profess their love and show commitment to the Lord when things are smooth, and filled with happiness and fun. However, at the slightest challenge of life, they are easily swayed and one will wonder whether they knew the Lord at first or not. At such a moment, the faith of the individual is put to test and one can tell whether such truly believes and trusts the Lord. Interestingly, God knows whether your yielding to Him in service is genuine or conditional.

Today, God's people who are light bearers tend to dim their light, giving room for compromise when their faith is being challenged. They tend to bend the word of God to suit their situations. Whatever dilemma you are in today, take a stand not to compromise on the truth and maintain a godly character. Know that the Almighty God defends those who are committed to Him in Spirit and in truth. He saves to the uttermost those who through several trials and temptations remain undaunted in their service to Him. Daniel encountered the deliverer real time in the lion's den.

Action Point: Be committed to God, and serve Him with your time and other resources continuously. Prophetic Declaration: I receive God's help always.

# THE TONGUE James 3:5-6

Depending on how you choose to use it, the tongue could be a source of life or death. Among many other things, the tongue can be rightly used to confess positive things, and it aids vocal communication. Also, the tongue could be deadly if it's not tamed. The inability to bridle one's tongue could cause a great loss. As a believer, you must know that the power of this little but mighty organ as the scripture put it, can re-cast a peaceful life into a life of torment, agony, and deep regret. It can go as far as transferring deadly and poisonous utterances into your mind and the people around you, making them vulnerable to satanic invasion.

In a world deeply infested with vulgar and obscene slang and songs, as a believer, you should not give in to singing such worldly songs with hellish lyrics. You must bridle your tongue to avoid cursing and uttering unedifying words. You are a Christ-minded being and necessity is laid on you to bring your tongue under the dominion of the Holy Spirit to bless, edify and encourage others. Ensure every word that proceeds out of your mouth glorifies God.

Action Point: Use your tongue to kindle the fire of love not strife or offence Prophetic Declaration: My tongue shall not be the source of my downfall.

#### YOU ARE THE SALT 2 Kings 2:19-22

Salt is a very essential commodity that no household can do without daily. Salt has many uses, ranging from healing, preservation, taste/sweetness, and seasoning/flavour among others. This probably necessitates its indispensability.

In the text today, salt brought the solution to the problem of a whole city. Are you bothered about any form of decadence emerging in your community and the world at large? Jesus, addressing you in Matthew 5:13 says that "You are the salt." Don't let other people's attitudes discourage you. Rise to your duty. Bring healing to the decadence in your home, community and the world. Jericho was a major city and should have had a booming economy but because of bad water, there were deaths and unfruitfulness. The decadence in your own home or community may be ungodly traditions, sins, or being indifferent toward the things of God. It is a condition you have been called to heal through your relationship with Christ. You are the salt. Be the salt that your world needs through God's grace.

Action Point: Put a smile on somebody's face today by meeting their needs as God gives you grace. Prophetic Declaration: I am the salt, I influence others to live right.

# IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE I Daniel 1: 8, 18 - 20

There are certain qualities and characteristics to be fulfilled in the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of life. Everyone wants to excel in all their endeavours but not everyone is willing to pay the price for excellence. Excellence is sweet but it is costly; it requires hard work to achieve and maintain. There are requirements to be enlisted as a sure candidate for excellence just as the children of Judah (Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah) in the book of Daniel.

They were children of Judah with no blemish. They were well favoured, skilful in all wisdom, cunning in knowledge, understanding science and able to serve in the King's palace. Aside from being redeemed and being royalty, you are to possess skills, character and knowledge to qualify for the race of excellence.

The godliness of Daniel made him determine in his heart not to defile himself with the king's meat and he influenced his other friends in this same manner. Godliness will always bring you into favour with God and man.

Action Point: Give your life to Christ if you have not, it is the key to godly excellence. Prophetic Declaration: I have wisdom. I have an understanding of visions and dreams.

#### IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE II Daniel 2: 10 - 19

As much as wisdom, knowledge, understanding and character are needed, godliness is also a prerequisite for excellent living. There are some instances in which all these fail and God uses other things to confuse the wise. King Nebuchadnezzar sought the Chaldeans to make known to him his dream and its interpretation which he had and forgot. It was confirmed by the Chaldeans that no man can do that. That is where the God factor comes in.

The magicians, sorcerers and Chaldeans were unable to make the matter known to the king, though they were knowledgeable and probably possessed good character. Even Daniel who was godly did not simply understand the matter. It took Daniel going to God in prayers to receive mercy of Him concerning the revelation of the king's dream which God revealed to him in a night vision - for there is a God in heaven that reveals secrets. This secret was made known to Daniel because he had a working relationship with God and for the name of God to be glorified. There is a God-factor needed in excellence.

Action Point: Acknowledge the God factor in all your ways. Prophetic Declaration: I am helped in my hopelessness.

# JUDGE NOT 1 Corinthians 4:5

God is the only being who can bring to light the things hidden in the darkness, not you, your pastors, the elders or your parents. Because of your limitation as a mortal man, the Bible emphasizes that you are not to judge others over any matter of life. God is the supreme being who knows everything that is hidden, and that also makes God the only just judge over all the earth. It is in God's power to judge the earth and not in your power.

Do not judge others, judgement is for God and not for you. As much as you have various responsibilities to carry out in the body of Christ, the responsibility to judge another is not given to you. So, instead of passing judgment on others, pray and beg God to help you live a life that is pleasing to Him. Repent today and stop carrying out an assignment that is not yours. Do not condemn others, pray for them. When you can, intercede for others. Counsel people when it is necessary too. Ensure you do not judge or condemn others.

Action Point: It is not in your power to judge others. Prophetic Declaration: I receive fresh and new insight from God.

# BAD COUNSEL PRODUCE BAD CHOICE 2 Chronicles 10:1-8

Rehoboam, the only mentioned son of Solomon, had the opportunity to continue the dynasty of David his grandfather and Solomon his father, with the same blessing that they enjoyed. He had great steps to follow, instead, he sought bad counsel and lost the blessing that could have been his if he had listened to wise counsel. He suffered greatly for his bad choices. Rehoboam was responsible for the division of a nation because he was more interested in following his own will than discovering what was right.

God gives us the chance to live a good life but we sometimes throw this chance away. Rehoboam had the chance to live a better life than that of his father Solomon, God positioned elders there who would guide him on the right part. He chose to forsake their counsel and preferred the counsel of the young men which pleased him and not God. For this reason, the kingdom was taken away from him. When you take the right counsel as ordained by God you will enjoy the blessings attached and if you forsake God's counsel, you face the consequences. Choose wisely.

Action Point: Listen to God's counsel sent through believers and you will enjoy Him. Prophetic Declaration: My life pleases God.

## TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION Psalms 78:1-7

An African adage says, "Any tradition you do not expose the children to will soon go into extinction." Failure to teach the next generation is responsible for their misbehaviour and decadence in morality. The knowledge of God in this generation has depreciated because the past generation failed to pass across the accurate and core insight, they had gotten to the present generation. It is important to pass on the tenet of faith and revelation of the Lord to the younger ones.

Children are precious and essential in the agenda of God for every generation. Therefore, nurturing your children in the way of the Lord must be one of your greatest priorities. It is important you teach your children when they are still young. The formative years of a child's life are critically important for their spiritual development. As parents and leaders, you are to teach children to pay attention to the instructions of the Lord and learn to act accordingly. Passing on the baton to the next generation must be deliberate and the responsibility is on you

Action Point: Prayerfully choose one person that you will train in the way of the Lord. Prophetic Declaration: I will not labour in vain.

# JOYFUL, YET MINDFUL Daniel 5: 1-6, 26-30

Scriptures help us to understand that the life of a Child of God should always be filled with so much joy, ecstasy and radiance, which springs from the confidence we have in our Father and the testaments of His realistic works in our lives. On the contrary, when excitement is not birthed from the right source (God), and for the right reasons, it tends to lure individuals into a height of deriving pleasure which might be against the principles of God's word.

Belshazzar was in that state of excitement where his mind was no longer in control. He unruly commanded that the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the House of God, be brought to him. He defiled their use and even gave the Glory of God to the gods of gold, silver etc. After all that God did to Nebuchadnezzar, one would think that his son would be more knowledgeable, but that was not the case. In his state of excitement, not guided by God's Principles, the wrath of God fell on him, and that very night, he was slain.

Action Point: Do not desecrate what has been consecrated to God. Prophetic Declaration: I will not fall where those that have gone ahead fell.

# BE THE LIGHT 1 John 1: 5 – 7

The purpose of Jesus Christ on earth is to reconcile man back to the father of light (God) by giving man abundant life through the teachings of the word of life which is light to your path and a cleansing from all sins. If truly God is your father and He is the light, you become a light since you are His child. As a child of the light, you must shine at all times because the world is in darkness.

One of the reasons why you are created is to be a light to chase out darkness. As the light of the world, you need to help the helpless and those in darkness. You need to help make others see the need to also be light in the midst of darkness. There is a need for you to remain in the light (God) and be the light in this perverse generation. You cannot be seen associating with darkness in thoughts, deeds and lifestyle; this makes people doubt if truly you are a replica of your father who is the light.

Action Point: Be the light of God here on earth Prophetic Declaration: I become the light of God, I no longer walk in darkness.

## KNOWING TIMES AND SEASONS Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

All creatures have times and seasons designed for them; some trees fruit during the rainy season while some do during the dry season. Even animals have their seasons; times of migration, mating and even gathering together. As the ultimate creation of God, you are also subject to times and seasons according to God's plan.

The proper knowledge of God's timing is crucial to your prosperity in all facets of life. When you seek God's timing and abide by it, your struggles in life will be minimal. You will not labour when you are supposed to be resting, you will not work when you're supposed to be praying, and you will not lament when you are supposed to be rejoicing. You will be at the right place at the right time, doing the right things. Thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ, He didn't leave you without a companion to reveal God's timing to you. The Holy Spirit is ever present to reveal God's heart to you per time. You only need to submit to Him and take His guidance with total obedience.

Action Point: Pray for divine guidance on the project you want to start and move according to God's time for it. Prophetic Declaration: I understand divine timing.

# ARE YOU BORN AGAIN? John 3: 1-3

We are currently in a generation where being born again has been conveniently defined by many people. People queue now and then, in response to altar calls to give their lives to God and become born again, without ever experiencing the trueness and person of Christ. Worst still, many have to go as far as to add 'born again' as a suffix to Christian to delineate between those who had truly encountered Jesus and those who are just nominal believers, as if you could be a Christian without being born again.

Being born again means to be spiritually, emotionally, physically and psychologically transformed into the person of Christ. Every ounce of your action must proceed out of an utmost reverence for God. It doesn't just end with accepting Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and publicly confessing faith in Him. You must perpetually live to reverence, honour, glorify, venerate, adore and worship Him. Being born again is not just that one-off thing you did at the altar, it is how you live daily until your final breath.

Action Point: Make sure Christ is evident in your life every day. Prophetic Declaration: I am separated from every evil covenant in my lineage.

## MADE FOR WORSHIP Exodus 4:22-23

God sent Moses to deliver a message to Pharaoh, to allow the children of Israel to go and worship Him but he refused and would not allow them to leave the land of Egypt. He derived pleasure in enslaving them rather than sending them to worship their God. God never takes it lightly with any man who poses to be a hindrance to his children in all ways especially when it relates to worshipping Him in truth and Spirit. This was the sin of Pharaoh and he paid dearly for it even with his own life and that of his eldest son.

Just like Pharaoh, in our contemporary world today, certain people use their positions to hinder people from serving God. Many bosses at their places of work, consciously or unconsciously serve as a hindrance to believers worshipping God as they should. If you are such a person, understand that God is not happy with you and in no time, you will bear the consequences. Rather than use your position and influence to stop others from worshipping God, use all privileges you have to worship God and allow others to do likewise.

Action Point: Put an end to any policy you have in place hindering people from worshipping God as they should. Prophetic Declaration: I am a living sacrifice to Yahweh.

# THE REJECTED AND THE REPLACEMENT 1 Samuel 16:1-5

God's work or assignment would not be put to an end or on hold because of the death or failure of a man. If it is God's work, it goes beyond the ability of any man. Samuel was weak and felt a bit incapacitated while mourning for Saul's tragic rebellion against God, but God was not incapacitated. His ways are not limited to any man. God gave Saul everything he needed, but he chose his own path by being disobedient, which led to his fall and rejection by God.

Saul's rejection suggests that God may have left a man hundreds of years before he knows it. It also reveals that God's plan or purpose can never be thwarted; it is only the instrument (man) that will be changed. Being a replacement can be good but the position of either being rejected or replaced is never good. Therefore, take up your position well and deliver good results for that which has been committed into your hands. Do not misuse the privilege and gifts that you have been given. God has a result in view, if He does not get it with you, He will change the vessel of use and get it.

Action Point: Make extra effort to do your best where you have been positioned. Prophetic Declaration: I receive the capacity for efficient delivery.

#### KEEP ON DOING GOOD Galatians 6:9-10, 2 Samuel 9:1-5

Sometimes, treating people kindly, loving others unconditionally, helping the helpless, motivating the downtrodden, maintaining godly integrity in a perverted society and other acts of goodness might go unrewarded, even unappreciated. This can be discouraging. It must have been very difficult for Jonathan to stay loyal to David despite the enmity between David and his father. At the time, David had nothing to reward Jonathan with, in fact, humanly speaking, there seemed to be a promising reward —the throne—if he had sided with his father, Saul.

However, Jonathan would not give up on God's mandate and trade his loyalty for anything. He stood firm to the when he reaped end, even no earthly reward. Mephibosheth, his crippled son later got the reward. Perhaps you are in a similar situation and it seems no one noticed you or no reward is coming forth. Hold on and be reassured by the words of God. No matter how long the night tarries, joy shall come in the morning and you will surely be rewarded. Do not be weary.

Action Point: Determine to do good everywhere, every time and to everyone. Prophetic Declaration: I shall not miss my timing and reward.

# WAIT ON GOD Psalms 145:15

The inevitable troubles of life might currently charge at you and it seems like no one cares and that all hope is lost. The devil can even use people around you at such moments to obliterate your hope and weaken your faith in God. They will give advice and counsel contrary to your belief in the perfect redemptive work of Jesus for your life. In those moments, you need to be deliberately conscious of the words and promises of God for you. Specifically, Jesus did not promise you a life completely devoid of troubles and tribulation, in fact, He particularly mentioned that you will have them; He only admonished you to be of good cheer because He has overcome for you.

In hard times, what is required of you is that you wait on God. The challenges that you face will not consume you. Fix your gaze on God in hope that He will make all things beautiful for you. He cares for you more than you can think or imagine. He loves you and will not leave you to suffer. God will surely come to your rescue, wait on Him.

Action Point: Meditate on scriptures about the promises of God's provision. Prophetic Declaration: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

#### ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICES I Exodus 8:26-27

Sacrificing has to do with offering what is precious or valuable. Often, this act has requirements that must be adequately met. One thing that you must know is that when it comes to offering a sacrifice to God, He will never ask for anything He has not put in your strength to do, no matter the circumstance. God is worthy of all the offerings presented as a sign of worship of His sovereignty. If He asks a thing, He will definitely commit Himself to helping you to get it done.

For Moses, God sought a particular kind of sacrifice and worship from the children of Israel, and Moses was prompt in not compromising but communicating all of the demands the worship required. Complying with God's instructions and demands go a long way for your offering to be approved by God. It determines if you and your offering will be pleasing and acceptable in His sight. There is a way in which God wants you to offer what He has instructed you, and it is only when you offer it in that manner that it will be pleasing to Him.

Action Point: Consciously live your life as a holy sacrifice. Prophetic Declaration: My life brings honour and glory to God.

# ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICES II Romans 12:1

The offering of yourself as a sacrifice is the first requirement to offering any other thing to God. Giving possessions or offerings to God without first giving yourself makes your sacrifices and giving unacceptable. Offering a sacrifice to God without your life first is an abomination unto God which comes with complete rejection of that which is offered. In the physical, there may not be any confirmation of whether or not your offering is accepted as the money given, for instance, might have been used for some church work. However, the reality of your life and deeds is measured by the spiritual state of things, whether it is acceptable before God or not. Offer yourself first, then offer your substance. Live every day of your life reverencing God. Your life must be an offering on the altar of sacrifice and must be meaningful and worthy of acceptance every day as long as you are alive. Your service to God is to present your body as an acceptable sacrifice to Him. What you have sacrificed is no longer yours. Therefore, choose to daily lay down your desires and live to honour and obey God.

Action Point: Offer yourself first, then offer your substance. Prophetic Declaration: I am a living sacrifice to God.

#### DO NOT WAVER 2 Timothy 4:1-5

In our world today, we wake up to new teachings and beliefs. Many false teachings have been embraced by people as they come. On social media, television, and radio we hear preaching against tithing, we see support for homosexuality, masturbation, indecent dressing, deceit, immorality, false accusations, injustice, etc., and as such increase in crime rate. What is evil is now seen to be good and good is now seen as evil.

Nevertheless, do not be silent, do not be afraid but preach the true word of God and also do not be carried away. Hold fast to that which is true, be steady in God's word; convince, rebuke and exhort where you can. Also, endure suffering that may come as a result of rolling against the wind. You have the assurance that you have overcome the world through Christ Jesus. Do not also forsake the gathering of believers where the true word of God is preached which will boost you up.

Action Point: Share the message of Christ with someone today. Prophetic Declaration: I remain steadfast in truth.

# ANGRY AT GOD'S MERCY? Jonah 4:1-5

In many nations of the world, permitting the death of hopelessly sick individual is regarded as a criminal act. Doctors are trained to care for and save lives and not the other way around. It would then be abnormal for one in such a field not to regard human life as something of great importance, at least a little more than the average person, but never less. However, in some cases, we see that not to be obtainable.

God wants all men to be saved and reconciled unto Him. Jonah, a prophet of God, whose primary assignment as God's mouthpiece was to deliver the message of God to the people (words which can bring them to repentance), decided to do otherwise and was angry at God for being merciful to the wicked. Like Jonah, are you not glad to see people destroyed for their wickedness with their unregenerated spirits? Will you this day arise to proclaim the gospel of Christ to the wicked ones around you? Delight in the salvation of others and never get angry when men are being graciously saved.

Action Point: Utilize every opportunity to proclaim the mercy of God to unbelievers. Prophetic Declaration: I bring many to the saving grace of Christ

#### UNSHAKEABLE FAITH Genesis 32:9-12

Jacob was faced with the great challenge of facing his brother from whom he had separated years back. Not knowing what lay ahead, he decided to call on God for help instead of running helter-skelter. Jacob reminded God of all His promises and covenant to him and his fathers. He had a strong faith in God, his faith in God was so strong that he knew He will come to his aid and help him. Like Jacob, you need faith to experience the supernatural which can only be seen in God. Faith is having trust in and accepting the verdict of God in all situations, even in the face of adversity. It is only with faith that you can access God's promises. Sometimes, your faith may be tested so that you may trust God's faithfulness. God's faithfulness stands forever, when he makes promises, He will fulfil them. His power is limitless, He can sustain you in every situation. Are you faced with loss, disappointment, or difficult circumstances? Is your life looking like it is falling apart? Why not trust in God, hold on steadily with faith in Him, and believe Him and His words?

Action Point: Have faith in God! Prophetic Declaration: I am helped by the Lord.

# GOD'S DISCIPLINE AND LOVE Jeremiah 30: 5-11

Ada who loves outdoor games was warned by her mum not to step out of the compound. While her mother was engaged with house chores, she sneaked out. After about two hours, she returned hoping that she would be pardoned. Though her mum loved her so much, she chastised her for her disobedience. After Ada had been disciplined, her mum gave her a bar of chocolate and drew her closer.

Israel was God's chosen people, yet when they disobeyed God, they were punished by foreigners in captivity. Being God's chosen does not mean He will not discipline you whenever you go against His laws, commands, principles and instructions. However, one thing you can be assured of is that though you are being chastised at the moment, His love for you still stands, and He will restore you to Himself once you turn to Him. The depth of God's love and care for you cannot be quantified. If you have gone astray, do not hesitate to return to God. If you are away, return to Him today.

Action Point: Take all corrections from God with all gladness. Prophetic Declaration: I receive sufficient grace to be an obedient child of God.

#### DO NOT BE SILENT Acts 3:1-8

Over and over, the scripture emphasizes the need for believers to declare what they desire loudly. Even on the acceptance of the salvation of Jesus, you must declare Him as your Lord with your mouth. Silence or murmuring is not an option. This is largely because the word said carries some significant spiritual meaning and is often intentional. The man at the beautiful gate called to get the attention of Peter and John. Perhaps, they could have passed him by if he didn't call unto them and he would have persisted in his condition. As a believer, you should learn to cry out to God in any and every situation you find yourself. Prayer is a means to cry and it is a timeless weapon against oppression, adversity and troubles. Do not be silent about your problem. A closed mouth is said to be a closed destiny. Get the attention of heaven with your persistent cry-out. Open your mouth to declare what you want. Remember, the power of life and death is on your tongue, use it to your advantage. Pray more!

Action Point: Prayer is a weapon, use it. Prophetic Declaration: My prayer altar burns with fresh fire.

### A RIGHTEOUS MAN Genesis 6:9

In the days of Noah, mankind had become unbelievably evil so much that God was grieved and decided to destroy all of mankind by flood. However, God found Noah righteous. He and his family were saved from the flood. Noah was a righteous man who believed in God. He put his faith and trust in and had a relationship with Him.

Noah was considered righteous not because of what he did but because of the faith he had in God. To be considered righteous by God, you must have faith. Faith cannot happen without a relationship with God. To what extent do you have faith in Christ? How best are you keeping up with your Christian faith and ensuring that your spiritual journey is not dented? Christ is counting on us to live a righteous life and also to bring others to live righteously. In a perverse world/generation, Noah was righteous. Be resolute on staying righteous with God.

Action Point: Live righteously. Prophetic Declaration: My life pleases God.

#### TOTAL TRUST Daniel 3: 14-20, 24-28

Trust can be said to be an assured reliance on the character, ability or strength of someone or something. One of the evidence of salvation is total trust in God. Trusting Him for all that you desire, not partial trust or trusting when things are going smoothly but also when things go wrong.

Just like the Hebrew men, who without doubt trusted God's saving power. No matter the situation you are in, develop a heart that trusts God. Believing in Him to accomplish the impossible for you. Notwithstanding the circumstances, God never fails. Just as He showed up for the Hebrew men, He will also show up on that matter. All you need to do is keep believing, trusting and depending on Him. Your faith is being tested at your lowest moment, the only way to pass and excel at the moment is your total trust in God. People around you might see you as not normal but keep trusting because only God can do the impossible, fix a broken heart, heal all forms of infirmities, restore all that has been lost and give a fresh start to life.

Action Point: Keep trusting God even on difficult days. Prophetic Declaration: I receive answers to my prayers.

## DISTINGUISHED SERVANT Romans 1:1

What a wonderful and rare privilege you have gotten to be called a son or a daughter of God - a joint heir with Christ. A privilege that cannot be worked for but can only be obtained by grace. Without mincing words, a believer is no more a servant, either unto sin, the devil or his works. However, it is important you know that even though you are seen as a son or daughter of God, you are also a servant to Him. A servant gives himself up to another's will. As a servant of Christ, your service is to be used for extending and advancing Christ's cause among men. A servant disregards his will and interest just to please another - his master, who for Christians is Jesus Christ. Just as Apostle Paul could boldly declare to be a servant of God, can you also say likewise? Your decisions, words, actions and possessions, are they in honour of the Lord your God? Live conscious of the fact that you are a man under the supremacy of another and live as one who will

Action Point: Do you live as a servant of Christ? Prophetic Declaration: I live a purpose-driven life.

one day give a stewardship report to his master.

# BLESSINGS OF OBEDIENCE Exodus 23:20-25

Being led by the Spirit qualifies you to be called a child of God (Romans 8:14) and complete obedience to the words of God is still one of the most blessed attitudes of a believer. You can only be led by the voice you obey. In a world where people listen to many things, hear many voices and are led by convenient utterances, it is worthy to emphasize the importance of obeying God's word. Obedience is service to God because you need to revere, admit and accept Him as your Lord and Saviour before you can obey. Anyone who does not obey God's word is not a child of God.

There are enormous blessings attached to following God's precept and obeying His instructions. God has promised protection and healing when you obey His instruction. If there is a challenge in your life, you might want to have an assessment and be sure you have not placed yourself under that bondage due to disobedience. When you obey God's word, there is liberty.

Action Point: There is no partial obedience; it is obedience only when it is complete. Prophetic Declaration: I am fruitful.

## THE PRAYER OF AN OPPOSED MAN Psalms 140:1-5

Prayer is a tool of communication and there are diverse ways to it. There is prayer of thanksgiving, supplication, healing, deliverance etc. Prayer is a way of communicating our intention to the Lord. David prayed to God for rescue when he was faced with many challenges. David loved God and people hated him for it. People who hate God hate people who love Him; therefore, David had enemies. If you love God and God loves you, those who hate God will see it in your life and then oppose you, however, do not despair.

When David had a problem, he was quick to talk to God about it. Since David loved God and knew that God loved him, he was able to pour out his heart to God. As a human, you have great power and wisdom given to you by God Himself but sometimes you are overwhelmed by problems. Do not despair over having enemies or people who always seem to be contrary to you, for it means that you are on the right path. Only a few find the way that leads to life.

Action Point: Hold on to God's word, He will not forsake you. Prophetic Declaration: God's love radiates on me.

### NO ALTERNATIVE Galatians 3:11

Every one of your decisions as a believer must reflect a true stance of faith in God; you were called to live a life of faith in God. As a Christian, other options to get strengthened, encouraged or comforted in order to live in this world apart from living by the faith in Jesus Christ will be defying your belief in Christ. Have you noticed how people get easily perplexed and swayed from their faith in the midst of current national and world events?

There is hope for every believer who has the desire and priority to live a life of triumph at a time like this and this is only possible by trusting God completely. Refusing to cut corners or quit, even when your requests are yet to be granted by God is a testament to faith in Him. For Abraham, faith was counted for righteousness because he identified God's supernatural provision and providence. As one who would not give up on God, live by the principle of faith and be strengthened in it so that you have a right standing with God.

Action Point: Make up your mind to walk by faith and not by sight. Prophetic Declaration: I grow daily in faith.

### YOU SHALL BE REWARDED Esther 6:1-14

God looks at the heart and not just the act. What is the intention behind the last good act you performed? Mordecai saw doing good as a duty, and even when he was not rewarded for his national heroic act, he was not bothered. He went about doing his business as usual. One fateful day, his reward came to him just at the right moment. And the Bible says "On that night the king could not sleep, and he ordered that the book of memorable deeds be brought and they were read before the king".

The king did not rest until he made sure that everything was in place to reward Mordecai. If you live a righteous life and continue to do good deeds from a pure heart, God will reward you. God has the perfect time for everything, so even if it looks like it is taking too long, know that God is working something for your good; don't give up, you shall be rewarded. God made Mordecai's timing perfect as Haman his enemy, decorated him and shared his testimony with everyone. Wait on God for your reward too.

Action Point: Assess your reason/motive for the good deeds you do. Prophetic Declaration: I receive my rewards.

### THE FATHER'S CALL Isaiah 1:18

Prophet Isaiah was a major prophet in the Old Testament whom God used tremendously. The Lord had spoken through him earlier about the cruel wrongs the children of Israel had committed. The children of Israel rebelled against God and were insincere with their sacrifices, offering, festivals and prayer and the Lord called them into a dialogue with Himself. Although God does not force, He strongly urges His people to come to Him so that they may receive His pardon.

Likewise, today God strongly urges you to come to Him, He is willing to forgive your sins and bestow His pardon. The call of God is not dependent on the nature of your wrongs; whatever it is, God is willing to pardon if you will come to Him. No one is too far in sin that His hand of mercy cannot reach. Only God can cleanse and wash away your sins. Surrender to Him today and allow Him to show you His abundant mercy and blot out your transgressions. His hand is open to receive you if you will yield to His call.

Action Point: Confess your sins to God and ask for forgiveness. Prophetic Declaration: I am not a slave to sin.

# A MORE EXCELLENT WAY 1 Corinthians 13:1

Love is more than just a four-lettered word. This scripture tells us what love is not and what love is and should be. A giver with a boastful intention but not love will gain nothing from his giving. Love is one of the great identities of true disciples of Christ as defined by Jesus Himself in John 13:35. Perhaps you are thinking some people profess to be Christians and they are always gossiping and talking bad about others. Yes, this is true, but when you see people who are like this, they are telling you something about themselves, not about God.

Love has these virtues: patience, kindness, does not envy, not boastful, not arrogant, not rude, not self-seeking, not irritable, does not keep record of wrongs, finds no joy in unrighteousness, rejoices in truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endure all things. And love is the only way that never ends. All other gifts we possess will pass away but love will remain. Love is what Jesus has and what we must also express always. Love is not what the world says it is, it is what God says it is.

Action Point: Choose to express love to everyone that comes your way today. Prophetic Declaration: I am helped to love people.

## DEPEND ON GOD I 2 Chronicles 13:1-10

A story was told of two kings who had varying degrees of wealth and power. The first king had a large army and more gold than he could account for. He did not believe in God and never paid attention to God's word. He wanted to soothe himself so he preferred to worship idols. He had so many golden images he worshipped which represented god to him. The other king had an inferior army compared to the first king, but he depended on God. He held God's word in his heart dearly. There was a war between them. The first king had double the army the second king had. The second king, however, did not fear, standing on the word of God he went to the battle and he won.

God expects you as a Christian to put your trust in Him and depend on Him solely. It does not matter how difficult the situation may be, once you depend on God He will provide a way out for you. What is stopping you from depending on God? Man, money and even connection can fail but only God does not. Put your trust in God and depend on Him alone.

Action Point: Only God does not fail. Prophetic Declaration: My trust and dependence on God will speak for me.

### DEPEND ON GOD II 2 Chronicles 14:7-15

A writer once said, "Until you have given up yourself to Him, you will not have a real self". Dependence starts with surrender. A surrender is an act of giving up or yielding oneself or the possession of something to the power of another. You will not experience the abundant life God offers or accomplish the purpose He has planned for you without living a life of surrender and total dependence on Him.

A life that is dependent on God will be close to Him, such life will be obedient to God and impact others. Such life will not insist on their desires in the presence of God's instructions. To be dependent means you will not have your way, you will only live for God. As a trusted and depended on God with all he had. The Lord fought for them and they defeated their enemy which was more than they could number. God is ready to give you victory only if you can depend on Him. Do you trust God? Can you totally depend on Him? This is a question you should answer with sincerity.

Action Point: A life that is dependent on God will be close to Him. Prophetic Declaration: My life will be proof that God is great.

### DON'T GIVE UP ON FAITH Job 30:20-25

Sometimes when you read the stories of the heroes and heroines of the Bible days, it feels as though they had it all figured out easily without daunting difficulty. When you read that Jabez cried out to God and he was more honourable than his brothers (1 Chronicles 4: 9-10), it often seems as though it was an immediate success. Several similar accounts in the Bible can make you think the journey is usually smooth and straight. However, that is not usually the case.

The story of Job was prominent in adding reality colour to the story of those that waited on God and were eventually vindicated. Job was regarded as a blameless and upright man, one who feared God, and abstained from evil because he honoured God (Job 1:1), yet at a point, he cried to God for help, and no answer seemed to come forth. Despite all these, Job did not give up on his faith in God. Likewise, no matter what you are going through, don't give up. Reassure yourself with the words of God and re-establish your faith in His power to bring to pass His promises.

Action Point: God will not fail you, don't give up on faith. Prophetic Declaration: I enjoy God's victory in every situation of my life.

## YOUR WORDS TO GOD DURING TRIALS Job 30:20-26

Sometimes believers also go through hard times, when it would seem as if God has abandoned them. The pains become unbearable and at some point, they tend to say words that are embarrassing and insulting to God. They question God with the words of their mouth. Such was also the situation of Job, at some point when he was going through trials. Job thought of God as being cruel to him, he cried out in agony and spoke words against God.

Have you ever also found yourself in situations where things were working out for others but working against you? Perhaps, your case is that you are praying for something good but what you see is the bad side. What do you speak about and to God during this period? The situation may be hard, it might drain all the faith you have, but do not speak anything against God. Always ask the Holy Spirit to help you, so that your words would rather be full of praises instead of wrong words that are said out of a heavy heart.

Action Point: Watch your words about God during trials. Prophetic Declaration: I declare that I will not be weary and tired of holding on to God.

### CONSECRATED LIFE 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

Living a consecrated life means setting apart everything about you and all the things that you have unto God alone. A consecrated life is a life that does not dwell in sin and also flees from every appearance of it. In today's text, Paul instructed the Thessalonians on how to walk with God and please Him. He explained to them that a consecrated life is what is expected from all believers. The same instruction from Paul to the Thessalonians applies to every Christian today.

As a believer in Christ, you are expected to live a life that is subjected to God's will alone. You are not to live in sin. Your life and actions must bring glory to God. You should flee every appearance of sin and live acceptably to God always. You cannot live for both God and the devil. Fortunately, you have been provided with all you need to live a consecrated life. The Holy Spirit can help you live an acceptable life. You are a different breed and must live and act differently. A consecrated life is what is demanded of you. Ask the Holy Spirit for help to always live that life.

Action Point: You are a different breed and must live and act differently. Prophetic Declaration: I am not a slave to sin.

## WHAT DO YOU WANT? 2 Kings 2:9-13

Being given a blank cheque can be tempting at times, depending on who gives it and the preparedness of who it is being given. If you are given a blank cheque, what will you fill in it? There are very few people in the Bible who were given a blank cheque during their time. One was King Solomon after he offered 1,000 animals for burnt offering (1 Kings 3:3-5). Another person is blind Bartimaeus who received his sight (Mark 10:51). These people were accurate in filling out the cheque given to them.

Each of the people who got a 'blank cheque' request paid a price. For Elisha, his price was to keep following Elijah despite the mockery. How committed are you in following Jesus? The first key to getting what you want is following Jesus faithfully. He alone can give you any substance of eternal value. The second key to getting what you want is asking according to the will of God. The third key is being specific in your request. Jesus is willing to give you anything you request according to His riches. Ask Him today.

Action Point: Present your requests before God and believe that you have them. Prophetic Declaration: I receive the answers to my prayers.

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE UPRIGHT Psalms 26: 1 - 9

The scripture described David as a man after God's heart. To be after God's heart is to perpetually seek to find out the will of God and consistently strive to fulfil it. That was who David was. He was committed to pleasing God in all his endeavours. Even as the king, he wouldn't be too big to roll on the ground to worship his creator, to the extent that it was thought to be shameful.

Due to David's heart disposition to God's commandments and his uprightness, he always came boldly and confidently to the throne of grace to obtain mercy. In this Psalm, David invited God to test his heart and mind, and begged God not to sweep him away. You can also develop this confidence and go to God in prayers with such assurance if you are upright and consistently follow God's precept. You do not come to Him proud of being perfect, but you are engrossed with the passion to do His will that you always want to be screened by Him. Not only to know where you stand but ready to adjust anytime you see you have deviated the slightest from the will and plan of God.

Action Point: Pray that the Lord checks your heart and reveals your shortcomings. Prophetic Declaration: The name of God shall be exalted over my life.

### FAINT NOT 2 Corinthians 4:15-18

Life is a journey associated with trials and tribulations. The apostles were tried on every side, they faced trials of all sorts. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego faced trials because of their belief in God. Their experiences should remind you that trials and tribulations are part of the race.

Moments of trials are painful; however, they are ultimately for your benefit. They prove you and make you fit for the master's use. They bring to the fore the virtues in you. So, you should see them as instruments for spiritual maturity directed to strengthen your mind. Facing trials as a believer is not a punishment from God to you. The Bible says "Your light affliction is for a moment". Don't cave in or give up. It is only those who persevere till the end that will be rewarded. Stand your ground and do not compromise no matter how fierce the trials, temptations and tribulations are. Be encouraged by the word of God and you'll certainly overcome.

Action Point: Determine to stay strong, no matter what the devil brings your way. Prophetic Declaration: I am strengthened for life's journey.

#### THE VICTORIOUS 2 Samuel 8:1-10

To be victorious is to be the winner in a contest or struggle. Before anyone can emerge as a victor there must be a contest or battle. God had promised David establishment and deliverance from oppression. But before the promises of God could be fulfilled in David, he had to take responsibility by going to battle. The passage of consideration highlighted that David subdued the Philistines, Moabites and other nations that went to war against him. Anyone who will be victorious must be prepared for battles.

The promises of God over your life will be unfulfilled if you are not determined to war and constantly be prepared for it. Just as enemies surrounded David, so also everyone who bears the promises of God must realize that the enemy; the devil, has his eyes on them. You cannot emerge until you engage and contend in spiritual warfare. Victory belongs only to those who will contend through the power and grace of God against the enemy. With the promise of victory comes the grace to fight.

Action Point: Victory belongs to those who contend. Prophetic Declaration: My hands are trained for war and my fingers for battle.

### JESUS IS ABLE Revelation 5:1-5

Different people are faced with varying challenges, so much so that many set out of their houses every morning in search of solutions. Their inability to get help as expected makes some cry or even get depressed. In today's passage, John the Beloved wept because it seemed to him that nobody was fit to open up the scroll with the One on the throne. He saw the multitude of angels and plenty elders, but it was quite unfortunate that none of them could open the scroll. This is the way you might feel when you look around you and you see many rich, comfortable and influential people who you think could be of help but for unknown reasons, they just can't help you.

An elder told John not to weep because the Lion of the tribe of Judah was able to open the scroll. What no angel could do, Jesus was able to do it. That which you desire and it seems no one can give to you, Jesus can do much more. All you have to do is to put your trust in Him. Jesus can fix all situations, depend solely on Him.

Action Point: Keep looking up to Jesus, He will fix it all for you. Prophetic Declaration: My blessings and miracles will not elude me.

### ALL POWERS BELONG TO GOD Psalms 62:11

The word power refers to a variety of ideas, relating to ability, capacity, authority, might and strength. In human relationships, power is the authority one person holds over another. However, God is the only being who has power over every other being both on earth and in heaven. When we say all power belongs to God, it means all powers flow from Him and He chooses to give whoever it pleases Him to give. This power is an inherent characteristic of God; power cannot be separated from God.

In our text for today, it is established that there can be power everywhere and anywhere, but the only power that supersedes them all is the power of God. One of the great needs in the Christian walk is power. God's power at work in you and through you is a catalyst that changes the world and helps to establish the supremacy of His name. As a believer, you should also know and admit that God is the Almighty and all-powerful being you can rely on in every situation.

Action Point: Declare the manifestation of God's power over your life. Prophetic Declaration: I am a living proof of God's power.

# GOD DEFENDS HIS MESSENGERS 1 Kings 13:1-10

A story was told of a young man who received a warning from God for His boss at work. He was greatly terrified to deliver the message because His boss was someone known to not fear God. The man summoned courage to deliver the message and the boss flared up and threatened to get the young man fired. By the next day, news reached the office that the boss had suddenly been summoned by His superiors to face a panel for misappropriation of funds and sexual harassment. This case put an end to the looming sack threat issued by the boss to the young man; God had risen to defend Him.

Just like in the text today, you must understand that when God sends you on a mission, even if it is dangerous, He already has plans to rescue you. God does not only sponsor His missions, He also defends His messengers. What is that assignment that God has given to you that you have been reluctant to carry out because it seems daunting? Trust God's defence today, step out in faith and see His salvation.

Action Point: God is committed to defending those on His mission. Prophetic Declaration: Nothing shall by any means hurt me.

### DO NOT PAY EVIL FOR EVIL Exodus 23:4-5

Dorcas, a young lady who was maltreated by her stepmother turned out to be the director of a reputable company. She became a successful career woman known for her good and reputable character. The stepmother who was full of shame and guilt felt sorry about how she had treated her and apologized to her. Dorcas chose to forgive her and also helped her children gain employment.

The Bible teaches you how you are expected to treat other people, even those who stand to be your enemy. Dorcas in the above story is an example of a good Christian who chose to lend a helping hand to an enemy. Irrespective of how badly people treat you or hurt you, the instruction of God is that you help those who do not like you. Instead of ignoring them when they need help, you should rather offer assistance to them. Do not pay back evil for evil, but rather pay back good for evil. Let it be seen that Christ lives in you.

Action Point: Do you know of anyone who dislikes you? Do good to them today. Prophetic Declaration: My life will forever reflect Christ.

### THANKSGIVING Psalms 67:5-7

Much more power is embedded in praise than what people could think of. Praise as simple as it seems, is a facilitator of God's blessing and intervention. As a believer, you should learn to praise God not just for what He has done but also for what He will do. Praising God is a vital necessity in touching God's heart. Gratitude is a force that guarantees heaven on earth.

This doesn't mean you should start praising God with a perverted heart to bribe God, No! David was a man after God's heart because he never took any of God's goodness for granted. Not being thankful shifts our gaze from what God has done to that which He hasn't done. You need to know that murmuring and complaining are destructive. They deprive you of blessings. Showing gratitude for that which He has done opens the door for other miracles and blessings. Be grateful for all things. Maintain an ever joyous spirit and you will see things work out well for you.

Action Point: Ensure you are thankful for all you enjoy through God. Prophetic Declaration: My heart is sanctified for God.

### MAKING RESTITUTION Genesis 32:1-7

Misunderstandings and disagreements occur everywhere; Jacob offended his brother which caused separation for a long period. This caused a great pain in the heart of Esau and Jacob had to make restitution for his wrongdoing after he became aware of his mistakes. Restitution is a command by God to enable us to follow peace with all men. It is an act of making right what has been done wrongly, restoring what has been taken wrongly and repairing or giving equivalent to losses or damages caused. It is the divine restoration of all things to their original order.

To make restitution, you must put down your pride and remorsefully apologize to the offended. Are you holding something against somebody because of the pain they have caused you? Let go of all bitterness. It is not an easy task but a command by God to be at peace with all men. Part of the benefits of making restitution is that you will receive favour from God, there will be steady answers to your prayers, and you will experience healing from a bleeding heart.

Action Point: Prayerfully take steps to put right those things you have done wrong. Prophetic Declaration: I have beauty for ashes.

#### ANNOUNCED BY GOD 1 Kings 4: 29-33

Some successes cannot be measured by man's standard; way beyond the thinking, imagination and they are reasoning of man. This was the kind of success that King Solomon enjoyed. His wisdom cannot be compared to that of any king. His wealth and achievement stood out amidst other kings and he was announced to every part of the world. Every Christian desires that God announce them, their ministry or business to the world, but it is not automatic. For you to be announced by God, you need to remain in God, doing what He wants from you per time. Solomon knew he was meant to be king and he didn't deviate from that purpose. He was administering justice as God had commanded him. Success will be inevitable for such a man like this. Do you desire success in your life's endeavours? Do you want your business to expand or do you want your visions and ministry to be known? Then, you need to be in the will of God always. God will not announce a displaced and disobedient child, only the obedient will experience mysterious miracles.

Action Point: When you are committed to God, His will and purpose for your life, He stays committed to seeing you joyous. Prophetic Declaration: I do the will of God and succeed in all my endeavours.

### AS HE HAS SAID Genesis 21:1

One of the most beautiful attributes of God is that He cannot lie. God honours His word so greatly that scripture records that He does so even more than His name. God's word is His bond. Thus, once God has given His word over a matter, He is obligated by His faithfulness to bring it to pass. This means that when you have the absolute word of God concerning a thing, you are assured that it is settled.

God had given His word to Sarah that she was going to conceive and bear a son. This seemed like a physically impossible thing to happen because Sarah was already past the age of giving birth. However, since God had given His word, He did just as He had promised regardless of the physical inconsistency. The word of the Lord is the believer's assurance. Know that whatever God has said concerning you, He will surely perform. Rejoice over every word He has spoken to you because He does just as He has said. And if there are issues that you are battling with, tarry in prayers till you get His word over it.

Action Point: Go back to every word God has spoken to you and decree their performance by faith. Prophetic Declaration: God's words are fulfilled in my life.

### LEADING OF THE SPIRIT Psalms 32:8

Divine guidance is every believer's inheritance. It is the gift of God to everyone who believes in His only begotten son, Jesus Christ. For this reason, God administers it personally. He guides personally. He does it through His Spirit in you. The moment you are saved through the blood of Jesus, the Holy Spirit indwells you to your advantage. One of the primary responsibilities of the Spirit of God in you is to guide and direct you. A portion of the scriptures says "You'll always hear a voice behind you, saying this is the way you should go."

However, to be led by the Holy Spirit, you must cooperate with His instructions and abide by His teachings. To achieve this, your mind must be constantly renewed by the word of God and through prayers of faith. You must not conform to the world and be unequally yoked with unbelievers. You have to deliberately and consciously upgrade your spirit man to be on the same frequency with the Spirit of God in you. Then, you'll be appropriately instructed and led in the way you should go.

Action Point: The Holy Spirit leads and guides. Prophetic Declaration: I am saved from all trouble.

### ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF THE LORD 1 Kings 17:1-7

Elijah, the prophet was seen in today's text to have declared drought on the land to the king and God had directed him to a place where He was going to have his feeding taken care of. And because he obeyed the word of the Lord, He was taken care of. God had made provision of a brook that would cater for Elijah's water and instructed ravens to bring him bread and meat every day. These wonders of God were seen because Elijah moved according to the word of the Lord.

The word of the Lord is powerful and carries the power of God. When a man lives by the word of God, he will constantly experience the supernatural hand of God in his life. Many of the difficulties you experience as a believer are because you do not have the clear word of God concerning the situation. You must contend for the voice of God over every situation in your life. Then, you will see God's miraculous hand guiding you to provision and success where men are complaining of a casting down and keeping you from all losses.

Action Point: Take time out to ask God for his word over specific areas of concern in your life. Prophetic Declaration: I have and live by the word of God.

#### THE LORD'S COMING James 5:7-11

Christ is coming back to take the saints with Him to heaven, and what determines if you will be raptured with Him is if you live a worthy life here on earth. The Lord's coming is very important to every believer because it determines where one will spend eternity. Preparation for the Lord's coming requires deliberate living and adherence to the ways and precepts of God while on earth.

There are virtues you should exhibit while waiting for the Lord's coming and one of them is patience which is the willingness to wait without grumbling. It is staying true to all that God says in His word and obedience in all areas even when it is not easy. Patience will help you in your walk with God and even with men here on earth. It keeps you calm in the midst of chaos and helps your faith through the whole journey. It strengthens your hope by not giving up during trials. The virtue of patience is needed while waiting for the Lord's coming. Do not be caught unaware, keep yourself busy today with kingdom matters as Christ's coming is unknown to any man.

Action Point: Be busy with kingdom matters. Prophetic Declaration: I receive grace to patiently hold unto God at all times.

#### DO NOT LIE Acts 5:1-10

Only Ananias and Sapphira could say the reason they had to lie to the Apostles. As far as the Bible describes it, it was absolutely needless. They owned the property and they were not under any compulsion to neither sell nor deliver the money to the Apostles. It was all their choice. Probably, they wanted to grease their own ego as a believer or feel among, seeing everyone sold their properties and dropped the proceeds at the Apostles' feet, without personal conviction from the Holy Spirit. So, they resorted to lies and it brought about their untimely death.

In like manner, you might find yourself in an awkward situation and in an effort to save face, you're tempted to lie. Do not succumb. God wants you to be plain and factual in all your speech and intention. He is not putting you under compulsion to measure up to any human standard or norm. He only desires absolute obedience to His words and honesty in all your dealings. Lying might feel harmless, but it's still a sin. Always say the truth and rid all your speech of falsehood.

Action Point: Before you say it, make sure it is the truth. Prophetic Declaration: I am victorious.

# THE ADVANTAGE OF WISDOM Ecclesiastes 7:11-12

Wisdom is the quality or state of being wise; knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action; sagacity, discernment, or insight. It is also defined as the correct application of knowledge. Wealth on the other hand is the abundance of valuable financial assets or physical possessions which can be converted into a form that can be used for transactions. Though wealth and wisdom are good companions; wisdom is advantageous because it gives life to those who have it.

These verses briefly examine one of the properties that wisdom and wealth share, which is the power to protect or be a shade against life's difficulties. Even in regard to this quality, the comparison reveals that wisdom is of greater value. The comparison shows that wisdom is like a wall of protection whereas wealth is merely a hedge. In adversity, wisdom provides reserves of strength to the person who possesses it. Interestingly, wealth is also acquired through wisdom. Desire wealth but above that, desire godly wisdom with which you will sustain the wealth.

Action Point: Begin to seek godly wisdom. Prophetic Declaration: I receive wisdom.

#### THE MIGHT OF GOD I Daniel 3: 19 – 27

God is mighty and He is a jealous God who does not share His glory with anyone. Nebuchadnezzar did not only make a graven image, he worshipped the image and compelled others to worship it. Worshipping other gods is a thing in God's sight. Nebuchadnezzar was detestable challenging God by this act. Unknown to him, God had placed Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah in his government, men who will not bow to any other god. He cast them into the midst of a burning furnace the same hour they refused to bow to the golden graven image he made. Four men were seen instead of three, loosed, walking amid the fire and they had no hurt. What was meant to destroy them, led to promotion and the name of God was glorified. Nebuchadnezzar could not help but decree capital punishment to those who speak anything against the God of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. When you trust wholly in God and the power of His might, you are bound to see Him in action as the mighty one. Keep believing in the might of God.

Action Point: Acknowledge the might of God; do not bow to any other god. Prophetic Declaration: I do not succumb to temptation.

# THE MIGHT OF GOD II Daniel 4: 36-37

In the reign of Nebuchadnezzar II, the king of Babylon, he was living in his palace in peace and prosperity when he had a strange dream which troubled him. None of his diviners and magicians were able to explain it to him, so he called for Daniel.

Daniel explained that the king himself was the tree and by the decree of God, he would lose his human mind for the mind of an animal, and live with wild animals and eat grass like an ox. This came to pass, and at the end of the seven years Nebuchadnezzar regained his human mind and his kingdom was restored. The letter concludes with Nebuchadnezzar's praise of God, for "all his works are truth, and he is able to bring low those who walk in pride". Throughout the account of Israel, we see the Most High declaring, "I am the only true God. I am the Lord." He made His creations see that He is the only true God, and there is no one like Him.

Action Point: Always acknowledge the sovereignty of God. Prophetic Declaration: The Lord reigns over all.

#### INTIMACY WITH GOD Daniel 7: 2-3, Psalms 25:14

God desires that men be reconciled back unto Him and when that happens, He longs that everyone has a close walk with Him. Intimacy with God is beneficial to man. The Bible in many instances makes it known that God reveals His secrets to His servants. Only those who have a very close relationship with him will have access to his thoughts and plan.

Intimacy emanates out of deep fellowship, honour and reverence to God, a continual study of God's word, meditation on His words, total obedience to God's promptings and trust in the leadings of the Holy Spirit among many other things. Daniel had a vision where he asked for clarification of what was revealed to him and he got it. It takes someone very close to you to know your plan and next line of action on anything. Same it is with our Father. Once intimacy is built, the Almighty finds it easy to relate with you on a friend-to-friend level just like He did with men of old like Abraham and David. Work on being intimate with the Father.

Action Point: Add a spiritual exercise to your routine that will bring you closer to God. Prophetic Declaration: I gain access to the mysteries of God's kingdom.

# IN THE LAST TIMES Jude 1:18-23

Many say that now is the 'last times' because the rate of evil doings is alarming; immorality, impurity, and all sort of abnormality is now the order of the day. The church is no longer fulfilling the reason for her existence; sin is now growing within the four corners of the church. All these sums up to the reason for the saying that the world is now in the last times. Well, the evil of the last times has been spelt out in the scripture, Jude also stated some of the activities that will take place in today's passage. But most importantly, he stated what is expected of Christians during this time. He stated that Christians remain prayerful, keep themselves in God, be merciful to others, and stand as intercessors for those falling away.

Have you been doing all of these or are you just speculating and now drifting from the love of God? Now is the time you need to stay with God and hold fast to your faith in Him. It is not a time to faint but a time to brace up and pray.

Action Point: Pray without ceasing. Prophetic Declaration: I will not miss heaven.

#### LIVE THE LIFE Romans 2:24-29

It is one thing to fill 'Christianity' in forms when asked what your religion is, and it is another thing to be a Christian. Many are not who they profess they are because they do not live the life. You are the kind of life you live, not what you say with your mouth that you are. You are not a child of God just by declaring it. If you have Jesus in your life, it must be evident in how you live your life.

As a Christian, live a life as a representative of God everywhere you find yourself. It must be evident in your life that you are the Christian that you profess to be. If there is no difference between you and someone else who is not a Christian, then you still have work to do. There is a life that is expected of the faith that you profess. Live that life. You must also understand that living an acceptable life is not only a matter of your decision to do it but also involves the grace of God. Ask God for that grace to always live right.

Action Point: Pray for grace to live right. Prophetic Declaration: I live for him who died for me.

## AT THE OTHER SIDE Mark 5:1-2, 21- 23

Every person desires progress in life; no one wants to be static or redundant at any point in life's journey. However, as many desire to move to greater levels, there hasn't been much preparation for the challenges that come with moving to the next level. Jesus Christ and His disciples moved to the other side and as they got to the other side on these two occasions, challenges were waiting for them. The ability to proffer the right solutions to these problems birthed testimonies and celebrations not just for them but for people in that region. Jesus was fit and prepared to be at that place at that time.

God wants everyone to move forward, but He is more interested in having the prepared vessel move to the other side of achievement. Some challenges will test your faith in God on the other side of your progress. How prepared and sharpened are you to overcome those challenges? Every advancement comes with its peculiar challenges. Asking to advance only means asking for more responsibilities. How prepared are you for them?

Action Point: As you pray for advancement, prepare for the attached responsibilities. Prophetic Declaration: I succeed in all I do.

# LIVING THROUGH GOOD AND BAD Ecclesiastes 7:13-14

Life is replete with good and bad times and how to live through it all. God makes our lives "crooked" at some point to prepare and train us for the role he has planned for us. Crooked things are things that are uncomfortable or painful or do not work out the way we want. Think of Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, the list goes on. On the other hand, some days, our lives are made up of events that are "straight", those that meet our expectations. These are exciting experiences. God arranges for both kinds of days so that His purpose can be fulfilled in your life.

Trying to argue about how, when and why the good and bad days are apportioned in your life (or in someone else's) is not only foolhardy but also not your role. You are not to query God. You can only accept what comes and believe that it will all work out for your good because you know He has your interest at heart and will only do good towards you. Enjoy the good days and trust God for better days when it looks bad.

Action Point: On a good day, enjoy yourself; on a seemingly bad day, trust in God. Prophetic Declaration: God's intentions will done in my life.

## PROTOCOL BREAKER Esther 5:1-8

When a man's way pleases the Lord, he obtains favour with God and with men. Esther had become the queen; naturally, she was supposed to be extremely cautious so that she would not run out of favour with the king. But she was a vessel of God positioned in the palace for a specific reason and at a specific time. Esther had a relationship with God and for that reason God favoured her.

The protocol at the time was that nobody could come to the king unless the king summoned the person. Esther just finished embarking on a three-day fast with all the children of Israel. On the third day of the fast, she wore her royal robe and went to the king to speak with him. Naturally, she should not have gained access to the throne room and if eventually she did, the king could have been angry and punished her. But God caused protocols to be overturned for her sake. God allows favour to break protocols for His own. Become God's today and be eligible for the protocolbreaking moves of God.

Action Point: Make up your mind to have a working healthy relationship with God. Prophetic Declaration: Decisions that pertain to me favour me.

## GOD SPEAKS Job 33:14

God speaks all the time and you can learn how to hear Him. He speaks in different and diverse ways, and to be able to perceive what He is saying you must be sensitive. If you will hear God, you must be deliberate about hearing Him speak to you. Also, you must understand that there are many ways through which God can speak to you and He is not confined to speaking in any particular way. God speaks through the Bible, a knowing within you, circumstances, other Christians, dreams and even visions. God definitely speaks and people hear Him.

Although God speaks, not everyone hears Him or hears Him promptly and clearly. This is due to the level of intimacy of each person with God. Your intimacy with God and acquaintance with His ways make it easier to tune in and recognize when God is speaking. The more often you fellowship with God and interact with Him, the easier it will be to recognize His voice. When you become familiar with God's presence and His voice it will be much easier to hear God speak.

Action Point: Connect yourself to God to receive from Him. Prophetic Declaration: I declare that my spiritual antenna is sensitive.

# GOD SPEAKS THROUGH DREAMS Job 33:14-18

It has been established that God speaks to His Children. Today's passage points out two ways by which God can speak— through dreams and through visions—although God is not restricted to only these two ways. The Bible gives many accounts of God revealing Himself and His will to certain people through dreams and visions. It's important first of all to understand that not every dream and vision comes from God, some may be the activity of your unconscious mind while you are asleep or even a revelation from the devil.

God may choose to reveal Himself to you through dreams and in vision. However, you must understand if this is the primary way through which God speaks to you and master the art. You must also learn to understand and interpret your dreams. Remember, these are revelations from God, therefore, you should not lose them and they are not revealed for the fun of it. Most importantly, every dream must be subject to the word of God to obtain accurate and precise interpretation.

Action Point: God speaks through dreams. Prophetic Declaration: I always yield to God's instructions.

## EXAMINE YOURSELF 2 Corinthians 13:5

According to the English dictionary, to examine means to observe, interrogate or inspect carefully or critically. Paul's admonition to the Corinthians reflects the need for believers to interrogate their lives frequently to see whether their source of wisdom, knowledge and actions originate from the Spirit of God. The scripture specifically noted that only those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

In a generation where many people are led by worldly pleasure, it is essential for you to critically examine whether you have not left the faith. To remain in faith simply means that every word that comes out of your mouth is Spirit-filled. It means that you are perpetually led and guided through obedience to God's word. You need to check yourself whether or not your life is consistent with the nature of Jesus. This is not the time to focus on the speck in other people's eyes; examine yourself to take off the logs of conceit, lies, greediness and other subtle sins that contaminate your faith.

Action Point: Be led by the Spirit of God. Prophetic Declaration: I will not be distracted from my heavenly race.

## THOU SHALL NOT Exodus 23: 1-3

John was a little boy who was raised according to the word of the Lord by his parents. John's parents would always create time out for bible study with John right from his childhood. His parents made it their responsibility to teach him what to do and what not to do both at home and outside the home. John's parents told him not to lie, steal, fight, bear false witness or go against any commandment of God. His upbringing shaped him as he consciously lived right everywhere he found himself.

As a steward and an ambassador of Christ, you are also expected to live a life that is right by God always. There are some things you are not expected to do or get engaged in because you are a child of God. You are expected to take your stand against every form of sin and injustice. You are not expected to join hands with the wicked to do evil or join the multitude to do evil. Your life should reflect Christ and what His kingdom stands for. You should stand for Christ always, even if it means standing alone.

Action Point: Stand and live for Christ. Prophetic Declaration: I am protected from all evil.

# HEARING GOD I Isaiah 30:21

Tuning a radio can sometimes be challenging. The stress of adjusting the knob, turning it back and forth just to pick a station. This can be very frustrating especially when it is time for a favourite programme. Sometimes, it is not about the knob but the antenna, you adjust that and the transmission is clear. Some other times, the radio is set to the channel but it is still unclear due to low battery. Sometimes the channel of interest is not even just within the radar that your device can connect because of your location. As there are many factors to getting a clear transmission from radio, so it is with hearing God. Hence, hearing God is an art (involving many things) that must be learned.

You must acknowledge that hearing God is to be learned till you gain mastery. Do not say it is difficult and assume it is not meant for you. Listen to messages, read books and join conversations on the subject. Also, get a more knowledgeable person as a guide, to whom you will be accountable. It is an art you must learn.

Action Point: Hearing God is an art that you must learn to gain mastery. Prophetic Declaration: My ears are opened to God's instructions.

## HEARING GOD II Isaiah 30:21

Hearing God is a dynamic process that ought not to be streamlined to a stepwise order. Many people today put themselves through stress because they have a theoretical understanding of how to hear God. They think when they pray, they must hear a response in a number of days or weeks. Some go to the extent of telling God they will do as they please if God does not respond in a given time. You must always remember that hearing God requires trust, patience and total submission.

When you commit yourself to God to be guided over a matter, you must be resolute about hearing His command before taking action. Giving God deadlines shows a lack of total submission to His will. There are times when the response comes almost immediately and there are other times when it doesn't. There are times when the response comes positive and suiting and there are times that it comes negative. A man who will be led by God is a man who trusts His judgement, is patient to hear Him and will yield to His instruction in total submission.

Action Point: Hearing God is one of the things you "learn on the job". Prophetic Declaration: My heart is receptive to God's words.

## HEARING GOD III Genesis 28:10-12

Do you remember the challenge with tuning the radio that was earlier described? You will agree that until the radio is properly tuned, the person is not satisfied. They desire to eliminate all interference from other stations. A clear transmission is what everyone desires. Like a radio not perfectly tuned, many Christians are not perfectly positioned to receive instructions and directions from God. They are engaged in too many activities that they are already choked.

In today's text, Jacob had travelled for days and did not hear God until he had a rest. He had an encounter with God when he slept, that is, when he seized from activity. If you now find it difficult to hear God, could it be that too much activity has taken you over and you need to rest? Assess your life and see if you are too busy. See if all hours of the day are filled with something to do that you have no time to be calm and rested to hear God. Make adjustments and create rest in your spirit, soul and body to better position you to hear God.

Action Point: Hearing God is essential for survival. Prophetic Declaration: I do not lack God's guidance.

## BE YE SEPARATE Psalms 114:1-4

Certain things in a man's life hinder him from experiencing or enjoying some benefits from God. One of these is associating with the wrong people; men who do not love God. God does not joke with relationship, this is the reason several emphasis was made about it in the scripture. The scripture is never in support of bad relationships. Today's text describes how staying in a company can hinder one from becoming what God wants him to be. The moment the children of Israel stepped out of Egypt, the next verse stated that Judah became God's sanctuary and Israel His dominion. This did not become their reality until they became separated from the wrong location and relationship. If Israel had not left Egypt, they wouldn't have experienced the diverse miracles God performed on their way to the Promised Land.

You can neither experience what God has ordained for you nor find fulfilment if you stick to such relationships. Now is the time for you to be separate so you can become what God wants you to be.

Action Point: Excuse yourself from every toxic and ungodly relationship. Prophetic Declaration: I live to fulfil God's mandate.

## LIVING WORTHY 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12

The summary of the journey of a believer is the encounter with the love of the Father, the transforming power of that love (conformity) and the expression of that life to the world. The apex of Christianity is found in the love of God, which should be expressed in your character, your response to situations, your actions and the words of your mouth. As a Christian, with the help of the Holy Spirit, you are expected to live on earth a life that is worthy of this calling.

Living a life that is worthy of this call requires that you should be of sound character; the one that reflects and glorifies Christ. Your responses to situations should be the ones that will draw men to Christ and not the other way around. People should look at you and see Jesus. You are a representative of the Kingdom of God everywhere you find yourself. Live a life that glorifies God everywhere and every time. You must live a life that is worthy of the calling as a representative of God's kingdom.

Action Point: Preach the gospel through your lifestyle. Prophetic Declaration: I live every day of my life for God.

# UNFATHOMABLE WAYS OF GOD 2 Kings 3:13-18

Elisha, a prophet of God and the servant of Elijah once asked for a minstrel to minister to aid his reception from God. One of the reasons for having music in our worship services today is not far-fetched from this. Music helps to get our minds focused on the Lord. In the scriptures, music was used to comfort people who were oppressed (Saul), it was been used as a celebration (when the Israelites crossed the red sea) and was used to aid in fellowship with God. Elisha used this tool and the hand of the Lord rested mightily on him.

Many times, you are used to some of God's ways of doing things that when He is moving in another dimension you may not quickly recognize God at work. The Israelites saw another dimension of God on that day when His hand came on Elisha and he prophesied, aided by music. Do not cage the flow of God within you. Give room for Him to do the unthinkable. God is not stereotypic in His action; and to get the best in fellowship with Him, you must flow with His ways.

Action Point: Check yourself and do not limit what God can do in your life. Prophetic Declaration: My life begins to give expression to the purpose of God.

## RICH TOWARD GOD Luke 12:15-21

Looking back into the creation account, it is obvious from the scriptures that God made man only after He had made all he would need for living. God planned a good life for man; the peak of His creation. It is God's desire that man enjoys life in its fullness. However, sin came in and man fell, losing life in its fullness and the opportunity of having fellowship with God.

Ever since the fall, man's desire has been in contrast to the intention of God. All in the bid to live, man engages in lots of activities that severe his relationship with God. This is a world where people define affluence as success. As good as being wealthy is, the ultimate desire of God for you is not just to store things up for yourself on earth but to be rich in your relation to Him. It will be foolish of any man to get rich on earth but not in heaven. Getting rich in heaven is dependent on what you do with all the graces God bestowed on you. In your pursuit of success, do not leave out your relationship with God which is the bedrock of eternal success.

Action Point: Be a channel of help to someone today through your giving. Prophetic Declaration: I am rich not just in this world but also in heaven.

# YOUR WEAKNESSES AND HIS STRENGTH 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

Weaknesses, imperfections and mortality define you as a human being. There's no one without 'weaknesses'. God intentionally integrated those weaknesses in mankind to checkmate us and reveal our limitations, to admit the need of His mercies and unlimited power. People like Moses, Gideon and Jeremiah first dwelt on their weaknesses and deployed them as an excuse to abscond divine responsibility, but God revealed His mercies to them and offered them His strength and unlimited power and they became heroes of their time.

Apostle Paul was tormented by a 'thorn in his flesh' which primarily dissuaded him from thinking of himself as important. This must have been God's way of delivering him; from being conceited and the pitfalls of subtle but destructive pride so that His strength for effective and faithful ministry can be manifested through him. As a child of God, God does not expect you to dwell in your weaknesses, He wants you to rely on His almighty powers and completely trust Him to fulfil His will through you.

Action Point: Don't dwell in your weakness, rather rely on God. Prophetic Declaration: I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

## HONOUR FOR SPIRITUAL LEADERS 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

God appointed leaders over His church for various spiritual and administrative purposes. Spiritual leaders defend the integrity, goodness, teamwork, wholeness and growth in the things of God. They also can bring up unbelievers and other believers to stand firm in Christ. Just as the scripture admonishes you to honour your earthly parents, you are also expected to honour your spiritual leaders.

Some of the ways in which you give honour to your spiritual leaders are by obeying them (heeding their spiritual guidance and counsel), staying loyal to their leadership strategies and serving them in utmost truthfulness etc. In honouring your spiritual leaders, you also stand to grow spiritually and accountability to them saves you from falling into avoidable errors. You will also find favour in the sight of God because in honouring them you honour God. Therefore, do not look down on your spiritual leaders, rather see them as God's representatives on earth and give them due honour.

Action Point: Give honour to whom honour is due. Prophetic Declaration: I receive the reward of the 'prophet'.

# JUSTIFICATION THROUGH FAITH Romans 5:1-2

The word "justification" refers to a state in which a person is declared right and just before God. Faith speaks about a person's belief in the existence of God and the affirmation that each of His promises will be fulfilled. Justification cannot be earned; it is not something you merit based on the work of your hands. The only thing that gets you into a justified position is your faith in Christ not the works of your hands. Hence, your acceptability and right standing before God are not a result of your works or how much you tried to stay away from sin. Rather, your justification is by faith in the work of God's beloved son.

That justification does not come through the works of your hands does not mean you can do whatever you like. You must also desire and take action towards living a righteous life. You cannot dwell in sin and expect grace to abound. Truly, you were not justified by the works of your hands but now that you have been justified, you must daily work out your salvation with fear and trembling. Live a life that is acceptable to God.

Action Point: As we celebrate the remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus, make a commitment to serve Him (who saved you) to the end. Prophetic Declaration: I live for God alone.

#### SAVED BY GRACE Romans 3:20-28; 4:2-3

Generally, it is assumed that the problem of man is the nature of sin. Yes, that was the origin of all of man's problems. However, you will agree that the reason Christ came was to take away the sin of the world, which He did perfectly through His death on the cross, His burial and resurrection. Subsequently, the problem of man is the matter of unbelief resulting from his ignorance of all that there is in Christ.

Generally, man is used to working to obtain things. In fact, you will easily assume or suspect anything given to you for free is not authentic. It is with this notion that you think you can be justified before God if and only when you work for it. Peradventure you are thinking your obedience to the laws of God is what gets you justified. What a futile effort! You can only be justified by faith in the finished work of Christ and this in turn makes you live out a life pleasing to God. Cease this day, trying to please God all by yourself. You are saved by grace not by works.

Action Word: Christ empowers men to live right. Prophetic Declaration: I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

# A CALL TO FREEDOM Galatians 5:13

When people choose to persist in sin and they eventually get addicted to it, they develop less control over it. Then, they cannot successfully control their sinful thoughts or actions even when they want to. This means they have been enslaved to that sin and the only way out of this slavery is found in Christ.

Christ called you into freedom and made you free from every guilt of sin and the law. His death on the cross and resurrection broke the yoke of sin. Therefore, anyone who finds Christ and accepts Him thereby gains access to freedom. More so, the purpose of this freedom should not be forgotten and never be misused. You have been made free from the bondage of sin but this liberty should not be misused. This privilege of freedom is to be revered and valued through your conduct intentionally geared towards righteousness. You cannot live in sin and expect grace to abound. Having been given the privilege of this liberty, live your life according to the dictates of the Spirit so that you might enjoy the freedom and its benefits.

Action Point: Proclaim your freedom in Christ as we celebrate the risen Lord. Prophetic Declaration: I am no longer a slave to sin.

## YOU ARE A NEW CREATURE 2 Corinthians 5:17 - 18

When man yielded to sin in the Garden of Eden, there was a significant relegation of the status of man in the hierarchy of God's creation. He became sin, which was reproachable to God. He was alienated from God and was subjected to the negativities of life which was the opposite of what God had in mind when He suggested that man should be created in His likeness.

However, God's loving nature couldn't just watch man live a life contrary to His initial plan. Thus, Jesus came, took man's place, received the punishment meant for man's sin and restored him to the fullness of His initial nature. By the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you became a new creature that can measure up to the expectations of God. No matter how bad and sinful your past was, the moment you acknowledge Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and accept Him into your life through confession with your mouth, you have been completely redeemed. Hence, you became a new and righteous being; you are now a new creature.

Action Point: You are a new creature. Align your daily living with the word of God. Prophetic Declaration: My life is a testimony of God's goodness.

## JOSEPH: REVELATION THROUGH DREAMS Genesis 41:1-8

There are diversities of ways and manner through which God speaks to His people. God desires to always communicate His intention per time to His children. He does not take glory in keeping His children in darkness. One of the major ways by which God communicates is dreams and it is established in scriptures. There was supposed to be a famine in the Land of Egypt during the reign of Pharaoh. The impending famine was revealed to him by God through dreams. Even though Pharaoh was oblivious to the interpretation, he was certain God was communicating a message to him.

Whenever a child of God has a dream it should not be treated with contempt. Revelation through dreams is a means of communication between the supernatural and the natural. Dreams that are from God always have meanings. You must be careful not to trivialize the instructions of God which comes through dreams, but be passionate about obtaining the interpretation in other to act on it accordingly.

Action Point: Do not be casual with your dreams, seek the interpretation and be obedient. Prophetic Declaration: I will not be manipulated through dreams.

## JOSEPH: FROM PRISON TO PALACE Genesis 41:9-13

Pharaoh had a dream but no one in the land could interpret it. The name of Joseph the prisoner was mentioned and quickly they summoned him and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon. He shaved himself, changed his raiment, and came to Pharaoh. After Joseph interpreted the dream of Pharaoh, his status and name changed from Joseph the prisoner to Joseph the Prime Minister. Joseph was not just lucky to be the prime minister, he walked and worked into his divine destiny. Through the dreams he had as a young boy, he had a premonition of greatness and decided to stay upright in order to fulfil it

In every life, there are challenges. The life of Joseph is the triumph of man above his circumstances. Joseph faced the same challenges that you face. He did not allow his circumstances to make him a victim. Joseph's reward for years of working with excellence was his address changed from prison to palace. You will also overcome the challenges in your life and rise to the top.

Action Point: God changes stories and statuses. Prophetic Declaration: My status is changing.

## JOSEPH: DESTINY FULFILMENT Genesis 42:6-7

Amid the crisis in Egypt, Joseph's brothers arrived from Canaan, seeking to buy food, as the famine severely affected their land also. They did not recognize Joseph and he did not reveal himself to them. The brothers bowed to Joseph with their faces to the ground which was the fulfilment of the dream Joseph had when he was young. His dreams that had made his brothers so mad at him. When he was at home he said to his brothers, "I had a dream last night, I dreamed that we were all out in the field and we were binding our sheaves and my sheaves of wheat stood upright and yours all bowed down to mine. And now here is Joseph and he sees his brothers all bowing down to him.

When God speaks, you can be certain that He is able to do that which He said. The brothers of Joseph wouldn't believe in their wildest imagination the fulfilment of the dream of Joseph but after many years it came to fulfilment. Your destiny will also be fulfilled if you will hold on to God on that which He had said.

Action Point: Trust in the Lord, and believe all his prophecies over your life. Prophetic Declaration: Prophecies are fulfilled in my life.

## JOSEPH: THE KEY TO FORGIVENESS Genesis 45: 1-7

It was time for Joseph to reveal himself, He had made all the Egyptians leave the room. Why did Joseph wish this to be done alone? This was a family matter, it was to be an intimate time between brothers, and outsiders might be a distraction. Joseph commanded everyone to leave except his brothers so that he could deal with the matter of the sin of his brothers in strictest privacy. Personal sin and forgiveness are best dealt with personally, not publicly.

Joseph based his forgiveness on the sovereignty of God and His good providence. The key to forgiveness and reconciliation is recognizing the providence of God and submitting yourself to His sovereignty. You will see that Joseph had a heart of forgiveness, a heart that promoted reconciliation because he had confidence in God. He trusted in God's providence and submitted himself to God's sovereign purposes. Once you see God in action through your challenges, you will not hold anyone to heart because God works in all to fulfil His divine purpose.

Action Point: Forgiveness is liberation. Prophetic Declaration: I am delivered from all oppression.

# JOSEPH: GOD'S DIVINE PLAN Genesis 47:1-6

Joseph's entire family moved out of Canaan into Goshen, which is part of Egypt, under the rule of Pharaoh. It was because of a severe famine in the land of Canaan that they had to make the move. Joseph presented his family to Pharaoh and Pharaoh gave them the best of the land and allowed them to dwell in the land of Goshen. He also puts them in charge of his livestock. Though foreigners, they had royal employment and land. They did nothing to merit these which they received. They have profited this goodwill through the work of their brother.

A careful look at the story shows God had a plan of provision for the children of Israel. Looking back at the twists and turns of the previous chapters, you will realize how God's sovereignty works out His perfect plans in ways you cannot imagine. God desired to preserve His people because of His promise to Abraham their grandfather and he made it happen. You cannot be stranded when you have God of heaven and earth as your father, He will work out His plan in your favour.

Action Point: Submit to the Lord and walk in His divine plan for your life. Prophetic Declaration: My needs are supplied by God's might.

## IS THERE NO GOD? 2 Kings 1:1-4

Your challenge in life is not peculiar to you, several others are passing through the same around the world. How you choose to get help makes the difference between believers and unbelievers. The surety of Ahaziah's death was not because "he fell and became ill" but because he sought help from Baalzebub.

Is it your present situation that has troubled you? What is it you are passing through that looks difficult – career, finances, family issues, finding a faithful and committed life partner, or passing an examination? Whatever it might be, there is a God that knows and can do all. Do not let your challenges push you to seek alternatives. Rather, let your challenges draw you closer to God. The closer you are to God, the bigger He becomes in your life and the more insignificant and powerless your problems become. There is a God who is caring to know and feel what you are passing through. He is powerful enough to save you, His name is Jesus. Run to Him today.

Action Point: Make a list of your challenges and resolve to take them to God in prayers. Prophetic Declaration: I will seek God and Him alone.

## THE RIGHTEOUS ONE Psalms 15:1-5

To be righteous is to be holy and to be blameless before the Lord. The way God measures righteousness is not the way man measures it. It is so disturbing today that people are not careful about how they live their lives. Even the unfaithful and the unrighteous want to access God all the time even with their filthy garment. Today, people are no longer concerned about righteousness, rather they are carried away with the love of money and do foolish and things that plunge people into ruin harmful and destruction. Yet they call on God, expecting to be heard. You must be blameless to appear before Him. If you desire to see and experience God as people of old, you must conduct your life in the way worthy of Him. God is righteous and requests that His people be righteous. The key to dwelling in His sacred tent is being righteous. God cannot be bribed neither can He be deceived. Henceforth, seek to do things approved of the Lord and be blameless before Him if you desire His presence.

Action Point: Always seek to do the right things. Prophetic Declaration: My life brings glory to God.

# BE A GOOD SOLDIER 2 Timothy 2:1-5

A soldier is a skilled warrior and you as a child of God are His soldier; a member of God's army here on earth. In your journey here on Earth, you are on a mission and everything needed to succeed in this assignment has been released by God to you. Hence, you have skills to sharpen and roles to play to be successful.

As a good soldier, you must be skilled, always ready to perform your duty at all times, not lazy and always obey your commander. Also, as a soldier for Christ, you must be a lover of God's word, not depending on your physical strength and intelligence but depending solely on God who is your commander and using all weapons He has made available to you. Do not be ignorant of the vices of the devil, never be caught unaware but be alert at all times and always be an obedient child of God in all. A good soldier follows the command to the letter; learn to follow the command from the chief commander who has sent you here on earth for a purpose. No good soldier misses his reward.

Action Point: Learn to obey God's command. Prophetic Declaration: I am a soldier for Christ, I will never be defeated.

#### THE GREAT TURNAROUND Mark 5: 2-15

There was a young boy who grew up not knowing his parents. He was raised by an old woman who picked him up by the roadside when he was a baby. He lived all his life in pain because he lacked adequate care. His old guardian couldn't afford to do so much for him but gave him the little she had and constantly taught him the word of God. He decided to do all he could to survive as he aged. While many around saw him as not having any hope of rising, he prayed he would make it someday. Not long after, a destiny helper located him and his life became a great testimony. There is no life too hopeless for Jesus to fix. The possessed man got his deliverance in an instant and many were astonished as to how his life changed suddenly. The people would have thought he would die a madman, but the plan of God was different. That situation that seems insurmountable for you will be levelled before you if you

put your hope and trust in God. You are not hopeless, God can turn your life around for good.

Action Point: Keep your hope and trust in God, He will work all things out in your favour. Prophetic Declaration: My life is turning around for good.

## DEFEATING YOUR GOLIATH 1 Samuel 17:8-11, 32-36

Goliath was a thorn in the flesh of the armies of Israel. Nobody among them had what it takes to face him. They had lost track of God and it gave an uncircumcised Philistine (Goliath) a good opportunity to terrify them. None of them saw God as the ultimate solution to get victory over this uncircumcised Philistine. However, David knew a better way to go about the battle and destroyed Goliath.

David remained with God and this made it easy for him to face Goliath without any doubt. He relied solely on God's power, putting God first before Himself. He believed the battle belong to God, for Goliath defiled the name of the Lord. David won the battle not with bow or arrow but by his acknowledgement of God's power over this uncircumcised philistine. Always, God wants you to also depend on him when life's challenges face you. All David saw was an uncircumcised Philistine who deserves to be dealt with by Yahweh Himself. Defeat your 'goliath' by confronting it in the name of God, the Lord of host.

Action Point: As God's child, a battle against you is a battle against God. Prophetic Declaration: Lord, arise and let your enemies be scattered.

# WAR AGAINST EVIL Esther 9:1-3

For truth to prevail, work must be done. Several countries want changes and comfort but are not willing to put in the effort to war against forces of evil. Many complain about government policies, corruption, child trafficking and slavery but are not ready to get into battle, instead, they keep on waiting for a miracle. God empowers and helps those who are after doing His will just like He helped Esther and Mordecai.

As a believer, you must be ready to stand for the truth in all circumstances you find yourself. Do not leave your faith to chance. God has given you all it takes to wage war against your adversary, you must do everything possible to make sure you do God's will daily and fight all that seems to hold you or limit you. God still wants to empower people to do His will and wage war against the enemy around them. He is ready to give you power, stick to Him alone and you will experience a difference. The world is becoming darker, but you must shine brighter.

Action Point: Ask God for strength to wage war against the enemy of your life. Prophetic Declaration: I nullify any attack against my life and family.

# GIVE GOD THE GLORY 2 Corinthians 10:17-18

Some people claim to be Christians and yet do things so that they would be seen and commended by people. Oftentimes, these kinds of people do things not because it is the will of God but just to take glory for themselves and receive praise from others. Apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians admonishes that whatever is done should be what will bring glory to God. You must also take note of the same and ensure that everything you do brings glory to God. When people see what you have done, they will give you accolades but this must not be the motivation behind your actions.

Remember that God is a jealous God and He will not share His glory with anyone. Check your life and assess the things you do. Do they bring glory to God or do you do them to show that you can do those things? Every success was possible because God made it so and he deserves the glory for your success and not you. In all things, make sure to direct the glory to God.

Action Point: Every success was possible because God made it so. Prophetic Declaration: I please God and not man.

# THE REWARD OF HUMILITY James 4:6, 10

Humility is one word that is popularly mentioned. However, it is not a nature common to all but those who have learnt to submit to God. You cannot walk in humility if you are still struggling with total submission to God. Jesus exemplified this virtue when He submitted His life completely to God, even when He is also God (Philippians 2:11). Humility is not necessarily an action; it is a state of mind that is regenerated by the presence of Christ. You need Christ to be truly humble and eat the fruit thereof.

The scriptures clearly state that those who are humble will be exalted. Jesus was exalted and currently sits at the right side of God as a result of His humility. The fruit of humility is sweet but you need to pay the sacrifice. You need to adopt and follow through with the life of Christ even when it is most difficult. Humility to God requires submission to His will. It proves that you are subject to His instructions. Submission and obedience to God will cause you to be exalted. Therefore, humble yourself before God and enjoy the reward that comes with it.

Action Point: Only the humble will be exalted Prophetic Declaration: I resist every satanic invasion in my life.

# KNITTED TOGETHER Job 10:8-12

Oftentimes, men wonder how God made man and how each body part functions; the complexity is beyond comprehension. Yes, there are some artificial body parts, but never will they be like the ones made by God. All that man is said to be and have is a gift from the Lord. Your body's fitness and health are not primarily because you feed well and exercise. You are sustained by the hand of God. What a blessing indeed you and I have received from Christ Jesus, for in Him we live, exist and have our being.

The text today is a reminder about the numerous blessings you have received from God. He clothed you with skin and flesh. He covers your shame with glory. You are preserved; spirit, soul and body till this moment not because of anything you have done, but because He cares for you. Never forget that you are not alone; you carry the whole essence of God. There is no mistake in all of God's creation. He made you in His image, wonderfully and perfectly created. Henceforth, praise the name of the Lord for your existence each passing day.

Action Point: Praise the Lord for your existence each passing day. Prophetic Declaration: I am wonderfully and fearfully made.

### DO WHAT IS RIGHT Ruth 1: 6-14

Ruth, Naomi's daughter-in-law lost her husband at a very tender age. Naturally, it was not out of place for her to go back to her home and her own family to look for a new husband, even her mother-in-law suggested it. Ruth's Sister-in-law, Orpah followed that advice and turned back. However, Ruth wasn't swayed by Naomi's suggestion; her heart was so attached to her mother-in-law and she was convinced to stay with her.

As a believer, you need to always remember that strong convictions precede great actions. Once you know you are right and your motives are pure like Ruth's motives, you need to follow through. Others may not agree with you but when you know what is right, do not let other people's comments throw you off. Stand by your conviction and follow your heart with integrity. Because Ruth followed her heart and went with Naomi to Bethlehem, she was rewarded by God. Are you on the verge of giving up on what you know is right? Do not give in to the pressures around you, stay put and you will get the reward.

Action Point: Follow your heart with integrity. Prophetic Declaration: I know what is right and I do what is right.

# GIFTS ATTRACT PEOPLE 2 Kings 3:9-12

At the creation of man, God had intentionally blessed humankind with gifts which make him distinctive from every other creature. However, these gifts will forever remain hidden in a man if they are not discovered. And when discovered, an individual could maximize their unique gift purposefully and bring glory to God who endowed them with it. A man's gift, if well cultured and developed will attract people of substance to him. Elisha maximized his gift of prophecy and the skill of the knowledge of the Word of God. He probably never thought that his gift would attract three kings to him at a time. He was just faithfully utilizing his gifts and skills, and when the time came, kings sought him.

Men and women of value will seek after you when you have things to offer them. Now is the time to prayerfully discover your gifts and talents and use them to bless people and also glorify God. A gift not properly put to use will remain dormant and unprofitable. Refine your gifts, put them to godly use and make yourself valuable.

Action Point: Identify a problem in your area and begin to execute a solution. Prophetic Declaration: My life attracts men of substance.

# BAD ASSOCIATION 2 Samuel 13:1-11

One funny truth about life is that, it cannot be lived alone. Either to succeed or to fail, you need assistance from other persons. This justifies the claim that association is key in life. Having said that, it is imperative you know that you are responsible for the association you keep as it can either mar or make you.

Meeting someone who is an entire stranger at any point in time could be regarded as a coincidence or a divine arrangement, but it takes your approval and conscious effort to grow into becoming friends, a close one at that. The Bible is clear about who Jonadab was to Amnon, he was a friend, a very crafty one. Jonadab appears to possess the potential of a caring friend only that he lacked godly counsel. Have you taken your time to look into the type of friends that you keep? You have a friend who claims to be a believer yet gives you counsel that is contrary to the dictate of the scriptures. It's high time you let go of such friendships as it is affecting your relationship with God and will in time cut you off completely from God.

Action Point: Quit any relationship that is not making you keep the commands of the Lord. Prophetic Declaration: I live a life pleasing to the Lord all the days of my life.

# WHAT HAS GOD DONE FOR YOU? Psalms 105:1-2

True believers' faith is strengthened when they hear testimonies of others; what God did in their life. Many believers now see testifying to what God did publicly as an immature engagement. Though you may think some do so for acknowledgement or attraction, when the motive is right, God is glorified. Not only does openly testifying among people strengthen interpersonal bonds, but it is also very important in your Christian faith as a believer to use your testimony to glorify God and encourage others.

Reflecting and sharing the sequentially consistent doings of God in your life is spiritual, it strengthens your faith, fills your heart with unwarranted joy, and pleases God as it gives glory to Him. The scripture encourages you to reflect, realize, and share the doings of God in your daily activities. The psalmist encourages you to make known among the nations what God has done; his wonderful acts. Let this be your attitude, if you have not been doing this, decide to turn a new leaf to attract more of God in your life.

Action Point: Share testimonies of God's goodness for His glory and not for any human gain. Prophetic Declaration: The hand of God works wonders in my life.

# LOVE RIGHTLY 1 John 2: 5 – 11

When you find the light, you have to remain in the light to avoid occasions of stumbling. To remain in the light of God, you have to continuously love rightly. An indicator of a life devoid of light is a lack of love for God and His people. "Anyone who hates his brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness". As much as you must love, and love rightly, God has compelled you not to love the world and the things that are in the world. Therefore, no man can serve two masters, i.e. loving the world and loving God at the same time – It is not possible. You can only embrace the abundant life of God by loving Him in return because He first loved you. You have to be obedient to His words and His commandment thereby loving His people. The love of God will make you gracious with words and more compassionate towards other men. Sense of empathy will grow as you increase in your love for God. If you do not love your neighbour your love for God will be questionable.

Action Point: Show love to your neighbours. Prophetic Declaration: I am a person of love.

# HOUR OF DARKNESS Job 30:26-31

Sometimes, you find yourself in situations when it seems as if darkness is the order of the day and everything is not clear. At this moment, everything might be standing still, not because you sinned against God or deviate from His instructions or commandments but for His will to be done in your life and His name to be glorified. Job was a man introduced to us as a perfect and upright man who feared God. But God allowed darkness to overshadow him just to test his faith and see if he will still stay faithful to God. The same happens to us. Sometimes in life, God allows us to pass through fire like gold so that we can come out refined to show forth His glory.

People like David and Joseph also passed through the same process to fulfil God's purpose for their lives. God has a plan of a greater and better future for you no matter how dark the sky presently is. Your hour of darkness might just be the process to give you the expected end product, so, endure it. You are close to the end of the tunnel where the light will surface and you will overcome your darkness.

Action Point: There is always light at the end of the tunnel Prophetic Declaration: The light of God dispels every work of darkness in my life.

# LORD OF HARVEST I Luke 10:1-2

From the beginning of time at the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, God had desired to reconcile man back to Himself. The Lamb of God was slain from the foundation of the world, thereby making God the God of Mission. At the fullness of time, God gave His son as the ransom for the redemption of mankind.

Jesus Christ came to save the lost, He appointed the twelve that they might be with Him and send them to proclaim the kingdom of God. He later appointed the seventy and sent them in pairs to places He must get to. The twelve and the seventy had done their bit, it is time for you to arise and be the answer to the prayer for more labourers. It is crucial to note that Christ is recruiting men as labourers to join Him in the harvest. His words imply that the souls of men are ripe and ready to yield to God, only that He desires men who will go about proclaiming the gospel of Christ, for that is the only power of God unto salvation. Arise today and preach the gospel everywhere you go.

Action Point: Proclaim the gospel of Christ to someone today. Prophetic Declaration: I am an agent of reconciliation.

# LORD OF HARVEST II Luke 10:1-2

Yesterday, we see God as God of mission because He initiated the plan to save man by Himself long ago from the beginning, He only expects man to join in the work. This is to say, every believer is saved to evangelize; you and I are the missionaries while the sinners are the mission field ready for harvest. Remember, Jesus said the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. The challenge is not about the harvest, but it is about the labourers who are not enough.

Oh, lift your face and see ripen harvest, the end time harvest is here. The harvesters are wanted in the vineyard of the Lord. Possibly, you have been supporting those who are actively involved in mission work, either with your prayer, money or any other physical materials. However, remember, for anyone to be saved, such must have heard the gospel of Christ and they cannot hear unless someone preaches to them. Make it a conscious practice to minister Christ to people around you and live a life worthy of the gospel.

Action Point: Do not let a day pass by without telling someone about the love of God. Prophetic Declaration: My feet are beautiful because I turn many to righteousness.

# CHRIST'S SAVING GRACE 1 Timothy 1:15

The essence of Jesus coming into the world is to save man from the penalty of sin. In the beginning, God had warned that the consequence of sin was death. Any man that sins must surely die. The death here is separation from God and damnation of eternity. Nevertheless, God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten son to take up the responsibility of standing in the place of man so that the debt of sin can be paid once and for all. The author of today's passage was testifying to the salvation he received due to the coming of Jesus into the world.

The worst of the sinner can also benefit from this grace that God had made available to all mankind through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Are you guilty of some pretty horrible things? Are there issues you are yet to settle with God? Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, He came to save you too. He died to pay the price for your sin. You only need to call out to Him for help.

Action Point: Search your heart and confess any known sin. Prophetic Declaration: I am free from any entanglement of sin.

# FAVOUR FOLLOWS THE FAITHFUL Esther 2: 10 - 20

The story of Esther exemplified someone who was highly favoured by God. She was a slave, who could be considered to be unworthy to stay in the palace, yet she became the queen. This is probably connected to some consistency in her character—she was a faithful lady. The scripture described Esther as someone who listened to instructions and was obedient. She obeyed the instructions of Mordecai that she should not disclose her background. She yielded to the advice of Hegai and only took with her what he suggested.

When you are attentive to the instructions of God and you obey His bidding, you automatically become a recipient of His favour. He begins to order your steps even more and lead you victoriously through where your strength would have naturally failed you. Just like Esther wasn't disobedient and wise in her counsel, but rather obedient to her uncle's instructions, you should be obedient and submissive to God in all your endeavours too. When you faithfully follow God, His favour follows you too.

Action Point: Be consistent and loyal. Prophetic Declaration: I am the epitome of God's favour.

# NOBLE OR IGNOBLE 2 Timothy 2:20-26

In every home, there are regular dishes for everyone. There are also special dishes, like those assigned only to the father of the house, and there are also those used on special occasions for special guests, yet they are all dishes. One thing qualifies some to be separated and assigned special responsibilities in the house – their quality; what they are made of.

In God's family, there are special responsibilities for special people not because they are more loved but because they choose to go a step further by purging themselves. People can be likened to vessels of clay, wood, gold or silver, depending on their availability, reliability and usability in the things of God. Anyone who purges himself from iniquity becomes noble. Also, he who does not engage in senseless controversies becomes noble. To be ready for any good work in the master's house, you need to walk in holiness, grow in faith, be loving, walk in peace, abide in the word, and be kind and gentle. Make a deliberate effort to please the master and be a noble vessel.

Action Point: Living a purged life qualifies you for God's noble use. Prophetic Declaration: I am a noble instrument in the hands of God.

#### AUDIENCE OF ONE 2 Samuel 6:14, 20-22

The Jews had no other God except Yahweh, so also the Christians. You and I worship only Him and nothing whatsoever is worthy to take His place, else that will be idolatry. This very mindset should be in you as a believer; you are to worship only God and serve Him alone.

There is even a popular song we sing that suggests that David danced specially in the text read today. The Lord is calling your attention to the words of David to Michal: "I was dancing before the Lord..." In your case, it might not be a dance, but your disposition at all times to all you do. Your thoughts, speech, actions, dressing etc. should be to the audience of one—God. Knowing this and acting accordingly makes you righteousness-conscious and delivers you from a hypocritical lifestyle as you live all your moment knowing that it is to the Lord. Beginning from today, live as David lived, knowing that all you do is to the audience of one, whose praise and approval you seek. Having this in your mind prevents you from seeking approval from men.

Action Point: Dwell on thought, speak words and act out only things pleasing to the Lord. Prophetic Declaration: My life and all it entails is for the glory of God.

# A COMMON FATE Ecclesiastes 9:1-5

The book of Ecclesiastes is a book of wisdom and also a compendium of the findings of King Solomon about philosophies of life. The author concluded that through his findings, he discovered that the righteous and wicked have the same share of life, the same things happen to both. No man knows either love or hatred by all that is before them, but everything is in the hand of God. The Lord has total control over all affairs of life. The experiences of life are universal as God works in all to fulfil His own divine purpose.

Death is apportioned to all men irrespective of their being rich, poor, great, or small. Yet, despite this fact, men's hearts are filled with evil and madness as long as they live without God. Everything is common to all man in life, that which makes the difference is the salvation of the soul. There is hope for salvation only when you are alive. All opportunities for salvation are no more when life ends. Although there is a common fate here on earth, there is hope of a distinguished life with God in eternity.

Action Point: Live a life that will secure your eternity with God after life. Prophetic Declaration: I set my eyes on things above.

### SAY NO TO UNGODLINESS Titus 2: 11-12

In this present age, it seems difficult to say no to acts of ungodliness. Ungodliness has crept into our environment in every subtle way. In fashion, social media, various occupations and workplaces, as well as schools. It has now become a norm. With every emerging generation, there seems to be a reduction in love for God and an increased interest in gratifying self. However, despite all these, God's standard remains sure. Irrespective of how bad human standards fall, the standards of God remain the same.

If you are truly saved, it is expected of you to be uncomfortable with ungodliness thriving in and around you. Through your disposition, words and actions, the reverence for God and the interest of His kingdom should be evident. The life you live should show forth Christ. However, living a life that is consecrated to God cannot be achieved by your human strength. For this, grace has been made available to you through the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is there to always guide and instruct you in the right way. Every day, yield yourself to the leading of the Spirit.

Action Point: Always frown at the ungodliness around you. Prophetic Declaration: I break the yoke of ungodliness in my life and home.

# THE FEAR OF GOD Exodus 1:17-21

The fear of God is borne out of our love for God. It is the way through which we show our reverence for Him. The fear of God in you saves you from falling into your sinful nature. When a person fears God, they are more likely to stay true to their words and treat people with kindness. As a believer, one of the major attributes that should be found in you is the fear of God. When you genuinely fear God, it becomes difficult for you to sin against God and do evil to other human beings.

According to our text, the midwives put their lives at stake for fear of God. They feared God more than what the king could do to them. Their love for God was more important to them than their lives. Their fear for God saved the lives of children, including Moses who was instrumental in the release of Israel from Egypt. These women feared God and, in His mercies, He also stayed through for them and rewarded them. Your stance for God and righteousness will not also go unrewarded.

Action Point: Let the fear of God be seen in you. Prophetic Declaration: My life is preserved from evil.

# A FAITHFUL AND FRUITFUL STEWARD Matthew 25:23

Mr Mark was travelling and handed over all the money and assets that he had to his servant. He told his servant to watch over his possessions while he was away. After a while, the servant thought of making use of the money and assets that his master had left in his care to create more wealth for him. Mark's servant invested and did business and was able to make 100% profit. When Mr Mark returned and saw the huge profit the servant had made, he was happy and made him a manager.

God's expectation from you as a steward is to make use of the resources, skills, gifts and talents that He has given to you towards the advancement of His kingdom on earth. Like Mark in today's story, God is happy when you are fruitful. Therefore, always ensure that you use your talents and gifts for the Kingdom's benefit. Additionally, in your secular work, use your proficiency for the success and advancement of your organisation. Faithfulness is required of you in all that has been committed to you. Your efforts, both for the Kingdom and your office will be rewarded.

Action Point: Celebrate your faithful employees to commemorate the day. Prophetic Declaration: I will bear good fruits.

# GIVE THANKS ALWAYS Psalms 9:1-2

King David was a man full of praise and thanksgiving to God. He saw God as his all in all and acknowledged every of God's deeds towards him. The book of Psalms is filled with the admonitions to praise God. Believers find it easy to praise God when things are going smoothly. When God answers prayers and grant request, you see people joyfully praising God but when things go the other way people find it difficult to praise God.

The attitude of praise and thanksgiving to God is expected to be cultivated by all believers, it should not be seasonal. Our thanksgiving to God should not be attached to circumstances. Therefore, give thanks to God always for what He has done in the past, what He is doing in the present, and what He will still do in the future. Thanksgiving should be done with all sincerity of heart to God. Remember He sees and knows the intent of every man's heart and cannot be deceived. Therefore, appreciate God genuinely.

Action Point: Genuinely appreciate God for a specific need met. Prophetic Declaration: My soul blesses the Lord.

# GOD'S GREAT DELIGHT Jonah 3:5-10

Every producer of goods and services manufactures a product with the purpose at heart, which defines its existence. It will be a matter of concern when the product cannot meet the expected goal or it serves a lesser purpose than its intent. Imagine a sixteen-seater bus that can only contain five people because of a mechanical fault. That is a situation of being underutilized. Without mincing words, the bus producer will not be so glad and, of course, will be willing to work on it to correct the abnormality.

The same is the state of whoever is alienated from God; such a person cannot be pleasing unto Him in any way. Whatever state you are in at the moment, God is concerned about you. Like the city of Nineveh, He is interested in you living right according to His purpose for you. If you will repent from everything you are into that is against the plan and purpose of God for you and call unto him for forgiveness, He will indeed preserve you, and save you from the impending destruction. His greatest delight is that you will be saved.

Action Point: Reflect on the goodness of God, identify ways you are alienated from Him and ask for His forgiveness. Prophetic Declaration: God is concerned about me; He watches over me and saves me from destruction.

# MORAL IS NOT SUFFICIENT Romans 3:20

Morality can be defined as the principles which guide the differentiation between right and wrong. Good morals can be considered as conforming to the right standard of behaviour. Some people live out a good and correct moral lifestyle by obeying the laws promptly and yet they don't know Christ. Such persons who are often referred to as moralist, tends to earn great integrity on earth and be well respected because of their good character and their stands on doing the right things always.

However, when you live a good moral life without a genuine acceptance of Jesus Christ into your life, you won't live in eternity with Christ. You may be living a good life and think Jesus does not matter. People may even say good things about you everywhere you find yourself, but the scripture makes it clear that righteousness is not in keeping the moral law but the righteousness of God comes by believing with personal trust and confident reliance on Jesus Christ. Knowing and accepting Jesus is the only criterion to make heaven.

Action Point: Moral acceptance is not sufficient, living your life for Christ is the goal. Prophetic Declaration: I will not live a wasted life.

# STAY CONNECTED TO GOD Jeremiah 33:1

Jeremiah, who was a servant of God was imprisoned physically but his spirit man was not imprisoned. He could hear God clearly while in prison because of His relationship with God. The situation in which he found himself was enough to distract him from God instead he built a more consistent relationship with God. God sent His word through him to his people while he was still in confinement because his spirit was in line with God.

Circumstances and challenges should never dictate the way you relate with God, no situation should be so pathetic to draw you from God. It is important not to only get closer to God when things are good; God is still expecting your loyalty at trying times also. A trying time is not a time to disconnect from God, but a time to draw closer to Him. God is your source, without Him, you can do nothing. Are you experiencing some trials presently? You need to stay close to God. When you stay connected to God, your strength is renewed, and He will carry you through the stormy situation.

Action Point: In the good and bad times, stay connected to God. Prophetic Declaration: I receive grace to stay connected at all times.

### WORTHY VESSEL Acts 6:1-7

One of your responsibilities as a believer is to be a worthy vessel, ready and available for the master's use, at all times. Mind you, only a sanctified and consecrated life is worthy to be used by God. To be consecrated means to be set apart for God. This means you must be constantly renewed by the word of God and your life is consistent with His words.

The seven men that were chosen by the congregation had in them qualities that were consistent with the word of God. They were men full of faith, led by the Holy Spirit, filled with wisdom, and possessed godly character and integrity. They have been set apart by believing in the salvation grace of Jesus and their exemplary Christ-like living. This was so because they had submitted their life to God as a vessel through which Jesus found expression. You can also become a worthy vessel in God's kingdom by living a holy life, being obedient to the Spirit's call, total submission to the word of God and bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

Action Point: Consecrate your life to God by consistently doing what is good. Prophetic Declaration: I remain relevant in Kingdom business.

### GUARD YOUR HEART Mark 6:1-6

One of the end-time agendas of the kingdom of darkness is to raise false thoughts and questions in the hearts of many believers. The enemy presents the thoughts as genuine and logical, but the true essence of it is to rob believers of God's beautiful plan for them. This was the exact thing that happened to the people of Nazareth, Jesus originated from this town but couldn't perform many miracles there because they had many humanly logical but false questions in their hearts against Him and His operations. These questions aided their lack of faith in Him and He could not perform mighty miracles there.

God's ways are not your ways and His thoughts are almost always different from yours, He knows the end even from the very beginning. Therefore, you need to put away such logical thoughts raised against His dealings in your life. This tactic of the devil that is seemingly harmless has made many unbelieving as they entertained the questions in their heart. The aim is not to make you intelligent, but to rob you of God's plans and agenda. Beware!

Action Point: Guard your heart with all diligence. Prophetic Declaration: I will not miss God's plan for my life.

# A SPIRITUAL MINDSET John 2: 3 - 8

In your walk with God, there are many instances when you will need a radical mind shift from the conventional, to align with the purpose of God for your life or around you. In such moment, you will need a spiritual mindset that is solely dependent and focused on the power of God rather than the correctness and logic of the world. When Jesus asked the servants to fill the water pot with water, naturally, they must have been baffled and shocked. Logically, the servants could have queried Jesus and said "We need wine not water, this man probably do not understand our request."

Often, when after making some request to God, He demands something humanly dissimilar to what you anticipated or expected, you need to understand that God answers according to His capacity and not yours. You need a spiritual mindset, developed through consistent submission to God's word, to see through the mind of God and understand His works. You cannot apply human logic and rationale to spiritual works.

Action Point: Always do all He asks you to do, even when it doesn't make sense. Prophetic Declaration: Every evil mark on my life and destiny is cancelled.

# DETERMINE TO BE DIFFERENT Daniel 1: 1-8

A child of God, who is dying daily to flesh and living in the Spirit, ought to be different from an unbeliever. There must be a difference between a believer and an unbeliever in speech and deeds. You need to be different in your approach to life and spiritual things.

Like Daniel, you can also purpose in your heart not to soil your life and faith with things that can stain your garment as a believer. You must be different at your place of work by not indulging in fraudulent acts, conspiracy against a co-worker and so on. In your service to God, you can determine to be different by working extra or going the extra mile for the things of God without allowing any negative comment to debar you. Be determined to be different by obeying God's instructions in your daily living and deliberately winning souls to populate the kingdom of God. Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the king's food which can also apply to you not to allow the glittering things of this world to defile you.

Action Point: Dare to be different positively. Prophetic Declaration: I am unique, extraordinary and blessed by God.

# NOT WITHOUT A CONSEQUENCE Ecclesiastes 10:8-9

Dickson works with an oil company as an accountant. One day, his wife took ill and he needed a certain amount of money to sort the hospital bills. Meanwhile, it was not the end of the month, so his salary has not been paid. Being in charge of the company's account, he quickly borrowed from the company's account with the intention to refund when his salary is paid without anyone getting to know. Unfortunately, the situation boomeranged and his action was tagged as fraudulent. Although charges were not pressed against him because of empathy, he lost his job. One foolish act is capable of causing utter destruction. There is no action that is not without a consequence. Yes, God can forgive in all situations but the consequence of such actions can be a scar to remember for the rest of one's life. You need to watch out for danger zones in all you do because some offers may look tantalizing but beneath lies danger. You must be responsible for all your

actions, for you will bear the consequences, and you might

even implicate others.

Action Point: Determine to do the right thing always. Prophetic Declaration: I receive grace to live right.

# A CRY TO THE LORD Psalms 141:1-8

Many times, people wonder why God's children go through difficult experiences. Many times, we learn how to pray best when faced with challenges. When life is a bit easy, we still pray but not with the same earnestness or the same tone of urgency. There is a need to improve in prayer and one of the best ways to do this is to walk carefully and obediently with God. David could have compromised many times; he could have given in on many aspects of his life but he stood with God.

The reason David's early life was so difficult was because he walked wholeheartedly with God. As quickly as David wanted God to answer him, he also prayed and committed all his sensitive parts to God so as not to limit him in receiving from God speedily. In the life of every believer, God wants to be involved in all aspects. He does not want anything to limit Him because you do not know His mind towards you. God cannot be limited unless you decide to limit him by your human nature. He expects you to communicate your struggles to Him in prayers.

Action Point: Communicate all your fears to God. Prophetic Declaration: The unlimited God steps into my situation.

### STIR UP GOD'S GIFT 2 Timothy 1:5-6

Many people attend revivals and retreat programmes with great zeal and leave those meetings fully assured that some gifts and grace have been deposited. Usually, a large percentage can sustain that experience and the fervency that comes with it for a few weeks but many lost the fervency as times go on, only to start preparing to attend another revival programme. The cycle repeats and what is being received is not fully expressed nor used for the growth of the body of Christ.

Whatever it is that must last and stand the test of time, conscious effort in sustaining it has to be in place, else, it will vanish with time. Timothy had a godly mother and grandmother, who possibly helped him in knowing God earlier and better. Godly mothers are treasures. Also, hands were laid on him by the great Apostle Paul, yet he needed to fan to flame the gifts in him. God wants you to make use of His gift(s) given to you. Therefore, do all to be better with the use of God's gift given to you; pray, study, train, read books, get a mentor etc.

Action Point: Mothers are treasures. Celebrate your mother (or a mother figure) today. Do well to send her a gift. Prophetic Declaration: I am a profitable servant.

# ACT JUSTLY Exodus 23:1-9

Justice, honesty and integrity are part of the things that are lacking in our present generation. Many do not want to tell the truth because sometimes the truth is bitter. People bear false witness, especially about someone weaker than them, who cannot defend themselves. Bearing false witness is greatly unjust and should never be done. It is important for every believer to demonstrate honesty and integrity in their dealings with people.

All the laws in today's text reflect justice and are concerned with telling the truth no matter what it takes. Justice depends on truth, and if the truth is altered, so also is justice. As believers, there are numerous temptations presenting themselves to us, and if you are not careful, you may pervert the truth, no matter how subtly it may seem. You must be determined to say what is true no matter the circumstances. Do not allow bad motives to distort the truth. Acting justly involves allowing the Holy Spirit to take over your life, attitude and impulses. Empty yourself and allow God to take over all that is yours.

Action Point: Seek to honour what is true and right. Prophetic Declaration: I begin to act justly, for I have the love of God in me.

### REJOICE! Galatians 4:27

Sometimes, we hope for certain desires and it seems to tarry; however, as believers, we must maintain a posture of encouragement and gratitude to God and anticipation for what He is yet to do. Many times, waiting for long can be discouraging, challenging and frustrating, but as a believer, you ought to keep the might and promises of God ever before you so that you may learn to rejoice even as you wait.

Are you at the point of quitting or giving up? Be encouraged today; sing for joy, cry aloud with singing, and remember God's faithfulness in your life in the past. Your Father has a lot in store for you He has promised that you will never be alone or forsaken, and He will take care of you. God is in action. He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that you think or ask for. With the eyes of faith and beyond any reasonable doubt, let your joy come alive. Rejoice because He has the solution figured out. Rejoice, for your expectation shall not be cut short. Rejoice for faithful is He that promised and He will do it.

Action Point: Make up your mind to see God above every present limitation. Prophetic Declaration: My joy shall know no bound.

# SPIRIT OF DISCERNMENT 1 John 4: 1 – 6

The spirit realm is loaded with all kinds of spirits; you need to be careful of whom, where and what you receive. You are not to believe all spirits; rather you are to try all spirits if they are of God because there are false and evil prophets in the world today. Many of them are out there to make merchandise of precious souls. Your spiritual antenna should always be active to pick and discern spiritual signals to differentiate between the spirit of God and the spirit of the devil.

It takes the help of the Holy Spirit to discern between spirits. The good news is that if you are born again you have overcome the world through the victory of Christ by dying on the cross of Calvary and resurrecting on the third day by the power of God. To discern the Spirit of God; He confesses the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and conforms to the nature of Jesus Christ. It's in alignment with this that we know a child of God.

Action Point: It takes the help of the Holy Spirit to discern between spirits. Prophetic Declaration: I increase in discernment.

# DIVINE ATTENTION Esther 5: 1-4

A story was told about a lady who was delayed from graduating by a wicked lecturer in her department. By the time the list of graduating students was released, her name was not on it. Though she complained to the Head of Department, it did not seem to make much difference. She fasted and prayed for God's favour and vindication, and the Lord heard and led her. She met with the Dean of the Faculty and explained herself and he decided to take it up. When she returned to check the updated list, her name had been included.

Take note that the student and Esther's story from today's passage included seeking the Lord in fasting and prayer to gain God's attention and intervention. Fasting and praying are two effective strategies to attract the attention of God. As Christians, we should not submit to adversities; rather, when difficulties arise, it is an opportunity for us to demonstrate how mighty our God is. Since Jesus Christ is a true friend and companion, He will certainly provide you with a solution to your problem. Seek Him diligently.

Action Point: Pray for God's vindication for everyone under oppression. Prophetic Declaration: I attract divine attention today and forever.

### THE AVENGER Ezekiel 35:1-9

Stan was perpetually humiliated and oppressed by his department head because of his stand against corruption. Whenever he was asked to forge a document, he declines but suffer the consequence. Stan was not trying to prove a point but simply obeying the word of God. The promotion of Stan was withheld for five years, but at the appointed time God came through for him and his dues were restored to him.

The avenger is the one who takes vengeance on behalf of another. He exacts satisfaction by punishing. To avenge is to vindicate by inflicting pain or evil on a wrongdoer. You may currently be undergoing oppressive actions by individuals or groups of people because of your stand with God. In fact, your identity with Jesus and the truth of His word may attract bitter envy and hatred. However, your responsibility is not to fight back with your strength but wait on the Lord who can avenge you. God is your father, He knows you by name and sees how you are spitefully treated. Call on Him and He will arise to avenge you.

Action Point: God sees all you are going through and will avenge your course. Prophetic Declaration: The Lord fights my battles for me.

### UNDERSTANDING THE SECRET OF THE LORD Daniel 8:15-17

Humans are limited in understanding and cannot comprehend certain things unless it is revealed by the Lord. With the help of God through the Holy Spirit, believers have access to the secret things of the Lord. During Jesus' earthly ministry, He spoke to the multitude in parables leaving them with no understanding of His message, but to the disciples, He revealed unto them the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.

Daniel had certain visions and he was troubled as to what the meanings were. However, the Lord through the instrumentality of an angel told him the meaning of the vision. Remember, Daniel was not the only one in Babylon, but God decided to show him the mystery of the things to come. Naturally, Daniel did not understand the vision but later gained understanding from the one who revealed it in the first place. It is of little or no importance if you do not understand what God reveals to you. All glory to God, He has both the ability to reveal a thing and also grant understanding.

Action Point: It is God who gives an understanding of His words and revelations. Prophetic Declaration: My understanding is fruitful in all matters of life.

## RIGHT COMPANY 2 Corinthians 6:14-15

Many people think that this scripture refers exclusively to marriage. It does include marriage, but more than that, it relates to all kinds of relationships. As a Christian, it will be difficult for you to maintain an intimate relationship in every sense of it with a non-Christian. This is because you have one standard and non-Christians have another. You have the teaching of faith in Christ which forms the essence of all that you do but they do not. There are things permissible to them by their understanding that you know you cannot do. Hence, your approach to life will be different which will not allow for an intimate relationship. This does not mean that you be an enemy to non-Christians around you. In fact, there could be some of them with a very cool attitude and a good sense of morals but there are limits to which they can go with you. You need people of like minds as close friends and partners. People who will not find it difficult to allow you to live per God's terms. Live at peace with all men but maintain a close relationship with people of the household of faith.

Action Point: Assess your company of friends, are they lovers of God and people of the same mind? Prophetic Declaration: Light shines on my path.

# GODLY CORRECTION I 1 Thessalonians 5:14

This scripture of consideration gives an exposition on how to correct and admonish a disobedient brother or sister in Christ. The church must learn to correct in a godly manner. The knowledge of this rightful correction is essential for edifying the church. The reason many completely succumb to the temptations that constantly bombard them from the world is that they are condemned instead of corrected. The church must patiently admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted and help the weak.

God had placed the responsibility to correct and admonish on you and He expects that you should bring the unruly into the right path. You don't have to be perfect before you correct others, but you must not judge the wrong person. The Lord supposes you correct by tolerance and love. It is not loving to distance yourself from a fellow believer and passively watch him continue in sin. Also, to admonish correctly, you need to determine the level the person is spiritually. The understanding of this will give an accurate manner to correct.

Action Point: Don't be quarrelsome but be kind, patient and gentle in other to correct effectively. Prophetic Declaration: My requests will become testimonies.

## GODLY CORRECTION II Galatians 6:1

Godly correction requires knowing the person and their particular needs. To impact others for Christ, you have to know them and relate to them personally. Every godly correction stem from a heart of sincere love. Paul exhorted and encouraged to restore erring brethren in gentleness. This should be done with deep concern and love. You are not to despise, condemn or gossip about a wrong person, rather, restore them to the fold in love.

Paul's instruction is to gently work at restoring the fallen. Confronting those who have erred is hard and it must be for their correction, not condemnation. Genuine love for the person must precede you seeking their restoration; you must bear their burden. You must be willing to walk with them through the restoration period. Your attention to their need is as important as the truth you will confront them with. You must understand that correction that will be effective is a process, not an event. This process requires encouragement and support not rebuke. Your gentleness will touch them to work out the correction.

Action Point: Let your correction come from sincere love and gentleness of heart. Prophetic Declaration: I receive grace to be fit for every good work.

# A CALL TO FREEDOM Exodus 8:20

Captivity is a state whereby people are held under a bond. The captives are not able to move or walk freely, they are under strict restriction. Victims who are under any form of captivity will continually live their lives according to the commands and precepts of those who held them under bondage until they gain their freedom. Such is the case of the Israelites in the land of Egypt.

According to our text, Pharaoh held the people of Israel captive in the land of Egypt. The people of Israel could not serve their God, they were made slaves and confined to the rules and instructions under the command of Pharaoh. When God heard their cry and suffering, he sent Moses to Pharaoh to deliver them and lead them to freedom. For the people of Israel to get out of that bondage and have access to serve the God of their Fathers, they needed to be set free. What bondage are you also in that is deterring you from the privilege of serving God? Cry out to God for your deliverance and allow Him to break you loose from such bondages.

Action Point: Do not be content with your state of bondage, break loose. Prophetic Declaration: I step out of every bondage into my freedom.

# LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING Judges 1:6-7

A little girl asked her father what he needed to plant to be able to harvest maize on his farm. The father then answered that for him to harvest maize, he would have to plant maize seeds. He went further to tell his daughter that he cannot plant rice and expect to harvest maize. Likewise, in our text today, it is made clear that the punishment of Adonibezek may seem cruel, yet it is simply justice in the truest sense. The wickedness he had done to the seventy kings, was what he got back too.

In this life, you have the right to do whatever you want to do, but it is better and best to do well and walk according to the precepts of God. Whatever a man does to others shall be done back to him. The law of harvest established that whatever a man sows he will reap, this principle cannot be broken. You cannot sow wickedness and expect goodness in return. So, do to others as you want others to do to you too.

Action Point: Be certain your actions are right in accordance with the precepts of God. Prophetic Declaration: The Lord shall enlarge my coast and I shall have a bountiful harvest.

# LIVING BY GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS Genesis 26:1-5

Humans typically respond to difficult situations by running away from them. Hence, when something is not working well as expected, people naturally want to leave it to a system that works. In fact, it may be perceived as foolishness if for any reason someone chooses to stay where others are running away from. However, according to today's text, God instructed Isaac during a season of famine to remain in the land and not move to Egypt. God attached a promise of preservation and sustenance to this instruction.

As a believer, your preservation and sustenance in life is not based on doing what people typically do, but by living according to divine instructions. You need to subject every step you want to take to the leading of God to know what to do and what not to do irrespective of popular opinion. Believers prosper by obedience to divine instructions. Reconsider that step you want to take today, table it to God and follow His leading regardless of how men will perceive it. God never leads wrongly.

Action Point: Always enquire from God on every step you want to take and follow His leading. Prophetic Declaration: I am led by the Spirit of God.

## THE ULTIMATE REFUGE Psalms 11:1

I once watched a comedy skit: A little boy was cheated on and beaten by an adult and the child ran home crying. On sighting the child crying at home, his father asked what happened and the child narrated the event. The father asked the child to take him to the perpetrator and followed in so much anger. The child also led the way confidently because the father was going with him. On getting to the spot, the father started raging but became calm when he saw the intimidating physique of the perpetrator. The father apologized for interrupting his peace and took the child back home with excuses.

This is what you can expect when man, money, position etc., is what you make your refuge. At any point, they can disappoint because they are limited. God our Father is the ultimate refuge. He is not limited nor intimidated like the father in the above story. Except God is your refuge, you can be disgraced at any point. Trusting in man is trusting in the arm of flesh and it can fail you at any point. Always make God your refuge.

Action Point: Take refuge in God. Prophetic Declaration: God Almighty is my refuge today and always.

# BE CONFIDENT IN GOD Jeremiah 39:16-18

Today's text gives an exposition that God was not unmindful of that Ethiopian whom He had preserved. The Ethiopian man (Ebed-Melech) dared alone to go forth in a case so hopeless and undertook the cause of the prophet when others could not. God strengthened the confidence of the Ethiopian man that he might not fear or tremble like the others. This is the design of all God's promises, to keep us from being disturbed, to give us quietness of heart and to cause us to look for the help promised to us.

When fear lay hold of a man's mind, he is not settled but tossed to and fro. It was therefore God's design to bring aid beforehand so that the Ethiopian man will not be despaired like others. Are you afraid of the situation you are presently in? Be confident in the faithfulness of God, it dispels fears. Not being confident in God means a lack of trust in Him. Being confident of His power assures you of the fulfilment of all His promises. He has never failed anyone who put confidence in Him and He will not start with you.

Action Point: Confidence in man leads to failure, only put your confidence in God Prophetic Declaration: My trust is in the living God.

# GOD'S HELP Psalms 12:1-5

It is so unfortunate that we live in a world that is full of deceitful and ungodly people. It is a world where many people fail to be open and do not tell themselves the truth. We live in a society where neighbours, brothers and sisters do evil to their fellow humans. Hardly will any man or woman be ready to help you; it is only God's love and help that is genuine and real. Unless God helps you or touches the heart of men to help you in these times, it may be difficult for you to find help. You need God's help beyond what your fellow human beings can offer you.

There is a limit to the help that people can offer you, this is the more reason you need to seek God's help in all you do. For you to scale through life's hurdles, you need God's help and for you to prevail over people with flattering lips you also need God's help. The help of the Lord is the only reliable, dependable and certain help for man. So, trust God for help today.

Action Point: God's help is the ultimate. Prophetic Declaration: God is my helper.

# THE CONSEQUENCE OF TRANSGRESSION Joshua 7:10-15

The reason God gives commandments to man is primarily for man's benefit and not necessarily for God's benefit. When men transgress God's instructions, they call forth consequences to themselves. Unfortunately, many times, it is not only the transgressor that suffers for the sins but also others get to share in the consequences of that transgression.

In today's text, the children of Israel were embarrassed by a small people whom they should have defeated because of the transgression of one person in their camp. As a result of the transgression of this person, they lost some of their soldiers in the battle against Ai. God made it clear to Joshua that the transgression of the guilty man had made the people accursed and that caused their defeat. You should beware of transgressing God's commands for it attracts a punishment which will work against you and maybe even against some people associated with you. Always remember that the consequences of your transgressions may not be limited to just you.

Action Point: Obeying God's law brings Joy and peace Prophetic Declaration: I walk in obedience to the instructions of God.

# MAXIMIZING YOUR INFLUENCE I Esther 7:1-10

There is an attached purpose and responsibility to every seat/ position that those who occupy must engage. For Esther as queen, it was not different, the throne came with a purpose and duties; she had to stand in the gap for the Jews. For everyone on earth occupying one position or the other, there is a God-ordained purpose. It will be a waste of opportunity if you occupy a position and do not fulfil God's purpose for that place.

Esther was awakened by Mordecai when it seemed like she was relaxing in that area. Interestingly, she did not just pride herself in being the queen; she worked according to the will of God and never allowed the counsel of the enemy to prevail over the people of God. The gifts of God are irrevocable, yet they are for service and not for show. Are you fulfilling the counsel of God in your current position? If Esther had slacked, it would have been the end of the Jews in the land — Haman would have prevailed. Do not slack in the assignment God has positioned you for.

Action Point: Be deliberate about fulfilling God's will and purpose wherever you are. Prophetic Declaration: My life and resources fulfil God's purpose.

# MAXIMIZING YOUR INFLUENCE II Esther 8:1-10

Some use their influence for dubious means, while others take pleasure in using it as a weapon to fight against their fellow humans. This is quite obvious as we see in wars, national conflicts, and other vices that affect the human race. Many people use the power bequeathed to them for evil purposes. For Esther the Queen, it was not so.

While in the seventh chapter of the book of Esther, she stopped the evil plot of Haman, it was just not enough to end the pestilence that had already been programmed by Haman. She spoke to the king and Mordecai was promoted. Mordecai became the sure tool that was used to end the whole programme of annihilating the Jews.

Esther used her position to endorse Mordecai and helped the truth about the Jews prevail. Who is grateful to God regarding the position that God has placed you in? Are you helping the will of God to prevail always? Take a pause and think about this. It is not enough to complain about evil but much more than that, use your position to stand for God's truth always.

Action Point: Daily let the kingdom of God and His righteousness be your priority. Prophetic Declaration: I influence my world for God.

# STAND UP FOR THE TRUTH Jeremiah 32:1-5

From our text today, Zedekiah, king of Judah had Jeremiah imprisoned because he prophesied the truth; the Word of God. Though Jeremiah could have chosen to go back on the word so he could be freed, he chose to stand up for the truth (even when it required that he would be imprisoned). So many believers are afraid of opposition and persecution that come hand-in-hand with standing with and for the truth.

In our world today, there seems to be no difference between some believers and unbelievers. Many have joined in the chorus "If we can't beat them, then we join them". Many twist God's word to suit their taste, they cannot boldly declare God's word. In the face of persecution, many have denied Christ. As believers, it is expected that you stand for the truth even if it would mean losses to you. Do not tamper with the truth because of persecution. It is better to stand for the truth and enjoy eternal life than enjoy life on earth and be condemned in the afterlife.

Action Point: When you stand for the truth, God will stand up for you. Prophetic Declaration: I stand with Christ no matter the cost.

#### June 1

## BE RIGHTEOUS 1 John 3:7

To be righteous is to be in the state of being right with God, having a right standing with Him. One's thoughts, words and actions are expected to be in alignment with God's word. As a Christian, it is important for you to be like Him for He is interested in every aspect of your life. God's nature is in you; therefore, your life should reflect Christ who is righteous.

God wants every man to stay righteous and separated from sin and its works. However, the person considered by God to be righteous is one who believes in the gospel of Christ and as a result honours and obeys all His commands. That was why He sent His only begotten son to redeem you. Are you thinking you are lost in the world and your steps cannot be retraced? Worry no more. All you need is to go back to God who is so rich in mercy, for He saves, gives hope and makes righteous. He loves you and He is ready to make you clean and grant you a right standing with Him only if you will arise and call on Him now.

Action Point: Retrace your steps back to God today. Prophetic Declaration: I am righteous and acceptable.

## ENQUIRE FROM GOD FIRST 2 Chronicles 18: 1-4

An alliance is a relationship based on similarity of interests, nature, or qualities for mutual benefit, especially between countries or organizations. The first alliance king Jehoshaphat formed with Israel is the marriage of his son to King Ahab's daughter. At first, the alliance worked, but Ahab wanted to draw Jehoshaphat into a war that was against God's will. Jehoshaphat, at that point, saw a need to enquire from God before going ahead into the battle.

As a Christian, it is also expected of you to pray before coming into agreement with anyone at every point of your life. Do not be associated with whom God has dissociated from, it could bring calamity upon you. You are too shortsighted to foresee what the long-term consequences of the association will be in the present and future. Have you asked yourself if maybe or maybe not the relationships you are into are God-ordained or if they are the devil's way to destroy you? Make it a necessity to always enquire from God before you go into any agreement, alliance or mission with anyone.

Action Point: Always enquire from God on all matters. Prophetic Declaration: I will not walk out of God's way and will.

## GOD'S KINDNESS 2 Samuel 9:1-5

It was common practice in those days to kill all members of a previous dynasty to prevent any descendant from seeking the throne. As long as a person from the previous royal lineage remained alive, they were often perceived as threats to the new king. Yet, David's response was quite the contrary. He asked, "Is there anyone remaining from Saul's family that I can show kindness to because of Jonathan?". Kindness often speaks of tenderness. What David was expressing was a deep demonstration of love that was undeserved, unearned and unrepayable. David had made a promise to Jonathan, his beloved friend and the son of Saul that he would show kindness to the remaining members of Saul's household; David now intended to keep that promise. That's what God does for us.

God is kind because it is His nature. What David did for Mephibosheth, God desires to do for you; He wants to show you His kindness. Just as the king brought the outcast into the palace and made him a son, He desires to bring you into His presence.

Action Point: Show kindness to someone who is undeserving of it this week. Prophetic Declaration: I receive the favour of God and men.

# THE DANGERS OF JUDGING OTHERS Romans 2:1-3

It is typical in human nature to directly or indirectly judge others. However, according to today's text, judging others is claiming self-righteousness. It is not only a sin but also stands to blind you from seeing your faults. Judging others makes you conveniently forget about your sins. It then becomes difficult to work on yourself and become a better person because you will always see yourself to be a perfect person. When you see things being done the wrong way, you have the right to call out so that things will be corrected but you do not have the right to condemn anyone which is characteristic of judgment.

However, when you are not different from the person who you are trying to correct, even when they have done the wrong things, it is unlikely that you will be listened to. Even if you are listened to, you are putting yourself up to God's judgment because you are no different. Therefore, you must be different from the norm in your environment. That is when you will be able to correct others.

Action Point: Live a life that is different and godly. Prophetic Declaration: I have received grace to live above sin.

#### June 5

#### ALWAYS OBEY Acts 9:10-18

Obedience is very weighty in Christendom. It is weighty because so much often depends on simple obedience. King Saul lost his throne because he couldn't wait just a little more for Prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 13). Apostle Peter lost the opportunity to serve as God's vessel to the Gentile because he couldn't obey a simple instruction to "get up, kill and eat" (Act 10:13). This disobedience was not deliberate in the obvious sense; rather it was due to Peter's inability to see God in the counter-common-sense situation.

What the Lord instructed Ananias to do concerning Paul was also counter-common-sense; however, he obeyed and served as one of the prominent instruments that helped kick-start the effective and far-reaching ministry of Apostle Paul to the Gentiles. As a child of God, you must learn to suspend your common sense for God's will to take pre-eminence. You must always obey God's instruction notwithstanding what your perspective and opinion are. Obedience to God must be absolute in all circumstances.

Action Point: Prompt obedience to divine assignment is important. Prophetic Declaration: I am ordained for divine relevance.

## TERMS OF MEETING Exodus 25:18-22

Many times, when an app is downloaded to be used on a device, a certain pop-up shows that it requires you to commit to following and complying with some instructions or demands. This is generally referred to as "Terms and Conditions". Agreeing to these terms and conditions gives you access to the various promised functions of the applications. In the same way, there are terms and conditions that apply to our worship of God.

God instructed Moses concerning the building of the ark and its specific components. He told him exactly how it was to be constructed and what it was to contain. And He promised that from above the Mercy Seat constructed upon the ark, He was going to meet with them. There are specific terms for meeting with God. God desires to meet with and commune with you; however, you are required to meet up with His "terms". You are to play your part and then He will meet you as promised. You have to do it His way and the terms are written in the scriptures.

Action Point: Find out the terms and conditions that apply to worship and communication with God from the scriptures. Prophetic Declaration: I find access into God's word.

# LIKE FATHER, UNLIKE SON 1 Samuel 20:12-17

Have you ever been in a situation where you know that by right, certain things belong to you but you are being denied? The scenario explains the situation in which Jonathan found himself. By descent, he was supposed to succeed Saul but David was divinely chosen instead. Yet Jonathan agreed with God's plan without any form of bitterness. He agreed to David being king after his father while Saul wanted him dead. It is often said "Like father, like son" but in this case, "Like father, unlike son."

Jonathan the son of Saul decided not to follow the path of his father. He maintained a kind nature even to the one whom his father wanted dead. Saul gave reasons to Jonathan why he should hate David and seek his death as he did, but Jonathan maintained his stand and refused to inherit the enemy of his father. Maintaining a godly standard is a pointer to whether or not you are like your heavenly father who died for humanity even while we were yet sinners. You should strive to be good to everyone.

Action Point: Love everyone around you as Christ does. Prophetic Declaration: I live my life as a true son of God.

# QUESTION OF IDENTITY 2 Kings 1:5-8

A man's identity is his definition. It defines a man in a way that is unique to only him. Hence, the peculiarity of someone's identity makes it so that it could become a trademark by which he is known. From the text, the king asked "What kind of man?". This question was only probing into the man's identity. There were two things the king needed to ascertain about the man and the first was already settled - the man's boldness in speech. Then, the servant described the manner of man he saw and the king could then say, without a doubt "Elijah the Tishbite."

What are you known for? What is the general opinion of those who see, know or are close to you? Will their description of you be Christ-like or worldly? What kind of person are you? Are you who people think you are or a person of double standard? You are a hypocrite when you live a double standard life. With such a lifestyle, you can't claim to be a Christian. Do not let your identity be confusing.

Action Point: Redefine your identity by adjusting your life where necessary. Prophetic Declaration: I shine as light.

## PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION Daniel 9:3-11

God has always loved to be near man since creation. Therefore, He established a means of meeting with man. Communication keeps a relationship going and there are many ways through which we can communicate with God. Prayer and supplication are vital means of communicating with God. When we know the heart of God through His word, it is expedient to make our request known to Him through prayers.

The case of Daniel was not an exception. He understood by books the situation of the children of Israel in captivity; the time frame needed to spend in captivity. The knowledge he had made him go to God in prayers. In that case, the only rescue means was prayers. Prayer is a means by which man involves God in his case. Men that know how to bend their knees in the place of prayer are always victorious in all circumstances. At every point of your life; the good, the not so good and the bad, remember you should always take matters to God in prayer. In the place of prayers, burdens are lifted and answers are received.

Action Point: Henceforth, be disciplined to first talk to God in prayers on all issues. Prophetic Declaration: As I bow my knees to God in prayers, I receive answers.

# PRAY WITHOUT CEASING 1 Timothy 2:8

Men ought to pray without ceasing. Prayer should not be time, location or situation bound. Prayer should be a habitual action. The Lord desires that you cultivate the attitude of prayer. Prayer is fellowshipping and communion with God. Intimacy is built in the place of intense prayers. Prayer emanates from the heart that is aligned with God and His purpose. You cannot wear God out with your prayers, He asks you to pray until your joy is full.

Your heart should be so in touch with your Father and so in love with the Lord that it is your delight to filter every thought that comes into your mind and to offer up every situation in which you find yourself to God in prayers. You should bring whoever you are with or whoever crosses the path of your thoughts to the Lord in prayer. Paul exhorts us not to be in a state of anger or argument when we pray but our petition should be from a heart that is holy and clean before the Lord, a heart that is gentle and gracious, a heart that is submissive before the Lord.

Action Point: Cultivate the habit of prayer. Prophetic Declaration: I receive answers to my requests.

# CALL ON THE LORD Psalms 116:1-6

The creator/inventor of a product/object can easily understand and relate very well with the object more than the user of the product. This is because the creator knows what elements he put together to put up such a creation and can easily ascertain which part isn't working if a fault arises. God created humans in His likeness and every part of the human body, He understands how they all work and can easily relate and respond to them. The Psalmist in today's text said he called upon the name of the Lord and He responded. God heard and gave a response because the person calling is His creation, His child. He understands what it means to cry and call on Him for help and so He responded.

He understands how you feel, He knows what you need, and He sees your sorrows, troubles and challenges. He wants you to call on Him. Who have you been calling on? Now is the time to change and call on God only, not only in bad times but also in good times. He understands better and He will respond to you best.

Action Point: Call on God anytime, He is closer than you think and is always ready to listen. Prophetic Declaration: My life is in God's hands.

## GOD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE Psalms 9:3-8

Most politicians begin to campaign, making a lot of promises such as a good working system in all sectors of the country when elections are nearby, but once elected, they forget about their promises. Evil is being perpetrated but no justice and equity. In recent times, the fear of being kidnapped and attacked has gripped the heart of many because these people keep on their evil acts and the victims cry out to the government for help but no justice is gotten. The poor people are being cheated out of their rights with no one to seek justice for them. Some people are victims of rape, false allegations, and kidnapping. These are taken to court, but no justice.

On the other hand, our God is a just God; He judges accordingly. When the weak and poor cry out to Him, He comes to their rescue. Our God is a reliable help to the helpless and the hope to the hopeless. It might look like the wicked are having headway but when you cry out to God, He comes to your rescue and judges accordingly and with righteousness.

Action Point: Pray that God helps us as a nation. Prophetic Declaration: Nigeria is redeemed from evil.

# A GOOD AMBASSADOR 2 Corinthians 5:20

Fundamentally, an ambassador represents the interest of a superior person or authority in a foreign land. The primary quality of an ambassador is the soundness of their baptism in the culture, life, traditions and principles of their homeland and the ability to represent all of those without compromising on any, in their foreign sojourn. Good ambassadors carry the seed of their homeland and plant it carefully, water it, and nurture it to grow wherever they find themselves. Their primary goal is to ensure and establish a thorough semblance of who they represent in everyone they meet.

As Christ's ambassador, you are called to plant the seed of Christ in your family, neighbourhood, office, school, and everywhere. You must be deliberate about reflecting Christ in your speech, relationships, actions and vocations. Your primary goal is to ensure that the love of Christ abounds on the surface of the earth and His eternal message is preached to all men. However, for you to be a good ambassador of Christ, you have to surrender all to Him.

Action Point: Today, make a post on your social media handle(s) showing your stand for Christ. Prophetic Declaration: I am God's ambassador on earth.

## CALL TO ARISE Luke 15:11-18

Man by nature loves to live not being accountable to anyone all in the name of freedom. Many people in an attempt to live such a life had lived recklessly and eventually made a shipwreck of their faith. However, there is a common saying, "To err is human and to forgive is divine." That sentence reveals that believers at a time could miss the mark when care is not taken but, God grants forgiveness when one realizes he has gone astray and amends his ways.

However, like the younger son, you must acknowledge and resolve in your heart to arise. "To arise" does not in any way mean that you are in a seated position, but it simply means to "immediately return." This should be your response if you err and you are conscious of guilt. God is telling you today, the problem is not in your fall but it is in your refusal to arise again. In whatever way you have turned against God, He is waiting for your return, arise today and trace your step back to the cross. God is ever ready to receive you back.

Action Point: Arise today and go back to your daily commitment to the word and prayer. Prophetic Declaration: I am not of them that draw back, I am strong in the Lord.

## THE ALMIGHTY GOD Exodus 4:10-12

The word Almighty means that God has the might, power and ability it takes to do anything and everything He desires to do. This implies that God cannot be hindered from doing what he purposes to do. The sovereignty of God cannot be questioned. He's an all-knowing God who does all things as He wills. In the text for today, Moses asked God questions, telling Him about how his weakness and deficiency can limit Him from carrying out the task God has for him. Moses forgot that the Lord is the one who created all things and also has the power to change anything. The unending power and might of God were brought back to Moses' remembrance.

So many times you have also found yourself in situations where you saw your weakness instead of seeing God. You forgot that God is an Almighty God who has the power to step into your issues and make a way when it seems impossible. Whenever you are in any situation that seems difficult to walk through, tell it to God and trust God as the Almighty who can save you and help you out.

Action Point: God's strength is made known in man's weakness. Prophetic Declaration: The hand of God is upon my life to change everything for good.

## GOD CARES FOR YOU Psalms 8: 4-8

God is a caring father, and just as most earthly fathers will nurture, care and give all that their children need, much more, your heavenly father desires the best for you as His child. The plans of God for you are not evil but rather to enjoy the riches of His glory. His care starts immediately you surrender all to Him and yield to His will.

The caring attribute of God is shown through dominion over other things He has created, blessings, breakthroughs and victories over the enemy at all times. His love is expressed to you in all situations of life notwithstanding your present state. Let this assurance be in you that you have a father who cares more than any human being. His care is not conditional nor seasonal like man's care but everlasting. The plan of God is also to make life meaningful and comfortable for you. Do not be deceived that His care is for certain people but for as many that accept the fact that He is their father.

Action Point: The care of a father is immense. Today, celebrate your father (or a father figure) in a grand style. Prophetic Declaration: I am not abandoned; God cares for me.

## GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS I Genesis 24:10-20

Abraham had made his servant swear an oath to go to His people to find a wife for his son. It was important to Abraham that a wife was not taken for Isaac from the people of Canaan. His servant, while embarking on this crucial task decided to ask the Lord for guidance. He put out signs to know that he had found God's choice for His master's son, Isaac. Graciously, God honoured the signs that were put forth.

It is very common for people, including believers to make decisions solely by mental analysis and forget or downplay prayers because the devil is selling the lie that God does not answer prayers or that He is slow to respond to prayers if at all He does. God is still a prayer-answering God and as many that sincerely seek Him, He answers. You should not allow the devil to deny you of the blessedness of God's will for your life on matters by failing to pray concerning every matter. It is said that if there is a man to pray, there is a God who answers.

Action Point: God answers prayers, so pray concerning all things. Prophetic Declaration: I receive the answers to my prayers.

# GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS II Genesis 25:20-21

When prayer is offered to God, it is a declaration of man's need for God and an acknowledgement of God's limitless power to do all things. Hence, prayer is not the uttering of mindless words but a declaration of faith in God in itself. This means that prayer is not really being made if the person praying has no trust in God or His ability to attend to the matter being prayed about. The extent to which you can pray about anything is the extent to which you believe God can and is willing to do it.

Isaac knew that God could open barren wombs and so He beseeched God on behalf of his wife that her womb would be opened and God answered him. Perhaps, Isaac had developed faith in God about this particular situation from stories of his birth that he heard from his parents. Isaac knew that God could answer this challenge of barrenness and He prayed. He knew that God answers prayers. You should have faith in God too. Pray in faith concerning that problem today.

Action Point: Pray specifically about a troubling situation. Prophetic Declaration: I worry about nothing.

#### BE NOT ASHAMED 2 Timothy 1:11-12

In the beginning, man was created to have fellowship with God which ended abruptly. God needed to restore the broken relationship and Christ became the solution thereby connecting God and man. And anyone who accepts Christ becomes a child of God and a member of His family. As you become a child of God you need to rise for the salvation of others without being ashamed of the gospel.

A believer, therefore, needs not to be ashamed to proclaim the gospel to everyone. You can engage in soul winning, intercession for lost souls and through your character, speech and godly lifestyle, you could draw men to Christ. Also as a Christian, you are expected to show the light, stand out, and declare boldly your faith. People might mock you at your place of work, school, family or community. Do not be ashamed. You need to exhibit boldness to face the world when speaking about Christ; no matter what happens do not be ashamed to be known for the gospel. Know who you believe in, declare your faith in Christ against all odds and He will uphold you till the end.

Action Point: Stand out for Christ as you go out today. Prophetic Declaration: I will never be put to shame.

## INTEGRITY 2 Samuel 9:7-13

Molly McCord said, "As you experience changes and breakthroughs, know that integrity, honesty and truth are the highest vibrating energies to guide you forward. Everything else will fall away." David in the text today was not under any obligation or compulsion to fulfil his words to his late friend's family, other than his desire to be a man of his words, and that in itself is a great lesson for you to emulate. One of the important qualities of great men is integrity.

Take a moment to reflect on your life, can it be said of you that you are a man or woman of integrity? Can people depend on you, taking your words to mean anything serious? Look within and reflect on many promises you have made that you have no intention to keep. If there are some of such promises that can be revisited and fulfilled, I implore you to do accordingly but if they may not be amended, begin this day to be a man of your words. Say words which you intend to keep and stop making promises you cannot fulfil.

Action Point: Say what you mean and mean what you say. Prophetic Declaration: I am helped by the Lord.

# THE MAN THAT DESERVES THE WAIT 1 Samuel 16:6-13

It is not everyone who is given a leadership role, a great assignment to carry out or a reward that really does deserve it. Some rewards and positions are been granted to people not because they deserve to be given but because the people around them think it should be given to them, without considering what God has to say about it or whether they are worth it. However, God's ways are not man's and someone considered irrelevant by man can be the best fit for God. According to human reasoning, David stands no chance to be the new king, but God confounds the wise with the foolish things.

The text today makes it clear that God, in His own way, will always provide leaders for Himself. God is still busy raising up leaders in unlikely places, places no one would think of. Just like He raised David and made him king, God is raising diligent men for His work. Endeavour to be committed to the little you have at hand. God is watching and will call you up for manifestation at the due time.

Action Point: Release yourself to be made by God. Prophetic Declaration: I am great.

# BE JUST IN YOUR JUDGEMENT Isaiah 5:20

Ruth, the daughter of a poor woman was competing in the final stage of a debate with Favour, the daughter of a rich man. After the competition, Favour was declared the winner. However, a concerned person investigated to know the margin of the marks as he expected that Ruth will win and then it was discovered that Ruth won, leading Favour with 10 marks. Unjustly, the panel had announced Favour as the winner because they considered her father's wealth and influence and wouldn't want to announce her to have lost the first position to Ruth.

Poor people are often cheated by those who have power, wealth and influence. Justice is being taken away from them because of their status and weakness. However, according to today's text, God stands against any act of injustice. It is important for you to always remember that God's wrath is on people who know good and call it evil or vice versa. God is expecting you as His child and representative here on earth to stand for justice, righteousness and equity.

Action Point: Always stand for the right things. Prophetic Declaration: Every good thing that belongs to me shall not be given to another person.

## BE A GOOD EXAMPLE Esther 1: 13 - 19

Every human has influence, no matter how little it might be. As a Christian, your influence is very significant and far-reaching. The scripture describes you as "a city set on the hilltop". What is set on the hilltop can be seen by all and from a long distance. As a result, many people look at you as a point of reference and model in many ways. This significantly increases your influence on their behaviour, attitude and character.

Queen Vashti must have for a minute forgotten her status as the queen in the land when she chose to dishonour and disobey the king. Because she was the queen, she was the model for all women in the land. Her disobedience, as described by Memucan would be imitated by all women in the land, causing them to also be disobedient to their husbands (verse 17). The world is also looking at you as a model for righteousness, godliness and sound character. Any deviation by you from the wholesomeness of Christ will be used as justification for sin. Be a good example that consistently portrays the ideals of God's kingdom.

Action Point: Let your actions be a positive influence on people. Prophetic Declaration: I am strengthened for positive impact.

# THE POWER OF GIVING 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Someone once said, "Giving is not giving until you felt that you gave". This is similar to the words of King David —"I will not give God an offering that costs me nothing." Giving is not in how much you have, but in how much you can sacrifice. The story of the widow in Mark 12: 41 - 44 drives this message more clearly. Though the woman contributed comparatively and numerically lower than others, Jesus said she contributed the most to the treasury, because she gave sacrificially.

Giving is like sowing a seed. The seed usually looks small at the time of sowing, but when it is sowed sacrificially, and watered with a generous heart, it grows and multiplies and is harvested. No matter how little it seems you have, give generously and obediently. God is not so concerned in the "how much" as much as He is concerned in the disposition of your heart to giving. He wants you to give to Him in honour. Much more, God is not only requiring that you give monetarily, He wants you to give your time and energy in service to Him and His church.

Action Point: Make every giving blessing worthy. Prophetic Declaration: I have all I need.

# DISOBEDIENCE IS COSTLY Jeremiah 39:1-8

Prophet Jeremiah declared the words of God unto King Zedekiah who chose not to obey the voice of God. His disobedience did not only bring about destruction for him but also the whole city. Obedience is an act of being willing and doing what one is told to and obedience cannot be done halfway, total obedience is required. Truly, it is not easy to be obedient, but the cost of being obedient cannot be compared to the punishment, discomfort, destruction and agony that disobedience brings.

Disobedience has deprived many children of God from accessing divine assistance. Obedience may not be an easy thing to do but it is the best thing you can do. When the word of God comes to you, do not hesitate. Be obedient totally and not in part; partial obedience is equal to disobedience. Obedience is better than sacrifice. When you are obedient, it is easier for you to come before God to make your requests known to Him. A child who does not do the will of the father is guilt conscious and would not be bold before the father. Obedience always pays off.

Action Point: If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good of the land. Prophetic Declaration: I am obedient at all times.

#### GOD STILL CARES Psalms 144:3

Years ago, a man told a story of how he almost depended on another man's help during his wedding ceremony preparation. The alleged helper promised to help him but could not as the day gradually came by. It is possible for a man to be disappointed, especially when all hope and gaze is fixed on another man instead of God. God is not like man; He knows how best to take care of His own.

The writer of today's psalm ascribes all success to God instead of human prowess or capability. This verse is an exclamation of surprise, which is mostly mentioned when the weakness of man is brought before him after he has tried all the best he could; still, God does care for man more than any other creature of His. It is not enough that God cares for you, the joy of that care is not realized until you know that God cares for all things that concern you. Are you weary and heavily laden, or your hope is dashed and you feel you are all alone? You are not alone; the Father is still concerned about you.

Action Point: Put your hope and trust in God. Prophetic Declaration: I know that God cares for me.

# SAVIOURS 1 Samuel 19:1-5, 11-12

For every decision that is taken, either in the spiritual or physical world, the Lord's or the devil's, the agency of man is always needed for its execution. Saul was determined to kill David and he needed the right persons and situations to execute his plan. It was amazing that the instrumentality proposed for his execution turned out to be that which delivered him at each point. David never knew all that was being planned against him yet God used the household of his greatest enemy to hint him and deliver him from every evil plan.

You must acknowledge that it is only God that can rescue you from all evil and harm. The earlier you understand this, the better for you. Additionally, God will use men to rescue you, hence, you should be kind to people because you do not know who will be in the position of help. David had a good relationship with Jonathan and Michal and they helped save him. However, whether friends or strangers, the assurance is that God always raises people to save His children from harm.

Action Point: Be confident in God's safety for you. Prophetic Declaration: God keeps me safe.

## WITH GOD IN TRIALS Job 2:9-10

Storms are inevitable in life's journey but the kind of storm that each person faces and how we go through the storm makes the difference in our stories. Who you choose to go through your storms with will determine how palatable the experience will be for you. It will also determine who you will be at the end of the experience; a victor or a victim.

In today's passage, Job was passing through the storm of life but he chose to go through it with God. He understood that the storm is beyond him and he stayed loyal to God. Against the advice of his wife and away from the reaction of his friends against God, he remained loyal to God. No wonder his story ended victoriously despite all he passed through. As a Christian, until you understand that you cannot overcome your storms without God's help, you will continue to be a victim of your situations. Instead of going against God in trials, you should move even closer. Jesus is the only one who can journey with you through this storm and you will not be consumed.

Action Point: When things get tougher, stay closer to God. Prophetic Declaration: I have peace of mind.

# OUR AUTHORITY IN CHRIST 2 Corinthians 10:8

The word authority which is defined as the right to give orders or make decisions can be exercised positively or negatively, depending on the kind of person exercising the authority. However, as a child of God, the authority you have in Christ should be used for the edification of the souls of men and the church at large. This has to do with achieving moral and spiritual improvement through encouragement and instructions in Christ. Edification brings about growth, which is a positive way of exercising your authority in Christ.

Whatever position or right you have through God must be considered a privilege and not be used against others. God gives grace and gifts for the building of the saints not for pulling down the body of Christ. Examine yourself and judge if you are a good steward of the grace and gifts you have received. You have not received them so that you could brag about them and oppress others, it is so that you can edify the body of Christ.

Action Point: Your authority in Christ is for the edification of souls. Prophetic Declaration: I will not lose my authority in Christ.

## A STEP OF FAITH Esther 2: 8 - 11

It is simply human to look down on and write off oneself. Humans judge situations by the reality that is perceptible to them and make decisions based on the information that is available to them. Humanly speaking, Esther had no business in the palace, not to think of considering that she might be crowned queen. She was a slave, whose guardian was a lowly commoner in the society. Yet, she would not allow her reality to hold her back from contesting to become the queen. She was ready to take a leap of faith, and she eventually found favour with God.

You might also seem limited in life by your background, education, status and other human indices, however, as long as you trust in God and you are ready to take steps of faith, you will overcome your limitations. You can get that job as long as you have the faith to apply, you can pass the exam as long as you have the faith to sit for it. Your God is a God of all possibilities; your current reality cannot limit Him. Only have faith and take actions per your faith and you will find favour in your endeavour.

Action Point: Do not give in to fear, take a step of faith. Prophetic Declaration: I will make it.

# A PERFECT HEART BEFORE THE LORD 1 Kings 16:9-15

After the death of Solomon, a few other kings reigned in his stead and mostly did what was evil in the sight of God. Some of them were wicked and dealt wickedly with God's people and some were given to the service of strange Gods. However, after a while, Asa became king and was said to have done what was right in the sight of the Lord just like David did. Asa went as far as dethroning his mother from being queen because she had an idol she had carved. He walked with a perfect heart before God.

It takes fear and absolute dedication to God to override a system that had been run by the wicked. However, when a man maintains a perfect heart before God, He can put down godly principles even in places that have been ruled by wickedness. This is how every believer ought to operate wherever they find themselves. At your workplace or business, in your family and across your various spheres of influence, how much are you acting in the fear of God? You ought to maintain a perfect heart before God and let it show in all that you do.

Action Point: You are a light and you must shine for God. Prophetic Declaration: I live to influence my world with the Godflavours within me.

# THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD Ezekiel 37: 1-2

The Spirit of the Lord is the presence of God in the life of His children. The Spirit of the Lord is the third person of the Trinity. God is three distinct persons in one. He is unique in this way, and this is the mystery of God. The Spirit is a person, not a thing. The Spirit of the Lord can be grieved but He can also be pleased as you rely on Him to give direction and strength to live in a way that's consistent with God's plan. When the hand of God came upon Ezekiel, He was led by the Spirit of the Lord to a valley of dry bones. The Lord performed great wonders before Ezekiel as he submits to the leading of the Spirit.

Anyone that is going to enjoy the fullness of God must rely on the leadership of the Spirit of the Lord. Revelations of God come only through His Spirit. The Lord takes pleasure in you surrendering your life to His Spirit so that He can use you mightily. It is through His Spirit that you have access to His power and authority. Therefore, be filled with His Spirit and sensitive to Him.

Action Point: The Spirit is essential in fellowship with God. Prophetic Declaration: I enjoy miracles by His Spirit.

# GOD HONOURS COVENANT Exodus 6: 1-8

Let God be true and every man be a lie. God is ever faithful to His words and His promises, He never goes back on any word He says. God will always honour His promises. The children of Israel were in anguish and sorrow, and the king of Egypt decided not to let them go to the promised land God had prepared for them, instead he added to their labour and multiplied their suffering. When the Israelites cried to God, He heard and remembered the promise He made to their fathers and He sent Moses to deliver them.

No matter how delayed it seems, God has not forgotten you and He will never forget you. He loves you and cares so much about you. Do not believe the devil's lie that God has abandoned you. God loves you and He will fulfil every promise He has made to you because He is a God that honours covenant, agreement and promises. The most important thing is that you remain steadfast in him. He will not be late. He will show up just at the right time.

Action Point: Remain steadfast as you wait on God. Prophetic Declaration: My appointed time of mercy and favour is now.

# SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS Acts 10:1-8

One of the most critical skills required to sustain relationships is communication. Without communication, a lot of things go wrong. Without communication assumption is inevitable and it can be catastrophic. There are also levels of communication. Some are superficial while some are deep. God communicates with His children based on the level of their relationship with Him. In Genesis 18, God extensively communicated His intention concerning Sodom and Gomorrah to Abraham with great detail. He hid nothing from Him.

Similarly, Cornelius was visited by the angel of the Lord and was given specific instructions to follow. This is a testament to how God can communicate deeply with His children and instruct them with specific details. To have access to such detail you need to spend quality time with God and grow in intimacy with Him. This is to establish a solid relationship through which He has unrestricted access to your time and resources. He will always come at the appropriate time and order your steps.

Action Point: Be available for God to speak to you at any point in time. Prophetic Declaration: My life shall be a blessing.

#### KINDNESS REPAID 2 Samuel 9:1-8

Life and all that dwells in it are governed by principles. There are principles that work in agricultural settings such as planting and harvesting. In physics, the law of gravity, thermodynamics etc. Also, a vital principle of life is that of reaping the works of one's hand, whether good or bad.

Jonathan is long dead, yet it pleases David to fulfil his vows to his family. The kindness of the father was rewarded unto the son; Mephibosheth. This is the case for many individuals who enjoy either the good or bad rewards of their parents or predecessors. Yes, of a truth, no believer is under any ancestral curse any longer, but you need not be ignorant of the fact that whatever you do or do not do has impacts on the quality of life your child (or children) will enjoy tomorrow, just as that of your parent affects yours. A popular saying, 'The good or evil that men do live after them' is true. Henceforth, live right, knowing fully well that the way you live affects not only yourself but also the generation that comes after you.

Action Point: Actions have effects. Prophetic Declaration: My latter end shall surpass my beginning in glory.

#### GOD OUR REFUGE Psalms 57:1

In this present world, there is no safe place. There has always been evil in the world and it seems as if the rate at which evil occurs is increasing day by day. This has left people feeling unsafe and everybody tends to seek a refuge. A refuge is a place of safety and shelter from danger or trouble, and it can only be found in God.

When your soul trusts in the Lord and you prayerfully seek His mercy, you have an assurance that in the utmost danger, trouble and calamities, you will overcome and be victorious. He will protect and bring you out of the with resounding dangers and trouble testimony. Meanwhile, you need to know that seeking refuge in God does not mean that trouble or danger will never arise. Rather, the refuge you have in God will serve as a place of safety for you during these times of danger or trouble. This is also part of the advantage you have as a child of God. God is a father who protects you and in Him you find refuge.

Action Point: The surest refuge is found in God. Prophetic Declaration: I am secured in God's refuge.

#### July 7

#### STEP OUT Mark 5:25-29

Some people find it difficult to take steps or actions that are different from the norms and order of society. While some fear being insulted, others just want to earn the praise of the people around them. It would be worthy of note that those who decide to stand out as children of God experience mouth-watering miracles, they experience very different dimensions of God in their day-to-day lives. The woman with the issue of blood was among the crowd at some point, and the impact of her faith wasn't felt until she stepped out of the crowd to touch the cloak of Jesus. Her faith could have remained in her thoughts, but she decided to take action, and that action birthed her healing. Moving with the crowd will only stagnate you, but the moment you decide to stop acting or doing things like the crowd, you will shine forth. The crowd around Jesus didn't experience that unique miracle because being around Jesus has become a norm for them. However, this woman maximized the opportunity at her disposal, she was intentional about receiving her healing and she did.

Action Point: Don't be lost in the crowd, do the extra. Step out! Prophetic Declaration: My testimonies are made perfect.

# GOD'S SIGHT Exodus 4: 10-16

The sight of God is eternal, He sees farther and better than the sight of man. To enjoy deeper dimensions of God, as well as experience unusual moves of God in every aspect of your life, there is a need for you to have the sight that enables you to see things the way God sees them. In today's passage, it is quite evident that Moses did not see himself the way God saw him and that is the reason he gave several excuses as to why he considered himself unfit for the task given to him.

It is pertinent to know that the vision, ministry or whatever assignment given to you by God cannot be accomplished based on what you see alone. You need to see the vision or assignment the way God sees it for it to be accomplished. You need to begin to see yourself the way God sees you so you can accomplish the task He has given you. If you were not fit for it, He would not have given you in the first instance. Remember that God does not just give tasks, He gives to each person according to the ability He has given them.

Action Point: If God has asked you to do it, it is because He has given you the capacity for it. Prophetic Declaration: I receive boldness to do what the Lord instructs.

## GOD IS CONCERNED ABOUT LITTLE THINGS John 6: 4 - 12

There were 5000 plus people to be fed. There wasn't anything logical or human that warranted Apostle Andrew to mention the five barley loaves and two fishes with the boy. It humanly doesn't make any sense. That was obviously not the information that was relevant at the moment. One could rightly doubt if the loaves and fishes can even satisfactorily feed the boy. There was a similar situation in the call of Moses. He was called to lead the Israelites out of servitude, but he only had a stick. Also with David, he wanted to fight Goliath but he only had a string.

In many such situations where you find yourself as a believer, you might have considered some things you have as insignificant. Your talent, skills and gift might seem little but with God, that little thing is even for a mindblowing act. God is very interested in those little things. Lay them before Him and watch Him do miracles with them. Do not think small of yourself or what you possess, God can make a mind-blowing act out of it.

Action Point: Put that 'small thing' to use today. Prophetic Declaration: I multiply and increase.

# STRENGTH AND COURAGE Joshua 1:6-9

When God calls a man, there are virtues He requires of that man to walk with Him and to be successful in the mission given to Him. Two of those virtues were emphasized in the text read today—be strong and courageous. Strength and courage were two things God instructed Joshua to possess as God had called him to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land.

Many times, when God's call comes, it appears as something terrifying or too great for humans to be a part of. However, to walk with God in achieving what He wants to achieve, strength and courage must be employed. The lack of these two virtues will lead to non-fulfilment of what one has been called to do. What vision has God placed in your hands that you have not even acknowledged because of how great it seems? Today, the Lord is charging you to receive strength and courage from Him to embark on that vision. Be strong and courageous because the Lord is with you in the assignment He has given you.

Action Point: Pray for strength and courage for the task at hand. Prophetic Declaration: I am not weak and I am not a coward.

#### BEWARE OF PRIDE Daniel 4:29-34

According to a saying that pride goes before a fall, one of the greatest weapons the devil uses in conquering some believers is pride. After God has blessed their bread and water and made their enemies be at peace with them, they forget their creator who brought them thus far. Pride do not just set in but gradually grows in a man's life when he is not careful.

God detest the proud and gives grace to the humble. Pride destroys a man's life without repair, it makes others develop hatred and become enemies of such. Examine your life at the phase you are in and check for elements of pride. Do not be another Nebuchadnezzar who learnt his lessons the hard way, rather be humble and possess a quiet spirit. No matter how much God has blessed, is blessing and will bless you, stay humble. Encourage yourself with God's word, it can never lead you astray. Do not let the devil deceive you thereby destroying all that God has blessed you with. Humility does not cost one anything but rather saves one from destruction.

Action Point: Beware of pride, do not be caught in its web. Prophetic Declaration: I will not be destroyed by pride.

## PEACE WITH GOD Romans 5:1

Emmanuel, a secondary school student usually complains about some of his teachers. He is indeed a peaceful boy and not one of the stubborn type; yet, it seems impossible to please a set of teachers. These teachers will always have something against students, if it is not about haircuts, it will be about other things about dressing. This made so many students go to school with fear in their hearts, not knowing what next they would be punished for.

The above exemplar is the case of many individuals who after trying all their bids to please God by trusting in their effort, it is to no avail. Are you also in such a category? Your justification is not dependent on what you do or do not do, it is solely based on having faith in God. Having faith in God will always make you desire to do things pleasing to Him. It is God who makes you will and do His good pleasure. When you live right, then you have peace with God.

Action Point: It is with the help of God that you can live a life pleasing to Him. Prophetic Declaration: I am in Christ, therefore I am no longer under condemnation.

### CHOOSE SOLITUDE Genesis 32:22-32

It is believed that an average believer knows about the story read in today's text, how Jacob wrestled with a man and how his name was changed to Israel. However, many have not paid detailed attention to when exactly the fight that changed his identity happened. Bear in mind that he went out with fifteen souls all together that particular night but he never had the divine encounter until he was alone, leaving behind his immediate family.

Life cannot be lived alone, yes! You've been admonished not to neglect the fellowship of brethren, that's also true. However, every believer must learn and know when to be alone with the Lord. To leave every distraction behind and engage with the Lord one-on-one in prayers. This is a practice that was revealed all through the scriptures. In quietness will your strength be renewed. Take time out of your busy schedule to be alone with the Lord in prayers and meditation, and like Jacob had an encounter, you will also have an encounter. You will be blessed and a new name will be given to you.

Action Point: The practice of quiet time is never outdated. If you have stopped, it is time to start again. Prophetic Declaration: I am rightly positioned to receive divine revelation for my life.

## DIVINE PROTECTION Exodus 9:26

Divine protection is the act of supernaturally shielding someone from harm, injury or danger. It is God's way of defending or shielding man from every form of evil. It is supreme and absolutely dependable. God is certainly capable of protecting His servants. He is "God Almighty", a title indicating that He possesses irresistible power. Like an unstoppable tide, God's applied power cannot be thwarted. It is God's will to use His power to protect His people. However, God's promise of protection is conditional, it is guaranteed for only those who draw close to Him. The name of the Lord is a strong tower, into it the righteous runs and they are given protection.

From today's passage, God's hail brought the judgment of death on the Egyptians while God protected His people, the children of Israel. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He will bring judgment upon His enemy but will protect His people. Only those that are in 'Goshen' will be preserved from all danger. The protection of God is sure if you will trust in Him.

Action Point: Divine protection is only guaranteed for God's people. Prophetic Declaration: No harm comes near me.

# TRUE REPENTANCE Jonah 3:10

A citywide repentance occurred in Nineveh. Who would think God would forgive them with the level of wickedness portrayed? God saw the works of the people of Nineveh that they turned from their evil way, this made Him forgive. He saw their hearts and realized that they had truly turned from their wickedness.

Repentance indicates that there were actual activities that accompanied a change of heart. Certainly, the fasting and the crying out to God were a part of this. But there may have been more. God can see your heart. He knows if you truly repent. There must be changes that attest to your penitence to sin and sinfulness. When you truthfully turn to the Lord with your heart, He forgives you. The king's attitude depicts humility and total surrender to the Lordship of God. Such attitude and disposition to sin is what God desires. Your repentance does not in any way obligate God to be gracious but His grace is unconditional for those who will completely renounce their sin. When you truly repent, He will have mercy on you.

Action Point: God is ever merciful. Prophetic Declaration: I am forgiven and redeemed.

## WHAT ARE YOU KNOWN FOR? 2 Corinthians 8:16-19

Identity is defined as the distinguishing character or personality of an individual. Your name is one of your primary identities according to the world system. Your identity is paramount, both in Kingdom matters and in the things of this world. What is that thing that the moment people remember it, your name quickly comes to mind? What can you be identified with in the Kingdom of God? Titus was identified as a man full of earnestness. He was passionate about the things of God. He was also deeply interested in the welfare of God's people. He loved and sacrificed to ensure the well-being of believers.

What is the first thing your neighbours would remember about you or use to describe you to a stranger? In your school or place of work, you should not be identified with ungodly speech, backstabbing, gossiping, abuse, cheating, malice and bitterness. Rather, you should be identified with love, kindness, hospitality and the gospel. Live consciously so that your identity wherever you find yourself will bring glory to the name of God.

Action Point: Determine to be known for the things of God and forsake all ungodliness. Prophetic Declaration: I live by the Spirit.

#### DON'T LIMIT GOD Psalms 78: 40-42

God is huge, all of the universe cannot contain Him. He is infinite, while everything He created is finite. How can finite man adequately represent an infinite (limitless) God? When you reduce God to only what your mind can explain, you are limiting the power and capacity of God. You will be missing out on what God can do with your life when you put God in a box.

There are various ways by which you can limit God in your life. Some of the ways can be a lack of trust in God when your mind cannot comprehend what He's doing. You want to trust God only when you are assured that things will work out the way you planned. Also, you can limit God through fear that He will make you give up something significant to you. This can be possessions or money. You can limit God when you rely on your power and talents. The Lord desires to do great and mighty things through your life and you should not limit him by your thoughts and actions. Open up your life to God and allow Him to express Himself through you.

Action Point: The Lord desires to do great and mighty things through your life. Prophetic Declaration: I receive the grace to do exploits.

# A HISTORY TO REMEMBER Joshua 4: 20-24

There are things God does in a man's life that leave a significant mark that such a man will continually celebrate and acknowledge God for all the days of their life. An example of such is what God did for the people of Israel in today's scripture. Joshua left a significant mark that the coming generations will see and continually use to remember what God has done for them and how God did it.

Your memories about places of encounters with God help you to always remember your heritage and the price you paid to have it. Some of the reasons why it is essential for you to always be thankful for these memories/histories of encounters you have had with God and also take cognizance of them is that they give you direction in life, give you a sense of purpose and also prompt you to keep moving towards a destination of life that has ultimate value. Learn to preserve memories of encounters with God. Keep them alive. Have a record that you and generations after you can look back at and see how real God is.

Action Point: Get yourself a book that you can use as your spiritual walk journal. Prophetic Declaration: The reality of God in my life shall not become void.

## DIVINE PROVISION John 6:5-13

Every man on earth needs one thing or the other to make life comfortable for them. As God is the creator of all things, He has made provision for man to live and enjoy life. God is a loving and caring father and He will not abandon nor forsake His children in need.

For a child who loves, pleases and listens to his father, the father in return will always tend to care for and protect such a child. Divine provision is an entitlement of every child of God. God knows your needs, wants and desires. He wants the best for you. However, He will bless whatever He finds with you; which means you cannot be lazy and expect God to bless you or provide. He must find you doing something. Therefore, as you pray for provision, keep doing your work. Do not relent or be tired in your daily activities. Do your part of diligence and hard work and God will do His part of blessing and provision. Do not be lazy and expect God to foot your bills regardless. He does not support the lazy, rather He blesses the diligent.

Action Point: Work and then pray for blessings. Prophetic Declaration: My needs are divinely met.

#### TURN TO GOD Exodus 5: 20-23

Jasmine's father told her to clean the dishes in the kitchen, she got up at once to get the work done. While at it, she had difficulty opening a particular water flask. She struggled and tried all she could to no avail. She became tired and frustrated and then decided to call on her father to help, he came in and helped in opening the flask.

Moses turned to God when the situation became fierce with Pharaoh. Pharaoh had increased the labour of the Israelites because Moses made his intentions known that he was there to save them. The Israelites discovered this and met with Moses and Aaron on the way. Both men did not retort, but Moses went back to God to ask for guidance. When you face difficulty at work, in your ministry, or in your family, who do you turn to? Moses was able to go back to God because the task was given to him by God and not orchestrated by man. It would be easier to turn to God when you are on a journey designed by Him. Always follow God's lead in all that you do.

Action Point: It is easy to fall back to God when faced with challenges in life if you were led by Him to that point. Prophetic Declaration: I am led by the hands of God.

## THE PROPER WORSHIP Isaiah 1: 12-17

The scriptures emphasize that God looks at the heart and not the physical appearance of His worshippers. This truth was reinforced by the story of the widow in Mark 12: 41-44, who dropped only two small copper coins in contrast to others who dropped a large sum, yet Jesus said to His disciples of her "This widow dropped more, proportionally than others." It was not about what she physically dropped, but the heart with which she dropped it.

True worship is not a religious act; it is giving sincere and reverential glory to God for who He is. Many believers today are giving gifts, serving in church, paying offerings, tithing, helping the needy and other philanthropic practices. This is not an acceptable worship if it is not from a consecrated heart. According to Prophet Isaiah, proper worship is more of a lifestyle that fears the Lord, seeks justice, rebukes wickedness, defends the fatherless and seeks to help others. You must adopt God's methodology and precept for acceptable worship and do away with fruitless religious practices.

Action Point: Proper worship starts with the fear of the Lord. Prophetic Declaration: No manipulation holds over my life.

# SUSCEPTIBILITY TO TEMPTATION 2 Samuel 11:1-5

Susceptibility means to be vulnerable, predisposed or frail to something. All mortals are vulnerable to sin. From today's passage, David was not with his soldiers in battle where he should have been, he was at home (a position to be tempted) when he saw Bathsheba. When David saw Bathsheba bathing, he could have easily looked away and removed himself from the temptation by leaving his rooftop, but he chose not to. He could have corrected his course at this point. However, because he continued to give in to his lustful desires, he ultimately committed adultery with Bathsheba.

If you are not where you should be, you can become more susceptible to temptation. If you choose to entertain lustful desires, you become susceptible to sin. Avoid situations that fuel temptation. Determine now to refuse to entertain lustful desires so you can avoid temptation and sin. The Spirit can help you know when you are at risk and give you the strength to remove yourself from the situation. Be attentive and yield to the Spirit's leading.

Action Point: Ask God for help not to yield and become a victim of temptation. Prophetic Declaration: I do not fall to temptation.

# INQUIRE FROM GOD Judges 18:5-6

In this present world, it is too risky for you as a believer to live your life or take steps and decisions based on guesses. The devil is smarter than that. One of the reasons you have God as your father is so that you can tell Him everything you want to do and also inquire from Him before you take any step on any matter of your life. Inquiring from God means putting God first and allowing Him to take the lead role.

As you can see in our text for today, when you seek the counsel of God, it gives you inside information and an edge over every situation you may encounter or find yourself in. Growing up in the habit of inquiring from God is also the best way to be successful spiritually and in every other aspect of life. When you inquire from God, you are directly placing a demand on God and God also takes up the responsibility of walking through with you. You stand to live a life of victory, satisfaction and favour when you inquire of the Lord and follow His instructions promptly.

Action Point: Always inquire from God about matters of your life. Prophetic Declaration: I walk in the plan of God for me.

## STAY AWAY 1 Corinthians 5: 9-11

Esther was a small girl who was born and raised in a Christian family. Esther's parents mentored her by showing her correct values and nurturing her with the word of God. Some of Esther's classmates who lacked proper parenting were found in the act of stealing, abusing, lying etc. Esther told this to her parents and her parents advised and warned her to stay away from those classmates doing the wrong things. Esther yielded to her parents' warnings and stayed away.

Christ also wants you as His child to stay away from all kinds of immorality and people who are found in the commission of those acts. Paul wrote and emphasized in our text for today that brethren should not associate with immoral men who commit immorality. This is because they might join them and increase the rate of immorality instead of driving immoralities away from the church. The Bible asks us to flee from every appearance of evil. So, be intentional about living a life that is free of immoral acts as you depend on God's grace.

Action Point: Immoral acts destroy, stay away. Prophetic Declaration: I receive grace to stand in Christ.

# THE LORD HAD LEFT Judges 15:18-21

It is dangerous for believers to be entangled with people who do not have the mind of Christ and could ruin the presence of God in their lives. There is a great danger when you allow others to cut off your strength in God and destroy what stands to be the entity of covenant between you and God. Samson made this huge mistake. He revealed his strength to a woman who stands to be a lover to him but an enemy to the covenant and purpose of God for his life.

One important thing that you should do is to stay away from people who could drive away God's presence in your life. Samson woke up and wanted to activate his divine power but little did he know that the Lord had left him. The presence of the Lord departed from Samson and he became a prey to the enemy. When the presence of the Lord departs from you, you open up yourself to the attack of the enemy and they become a threat to you. Therefore, to live a life of continuous victory, stay connected to God's presence and disassociate yourself from evil.

Action Point: A step out of God's presence opens you up to the enemy. Prophetic Declaration: I dwell in the secret place of the Lord.

### PURCHASED FOR GOD Revelation 5:9-10

Christ died on the cross, He shed His blood for the remission of sin. He died to save the sinners so that the whole world will live. These are common statements during evangelism. However, one major reason for the shedding of the blood of Jesus is to purchase you for God. This implies that the moment you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, you take part in the covenant of Jesus' blood, and that makes you a property of God. You are God's own.

Being God's own has many implications. When you are God's own, you are expected to live your life for Him alone, you follow His lead and act according to His commands. Another implication is that He guards you jealously because you are His own, He has you in mind and makes sure everything works well for you even in unpleasant situations. If you have given your life to Christ genuinely, then you are God's own and you should live to please Him. If you haven't, now is the time to give your life to Him because life outside of God is meaningless.

Action Point: Live your life to please God always. Prophetic Declaration: My life is secured in Christ.

# DOMINATE THE EARTH Psalms 115:16

In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the earth. He made man and placed him on earth not to be dominated but to dominate (Genesis 1:28). In other words, God has made you to be on earth not to be a subject, but to be His representative and dominate the earth. Dominion is what God has made you for; it is more than word of mouth, it is your reality. The anchor scripture says that the highest heaven is for God, while the earth is for man. Why has God given you the earth? It is so that you can dominate and take charge. It will be a sin if you are living as a mediocre in a place where God has placed you to be the head.

Dominating in this context doesn't mean you should start being forceful on others, it is just having a consciousness that you should live as a King's child. You should not bow to the pressure of the devil, not his tactics and antics. Evil/darkness should not be dominating while you are around, your existence should not allow it. Now is the time you take your place and dominate.

Action Point: Begin to live up to the expectations of God for you. Prophetic Declaration: I am born to be great. I am born to excel.

#### PRAISE THE LORD I Psalms 117:1-2

Complaining, murmuring, and prayers of request are quite common with Christians today. The churches will have crowds when holding crusades and miracle programmes, compared to a service dedicated to thanking God only. Many will even attend praise services just to elate themselves, not necessarily appreciating God in the real sense. One of the reasons God has created you is to bring pleasure to Him and one of the ways you can do this is to consistently give praise to Him.

When you look and think deeply, you will discover that there are many reasons you have to praise and thank God. The Psalmist in today's passage urged all nations to praise God for His love. He loves you so much that He has preserved you to be alive till now, He loves you so much that He meets your daily needs. Another reason the Psalmist gave is that you praise God because He is faithful. God stayed faithful despite your unfaithfulness. He will never break His promises to you because of your unfaithfulness, He will do what He has said.

Action Point: Make gratitude to God your attitude. Prophetic Declaration: My life honours God.

## PRAISE THE LORD II Habakkuk 3:17-19

It is a norm that people rejoice in God only when things are rosy and beautiful. Of course, it is of great necessity that you rejoice and praise God when He has done something beautiful for you. A Yoruba adage is translated as "Anyone who isn't appreciative of previous help, can't get another help." So, it is really good that you thank God for the beautiful things he has done for you. However, you should know that as good as it is to praise God when everything is rosy, you also need to praise Him when things go bad and the situation is unpalatable.

Habakkuk professed in today's passage that even if everything isn't going fine, if everything fails and it doesn't work out, He will continually rejoice in the Lord and his joy will be full in God. When you make praising God an attitude, irrespective of the situation, joy will continually rise from within you. There won't be room for resentment and bitterness. Make it an attitude to always praise God, especially in your down times.

Action Point: Don't be dampened by your situation, rise and praise God. Prophetic Declaration: Nothing will take away my joy. I am not losing my peace.

# THE GRACIOUS GOD Jonah 3:1-5

One of the real lessons of Jonah centres on the grace of God. God is gracious, even in the presence of rebellion and sin. The lesson on grace was for both the city and the prophet. The original commission of Jonah was motivated by God's grace. Although Nineveh was a wicked city, God sent Jonah to preach grace. In this message was an opportunity for them to avoid God's judgment. Jonah certainly understood this implication. But he ran away rather than preach in Nineveh. Although Jonah was given a second chance.

The word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, these are the words of grace. God was not compelled to give Jonah a second chance. But God specializes in second chances, or tenth chances, or even a hundred chances. This is not because God does not care about your failure and sin but because He loves you so much that He always wants you to turn from the sinful way. Notwithstanding your distance from God at the moment, God is waiting for you to return to Him.

Action Point: God is always interested in you. Prophetic Declaration: I enjoy the grace of God.

# GOD'S FINAL WORD IS JESUS Hebrews 1: 1 - 3

In many of life's struggles and complexities, there are moments when supposed Christians, in a bid to have their way, deceitfully interpret the scriptures to suit their selfish interest and desires. Many scriptures are quoted out of context, while others are quoted halfway to resonate with their preconceived conclusion. This has become very rampant today, most especially with many believers laying claim on the priesthood of all Christ believers.

However, the word of God stands firm. And that word is the person of Jesus Christ. His earthly life exemplifies the expectations of God from you as a believer. For you to understand the scripture, you must interpret it in consonant with the life of Jesus. Anything inconsistent with the precepts and principles with which Jesus conducted Himself in His earthly form cannot be the word of God. Apostle Paul emphasized the need to only follow him as he follows Christ. You can only be identified as a Christian to the degree to which you follow Christ and understand the scriptures in the light of Jesus' life.

Action Point: Let your character be consistent with the person of Christ. Prophetic Declaration: I am delivered from the spirit of deceit.

# JONAH'S DISOBEDIENCE Jonah 1:5-10

In school, a teacher would often punish a whole class for the wrong of one or a few people. Students will often be penalized without knowing who has committed the offence they were being punished for. In the disobedience of Jonah, the people who suffered did not even know who Jonah was, let alone know what he had done wrong.

A single man's disobedience, just like in the case of Jonah could affect other people. Jonah's presence in the ship made everyone experience a threat in which they lost their valuables, hoping to save their lives in the storm. However, for Jonah, there was no record that he lost any of his possession. Those on board with him were not the offender, yet they suffered greatly. It implies that there is a danger in being in the company of the wrong person(s). Obviously, Jonah was in the wrong place at the time; thereby making him the wrong person to be with at such a moment. You have no business being with someone who is short-changing your effectiveness.

Action Point: Let go of every company that is not adding value to you. Prophetic Declaration: I come into destiny fulfilling company.

## UNFAILING LOVE Psalms 6:8-9

The love of God towards you is unfailing, it can never fade or expire. God loves you so much that He does not leave you to your own helpless and careless wanderings, but gently shapes your character and nudges you, helping you to grow into maturity. From the passage, David was in distress and the unfailing love of God sustained him. He was certain that God would hear His supplication and rise to help him.

When life seems to take a sudden turn for the worse and when nothing seems to go right, it is time for you to look to God in prayer. God does not desert His own, He is a faithful God. Develop confidence in the uncompromising love that God bestows upon His own. Don't be swayed by unpleasant situations and circumstances. Even though you sin, if you will acknowledge yourself before Him and seek for forgiveness, He is faithful to forgive and blot out your transgression. The Lord wants to help you, He is interested in you, He cares about your wellbeing. Raise your voice to Him and you will marvel at how He will intervene.

Action Point: Pray about those challenging issues of your life. Prophetic Declaration: I am saved by His unfailing love.

## A WALK OF FAITH Genesis 12:1-3

The calling of Abram (Abraham) was a unique one that was backed up with a lot of promises by God. At that point, nothing practically had changed as much as he could see, but Abraham trusted in God and he took the walk of faith. He was faced with the decision of whether or not to trust God but he chose to trust the word from God.

To walk the walk of faith, you must be willing to get out of your comfort zone. You must be willing to let God change your perspective. You must be willing to be shaken and rearranged. The walk of faith for every individual is different. For some, it might be a calling to do something they have never dreamt of, for some it may be to leave their job and pick a different job. Your walk will be different from others' but if you can give it all to God, surrender and ask Him to help you, He is ready to go on the journey with you and give you a beautiful end.

Action Point: Take a step of faith on that thing today. Prophetic Declaration: My faith is made strong in Christ.

# DON'T EAT YOUR SEED 2 Corinthians 9: 10

Many Christians in this generation suffer from the lack of delayed gratification. They want everything here and now. The impatience for delayed gratification has cost so many believers access to divine abundance. Abundance comes through the principle of planting and reaping. According to the scripture, it is the same God that provides "seed" and "bread", however, one is meant to be sown and the other to be eaten. It is a lack of delayed gratification that has caused many to eat both their seed and bread, leaving nothing for divine multiplication.

Your time, talent, money and other resources at your disposal are examples of what you should sow. Make yourself available for God's work. Use your talent to worship and serve God. Sacrificially give your money in furtherance of the gospel. Being kind, loving, understanding, encouraging, hospitable and accommodating to others is also a form of sowing. Learn to bless others in whatever capacity you can, even when it seems little. God waters those who water others.

Action Point: Find a means to serve God with your resources today. Prophetic Declaration: I am blessed in all that I do.

# DO NOT YIELD TO PRIDE John 3: 25 -30

When John's disciples approached him that Jesus was baptizing and people were rushing to Him, that could have been an opportunity for him to assert himself, prove a point, flex his anointing and subtly sow discord in the hearts of his disciples. But no, He chose to be humble and submissive instead. Humility is one essential virtue that is very rare in the life of many of today's Christians, especially those with special grace and anointing. Many churches have been destroyed due to the inflated egos of the leaders. Such leaders care about their image more than the gospel of Christ.

John the Baptist humbly accepted his role as the forerunner of Christ even when he was evidently anointed and baptized Jesus. He conceded the need for himself to decrease so that Christ would increase. This is a very important message for you as a believer; your call, anointing, grace and gift are not a bragging right to fuel pride, rather they are instruments for the fulfilment of God's mandate. God hates pride and honours the humble.

Action Point: Always be humble. Prophetic Declaration: My lot is preserved.

# TEMPTING GOD Psalms 78:18-22

To tempt God is to attempt to put to the test or make trial of one or more of God's attributes, such as His knowledge, will, power, wisdom or capacity. From the passage, the Israelites spoke against God and questioned his authority and supremacy. Whenever God is silent in the wilderness, they believed God had abandoned and forgotten them, so they always question His ability and power. Even though he gave them water in the wilderness and rained manna for them as food, they are quick to forget His mighty works in their midst. This ungrateful attitude provokes God to anger.

Every act of unbelief towards God is a slander against Him. God demands complete trust from His children. Whenever you doubt the capacity of God due to the state of the situation it belittles Him. Don't make your situation bigger than your God. The situation may be unpalatable but know that your God is all-powerful and has your best interest at heart. Be grateful for that which you have and be encouraged that God is able to do much more.

Action Point: Trust that God will do all that He promised. Prophetic Declaration: By faith, I receive all that God has promised me.

# RUNNING FROM GOD Jonah 1:1-3

The word of God came expressly to Prophet Jonah, a man whom the Lord has used in the past. This time, when the word of the Lord came to him, instead of obeying the instructions of God, he chose to abscond. He was resolved to not carry out the assignment the Lord gave to him. Instead of going to Nineveh, he bought a ticket to Tarshish. There's no doubt that he really wanted to get away from God. But it's impossible to run from the Lord of heaven and earth.

Are you also running away from God's presence and call upon your life? Have you responded to the last instruction God gave you? It is not possible that you run away from the presence of God and still be His friend. God desires apt obedience from His children and everyone that will walk with Him. Don't try to be smart with God; His word, His calling and His presence are all for your good and joy in the end. Humble yourself before Him, yield to Him and He will make your ways prosperous.

Action Point: Get back and obey that instruction you are running from. Prophetic Declaration: I hear God's voice as he leads me.

# IN TIMES LIKE THIS Psalms 10:1-2

As a believer, there are moments when it seems God is far. Oppressors are on every side and they seem to go scot-free with their actions. They act like there's none to probe them. David found himself in this challenging situation. He was on the verge of losing his faith due to the pressure of the adversity around him, how they kept thriving, and how it looked like God was not answering him. But he finally found a refuge – Prayer. He began to pray that God helps him in the situation he found himself. He also praised.

In our society too, it's obvious that Christians find it hard to thrive and are persecuted at every level by the enemy. We ought also to turn to God in prayers and praise and have the reassurance of ultimate victory that comes from God alone. He is the only one who can keep us from falling into the trap of the enemy. He is the one who can preserve and keep you. In times like this, you ought to pray and not to faint.

Action Point: Why worry when you can pray? Prophetic Declaration: I escape every trap of the enemy today and always.

# OBEDIENCE BIRTHS VICTORY Joshua 6:2-5

The children of Israel were faced with a challenge that was beyond them, they cried out to God and He gave them victory. The people of Israel would have missed out on what God planned for them if they had ignored the instructions that Joshua gave to them through God's leading. God gave Joshua an assurance of victory, which gave him more strength and confidence to follow God.

The people of Israel did not just get this victory from God, rather God gave them specific instructions to carry out. It was their obedience to God's instructions that birthed the victory they had over their enemies. As a believer, you need to know that the manifestation of your victory in God is also enhanced by your level of obedience to His words and instructions. When you also rely on God and stay obedient to His words and instructions on every matter of your life, He gives you victory and gives your enemies into your hands. Always remember that your obedience to God's word and instruction is a walk into victory.

Action Point: Your victory is guaranteed in God. Prophetic Declaration: I am victorious over every life challenges and enemies.

# POWER OF UNITY Genesis 11:1-5

Unity is said to be the state of being one and having an undivided entity. When there is unity, everything runs smoothly and gets better accomplished. God's command is that man will multiply and fill the earth but rather than being obedient to God, they decided to settle down and build themselves a city and a tower that would reach the heavens. Although they were being disobedient, their success rate showed that unity causes accomplishment.

Unity attracts God's favour and attention. Where there is unity, it is easy for the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit to thrive and operate. God also commands His blessing where there is unity. If you desire to achieve greatness wherever you find yourself, ensure that your team operates in unity. Any team that is divided cannot progress maximally and effortlessly. Do you want God to open doors and opportunities for you? Then work in unity of mind with those around you.

Action Point: Unity causes better and easier accomplishment. Prophetic Declaration: I am made for great accomplishment.

# STAY WITH GOD 2 Chronicles 12:1-2

Many times, when men are experiencing life without struggles and troubles, they tend to forget the goodness of God upon them. They most times think it is by their smartness; they have less regard for God and carve out a new life for themselves. When Rehoboam attained a position in which he felt secure, he relaxed his hold on his early convictions, surrendered his trust in God and abandoned the faith and practice of his fathers. He thought the sufficiency of material treasure will be enough security for him.

When you trust in the possession of material treasure, you are prone to view yourself as independent of the help of the God who even provided for you. You need to have the right perspective about God and always live a life that will please Him. A life without God is vulnerable to attack from enemies. One of the ways to focus on God's ordinance is to meditate on God's word. Thus, when you forsake God, He will equally stand aloof. If you have gone wrong with Him before now, it's time to back to the cross.

Action Point: Pray a prayer of reconciliation if you have strayed away from God. Prophetic Declaration: I live for God every day.

#### THE WRATH OF GOD Ezekiel 38:17-23

Satan has perverted the world with a lot of false descriptions concerning the nature of God. Most people, both Christian and non-Christian, tend to view God as being only big and soft, full of infinite love and forgiveness. He couldn't hurt and He certainly wouldn't be so cruel as to condemn or harm any being created in His image. On the day of judgment, they presume that God will rub their back and look away from their sins. The only problem with this wonderfully comforting image is that it is not who God is; God is loving and just.

The Lord declared His judgement against Gog by His prophet, Ezekiel. The Lord will bring destruction upon the people of Gog because they are against His people. The same kind, loving and caring God would punish people who have gone against His people. While remembering the loving nature of God, do not forget He is a God of justice too. He is perfectly holy; His character cannot tolerate sins. God will deal with sin and sinners will reap what they have sown through sinful living.

Action Point: God is loving and just. Prophetic Declaration: I enjoy supernatural speed and ease in my life endeavours.

# BEWARE OF DOGS Philippians 3:1-9

At the very sight of today's devotional topic and text, there is every possibility of you recalling a sermon topic along that line which oftentimes is explained out of its context. I plead you take time to study the text for yourself, reading through as many versions of scriptures as you can.

The Spirit of the Lord through Apostle Paul gave the Philippians a clear warning to beware of certain sets of persons called dogs and by extension, to you as a believer. Therefore, it is necessary you know who exactly you should watch out for. These sets of persons are the legalists who say one cannot be saved except by observing certain rules.

This is not to say Christianity is a lawless way of life, but the emphasis is on salvation. We have them everywhere, possibly you are one of them. Like Paul, until you submit to the righteousness of God through faith in Christ, Christianity remains only a religious cliché. Determine to trust by faith in the finished works of Christ. No amount of goodness outside Christ will ever earn you right standing before God.

Action Point: Salvation is through Christ only. Prophetic Declaration: I am in the will of God and I prosper.

# THE INQUIRY 2 Samuel 5:17-25

Everything that exists in life and that one ventures into has an underlying principle behind it. Whether or not such a venture turns out successful, beyond the outcome lies certain lessons that could be looked into. At various times, David had cause to engage in physical battles, either with humans or animals but at this certain instance, he fought and won the Philistines on two occasions consecutively. Amazingly, what made him victorious was not far-fetched; he inquired of the Lord before pursuing his enemies. On the second occasion, after the enquiry, God gave him the strategy he used in conquering.

You probably are not involved in any physical battle as it were today. However, like David, you should learn to enquire the Lord your God before embarking on anything. It is in doing that you will have the confidence of his everabiding presence and approval. You will also be certain of success in all you do. As a believer, henceforth never do anything unless and until you speak to God and you get his approval about it first.

Action Point: Let all your decisions be guided by the Lord. Prophetic Declaration: I live a life yielded to the Spirit.

#### August 15

#### WEIGHING THE COST Genesis 25:29-34

A few years ago, when the Blackberry phone was at the peak of the rave, people did a lot to ensure they owned one of those phones. In fact, on many university campuses, many ladies sold their bodies and did all sorts of dirty deeds to get Blackberry phones. Looking down the line now, that brand of phone is hardly seen again. Yet, many had lost precious things in the bid to get it at the time.

When you are tempted to make a decision because of a current pressure, carefully assess it because oftentimes, that decision or choice made out of pressure will turn out wrong. When the devil puts you under pressure, it is mostly because he wants you to trade something more important for something less important in the heat of the moment. Esau traded his birthright for food because he was very hungry. This was not a wise decision and later, He realized and sought it even with tears and could not get it back.

Action Point: When there is pressure to make a decision is the time to be very patient. Prophetic Declaration: I make only wise choices and decisions.

# THE LORD OUR GOD Exodus 29:46

God is the creator of everything, He's the God of love and faithfulness who will always bring glory to His name. Everyone has a right to choose who or what they are going to serve as their god. The Israelites chose, accepted and worshipped the living God and he came through for them. Not only did God bring the people of Israel out of their bondage and to the land of Canaan, He also brought them into their freedom and the name of the Lord is established as their God who delivered them and gave them freedom.

This is full proof and evidence that God will always come through for you no matter how hard it might seem. You should also grow up to stop depending on anybody but on God, believing that He can do all things. If you live your life according to your way, you will end up making mistakes, but if you surrender your life to God, he takes charge of it all and things come out meaningful.

Action Point: God is faithful to His children. Prophetic Declaration: I will serve God till the end of my days.

## WAIT FOR DIVINE DIRECTION Ruth 1:1-2

The book of Ruth is an amazing account of God's sovereign dealings with a simple family. The preceding book (Judges) is a book with series of God's judgement on His people. God's people would listen to Him for a while and then turn to their evil ways; God would judge them, they would turn back to Him and then He would send them a deliverer. This cycle happened time and time again because rather than listening to God and obeying His word, the people did what they thought was right.

The darkness and drought that came upon the land in today's passage came as a result of the disobedience of the people. There was no account of Elimelech enquiring from the Lord and asking for mercy for himself and the people. He decided to preserve himself and his family. He left the town with his wife and children to a place with abundant food. If you know this story, you will agree things did not end well. Oftentimes, believers make decisions without asking God for His direction. And most times things do not end well. Always wait on the Lord for instructions.

Action Point: It may look good and not be good. Prophetic Declaration: I am preserved by His mercy.

# ALLIANCE THAT MATTERS 1 Kings 5: 1-18

One of the mandates of Solomon as a king is that he builds a temple for God. David, his father was not permitted by God to build a house for Him, which made him pass the task on to his son. Solomon utilized and maximized the opportunity of relationship to get the materials needed for the construction of the temple. He reached out to King Hiram of Tyre, a friend of his father, to get his workforce and the materials needed for him to have the temple built. Among so many successful kings that Solomon knew, he recognized the right alliance for the vision.

It is important to note that in getting certain things done, you need relationships that matter. What kind of company and friends are you surrounded with? Is it with those that will help and make you fulfil your visions or those that will pull down or even kill your vision? Friendships and relationships that matter help you to achieve your goals fast. When you do not have them, achieving success might become a struggle; you might even give up achieving set goals if there is no help.

Action Point: Choose your friends wisely, they have a role to play in your fulfilment. Prophetic Declaration: I am blessed with all the resources needed to fulfil heaven's mandate.

# YOUR FAITHFULNESS MUST BE TO GOD Hebrews 3: 1 - 2

We are currently in a world where loyalty has become as scarce as rare metals. People trade their attention, integrity, resources, and goodwill to the highest bidder and accolades. Social media has made matters worse, with everyone trying to be and say what would garner them more likes and comments, even if it obviously betrays the tenets of God. Many acclaimed men of God run a cult-like assembly where members are encouraged to re-echo their leaders' deceit in the name of faithfulness.

The Hebrew writer specifically noted that Jesus was "faithful to Him who appointed Him as Apostle and High priest" (verse 2). As a believer, your faithfulness must be to your Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. To Him alone, you owe your allegiance and loyalty. At every point in your salvation journey, you must be sure your faithfulness has not shifted from Jesus to your Pastor, Bishop, General Overseer and even yourself. Your faithfulness will be measured by your level of alignment and allegiance to the eternal words of God.

Action Point: Consistently study God's word to know His will for you. Prophetic Declaration: I grow in my knowledge of God.

# RECEIVING GODLY BLESSINGS Psalms 24: 1 - 5

This generation has witnessed a rapid soar in church attendance both online and offline for many reasons, chief of which was a bid to receive blessings promised by God in the scriptures. As a result, we have a multitude of people who are in church but not in Christ. They only come to church to receive material blessings without the readiness or commitment to a thorough transformation in their inner man to the person of Christ.

Psalms 24 is clear about the quality of such a person that could receive God's blessings, "He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted his soul to what is false, nor has sworn [oaths] deceitfully" (verse 4). It means you have to be pure in heart and soul to be qualified for God's blessings. To be pure in heart is to be constantly renewed by the word of God and be purged of all sins and unrighteousness. It goes beyond being a regular church attendant; you must accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and consciously follow His precepts and examples.

Action Point: The blessings of God are for people with pure hearts. Prophetic Declaration: I wait on the Lord and my strength is renewed.

# THE LORD'S INSTRUCTION 1 Timothy 6: 11-12

The Apostle Paul was giving his son in the faith final instructions. It's as it were a summary of what Paul saw as most important to Timothy. These exhortations were Paul's way of ensuring that Timothy's sanctification continues as he journeys on the path of faith in God. The exhortation is important for you also to note as a believer. The instructions of Paul from today's passage can be divided into two. Firstly, those things he would desire Timothy to flee and secondly, those he would want him to pursue.

Paul tells Timothy that the first step in growing in holiness is to run away from or flee from sinful things. Your life as a Christian must not be characterised by these things Paul highlights. There are things God want you to flee, these are things that corrupt the godly nature. However, you are not only to flee from some things, you should run towards other things. Therefore, Paul mentioned things to pursue. You cannot have a void. Flee from the bad things and embrace the good things.

Action point: It is your responsibility to live right. Prophetic Declaration: I enjoy the mercies of God.

# DISTRACTION Luke 10:38-40

Distraction means to divert, separate or draw asunder the attention of something or someone. It could also mean preventing someone from concentrating. Distractions could be in any form; they can be direct or indirect. The text highlighted how Martha's attention was diverted from Jesus even though He was seated in their house. Martha was concerned about preparations and other necessities for Jesus excluding Jesus Himself from the equation. Even though what Martha was doing at the moment was essential, it was simply a distraction as far as Jesus was concerned.

Many times, the activities you spend your time and resources on are simply distractions. Anything that is not directing your attention to Jesus is a distraction, the sincerity notwithstanding. Jesus' utmost desire is for Him to have your undivided attention. He so much expects to have you wholeheartedly, without any iota of distraction. What are those things swaying your attention from Jesus? Let go of them so that you can give your whole to Him.

Action Point: (Prayerfully) Identify those things that distract you from the presence of God. Prophetic Declaration: My heart is delivered from every form of distraction.

# THE BELIEVER'S AUTHORITY Mark 16:16-18

Every Christian and disciple of Christ has authority in this world. However, many believers do not realize that they have this authority. There is a battle raging every single day in the spiritual realm against every person on earth. God wants to influence people and draw them toward righteousness and toward Himself, to live consistently with Him so that His blessings can manifest in their lives. Satan, on the other hand, is waging an all-out war trying to steal the hearts of people away from God and inflict different diseases and sicknesses.

To win this spiritual battle, you must know who you are and take your position of authority as a believer. Your unwillingness to grasp the authority you have in other to engage in this battle makes you a victim of the devil. You must acknowledge the battle is real and take the proper action to improve your situation. Resist the devil and he will flee. God has given you the authority to stand against the wiles of the enemy over your life, career, family and situation in whatsoever capacity.

Action Point: Step into your position as a child of God and begin to resist the devil over all that is yours. Prophetic Declaration: Light shines in every darkness.

# THAT I MAY KNOW HIM Philippians 3:7-10

Christianity has become a mirage of what God intended it to be. What characterized the faith of the Apostles was their selfless life in suffering for their belief. They are men who though having everything count it as nothing for the greater revelation of Jesus Christ. The most important part of their life is the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus they acquired. Nothing else matters to them than knowing Christ Jesus and being in His righteousness. Their faith was made strong in the power and resurrection of Jesus. Apostle Paul highlighted his desire in our text today, which is that he may know Him and be found in Him.

The desire to know Christ should be your greatest priority and treasure as a believer. Nothing else matters as far as God is concerned than to know Jesus Christ whom He had sent. What are your pursuits in life? What is it that you have prayed and fasted about? Is it just the benefits of worldly gains? Consider your priorities and adjust where necessary. There is absolutely nothing that can be compared with knowing the king of glory.

Action Point: Let the desire to know Christ be your greatest priority. Prophetic Declaration: My heart is open to the knowledge and revelation of Christ.

# REACHING OUT TO THE LOST Matthew 9:35-38

A man in Christ must be filled with compassion coupled with zeal for the lost. A man who has genuinely encountered Christ must be burdened for soul winning. Encounter with Christ must open you up to hunger and thirst for the establishment of God's kingdom wherever you find yourself.

From the Bible passage, you can observe the passionate expression of Jesus's compassion and zeal to cater to the needs of the multitudes. This should be your constant attitude as a genuine believer. You can't claim to love God and reaching out to the lost is not part of you. If you truly love God, the zeal of His house should consume you. The life you receive from Christ is obtained by grace and mercy and it must be extended to those who are yet to find it. Encounter at the cross must leave with you a burden and passion for those who are yet to see the light you've received. The growth of the burden is dependent on your spiritual growth. Daily communion with the Lord is going to fuel your spiritual life.

Action Point: Show Christ's love to people around you today. Prophetic Declaration: I walk in grace.

## WISDOM Proverbs 4:7

Wisdom is the principal thing for every believer. It is so because wisdom is needed in every facet of a believer's life. As Christ's representative here on earth, it is expected of you to walk according to the will of God; thereby preaching Christ through your character, words and actions. By doing this, souls are drawn to Christ and God's kingdom finds expression in the society. To achieve this, the wisdom of God is needed.

Every believer has a deposit of God's wisdom on their inside. Divine wisdom is the pure wisdom of God which is gotten from the Spirit of God that resides in every believer. Thus, by the virtue of the Holy Spirit that resides in you, the wisdom of God is made accessible to you as a believer. Searching the scriptures, meditation on the word and prayers are what stir up this gift in you. Unless stirred, this deposit of wisdom remains dormant and no result is produced. Maximizing this deposit of God in you is your response to God's provision as a believer. It is expected of you to produce results with every good deposit in you.

Action Point: True wisdom is from God. Prophetic Declaration: I am victorious.

## DO AND TEACH Acts 1:1

It is very easy to tell someone what they should do. Today, almost everyone has a piece of advice or instruction to give on their social media handles. You see uploads and posts every day on what is right and what is wrong. The question is, "How many people do these things?" The writer is possibly not doing what they are advising and the reader may not do it too. That means, talking is cheap but doing is expensive. We will be able to go around this problem if we follow what the scripture teaches us in today's text. We must do and then teach; that is the order.

Asking others to do what you are not doing is a kind of hypocrisy. It is easier, better and usually more ideal to advise someone else to do a thing when you have done it. Influence is better achieved by being an example. You must do what is right and then you can teach others to do the same. Do not be interested in only telling others the right thing to do, you must do the right thing too. Do not forget the order-do, then teach.

Action Point: Decide to always do the right thing and not just talk about them. Prophetic Declaration: I receive the grace to do good.

## JOURNALLING – A CONTEMPORARY MONUMENT Genesis 12:7-8

Raising altars as monuments is a common practice in Bible days. In many cases, these monuments serve as a reminder of what God has done, and the remembrance is passed from generation to generation. Abraham did raise an altar when God appeared to him, and so did other patriarchs in the Bible. This act shows how well they value the encounters they had with God and the instructions they received from Him.

Today, many people desire great encounters and anticipate instructions from God but do not have the attitude that shows they value these things. Journalling is a contemporary act that can have the same effect as raising monuments did in Bible days. When you document your encounters with God, it serves as a track for your Christian journey. Writing instructions from God also keeps you reminded of His word to you. Know that God's word to you does not expire; it can have applications at different times in your life. Having these words written will help you remember them when needed.

Action Point: Buy a journal or notebook to document spiritual matters. Prophetic Declaration: My knowledge of God deepens.

# HAVE FAITH IN GOD Hebrews 11:1

Faith is a necessity in accessing God's Kingdom. It determines your destiny, as it is impossible to walk with God without faith. Faith is a living force that draws from the living word to produce living proof. Faith is not waiting for God; it is rather putting the word to work. It is not only about believing but also about engaging the one you believe.

One of the things that has robbed many believers of their faith is fear. Many Christians are subscribers to fear. They fear everything. However, you must remember that fear denies you the expression of God's power in your life. It kills your ability to connect to the frequency of God's miracle. Faith is your password to God's frequency. You need faith to enter into the fullness of God's power that is available to you as a believer. Not faith in another man but in God. Not just wishing that things work out but faith that God will bring it to pass because it is written in His word. Have faith in God and He will perfect everything that concerns you.

Action Point: Always pray in faith. Prophetic Declaration: God's promises will be fulfilled in my life.

# RESPONDING TO TRIALS James 1: 2-3

Pressures seem to continuously mount at every moment of human's daily lives, whether it be in our jobs, in our homes or our relationships. You can be blindsided by the trials that emanate from this pressure in your lives and respond in a way that is not reflective of the Holy Spirit. James began his epistle through the teaching of how you should respond to trials of life. Trials should be counted as all joy and should produce a character of Christ in your life.

Trials will come your way because you decided to stand for truth and purity. You must know that temptations and trials are inevitable in the Christian life. However, the disposition of your heart to trials is important. You should find completeness of joy in knowing that God is at work in you through the trials. Your faith will be tested and proven by your response to trials. You should persevere and exercise patience towards the circumstances that encompass you, they are meant to build you, mould you and develop you. Your trials will reveal the glory of God when you respond appropriately to them.

Action Point: Let your heart rejoice in truth and patience during trials and temptation. Prophetic Declaration: I am steadfast in trials and temptations.

# EXAMINE YOURSELF 2 Corinthians 13:5

Our journey to heaven is a personal race where everyone is alone on their track, running to obtain a prize which is to win the crown of glory and inherit eternal life with Jesus Christ. It is important in your spiritual journey to stop to have a reflection on the journey so far. The spirit of God in a man helps him to evaluate his state in God.

Your relationship with God should consist of a true and total surrender of your will to the sovereign will of God and you must determine to have your agenda exchanged for His agenda. Many people base their relationship with God only on the benefits they will receive from Him but never delve into the relationship of total commitment and surrender and sacrifice unto God. Are you making your decisions without considering whether it is God's will or not? Examine your relationship with God, and ensure that your life is pleasing to God and ruled by Him. Examine yourself regularly to remain valuable to the end.

Action Point: Examine yourself and take a step toward improvement. Prophetic Declaration: I begin to get it right from now on.

# WHAT IS YOUR STANDARD? 2 Corinthians 10:12-13

Comparison is a trap where men measure their worth by the standard of someone else. A lot of people could and will not reach their full potential because of comparison. Making man your standard sets a limit over your life, and comparing yourself with others leaves you with a sense of dissatisfaction. Men tend to compare themselves at work, home, church, school and so on. However, Jesus should be your perfect standard.

Do you secretly envy your peers who have more or make more than you do? Comparing possession causes envy, and comparing problems causes self-pity and resentment. Comparing yourself with others is missing what God has for your life. Comparing yourself with others may make you think you have "arrived" even when you are far from what God made you for. This means celebrating mediocrity. Do not limit your life! Strive to reach your full potential. Aim higher, do not settle for less. Do not make a human being your standard. You are unique and have been empowered to be dynamic. Be original!

Action Point: Break yourself from limitations and make plans to be yourself. Prophetic Declaration: I am unique and I begin to achieve my purpose.

#### GOD CAN USE YOU Exodus 4: 10 - 12

When God called Moses, He knew exactly who Moses was, in fact, he orchestrated everything that happened to Moses and specifically prepared him for what He called him to do. God is the Alpha and the Omega. He knows the end from the beginning. He knows you, even before you were formed in your mother's womb. He formed you and created you the very way He wants you to be. Your seeming disabilities do not limit him. To Him, you're perfect for His purpose, just as you are.

It is understandable that you feel limited in your ability to do certain things; however, when you're working in accordance with God's instruction, you become graced by His power. Despite Moses' ineloquent speech, God used him remarkably in the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and he provided outstanding leadership throughout their journey in the wilderness. When God calls you or gives you any instruction, He expects you to focus on Him to supply what you need to carry out His assignment. You're a worthy vessel in His hand, only submit to Him.

Action Point: Always focus on God's strength to fulfil God's assignment. Prophetic Declaration: My life is aligned with the purpose of God.

#### PURITY 1 John 3: 3 - 9

Purity is defined as being void of contaminants, i.e. living a faultless, uncompromised or unadulterated life. Purity and righteousness are used interchangeably. Righteousness is an indication of a life that is standing right with God. Anyone who continues to sin has not known God and is of the devil. Knowing God is in stages which begin with salvation, which was the reason Jesus was born, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

The key to living a life of purity is to be born of God because whosoever is born of God does not commit sin for His seed remains in him. To be born of God, you have to submit your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and accept His salvation by confessing your sin to Him, praying for forgiveness and seeking the Holy Spirit to fill you and His power to come upon you. A life of purity is what God demands from you. You have been offered to Him and you must remain pure to be acceptable to Him.

Action Point: Determine in your heart to stay pure at all times. Prophetic Declaration: I receive grace to live a pure life.

### GOD'S REST 2 Chronicles 14:1-6

Rest means peace of mind or spirit; it is living a life of calmness and tranquillity despite chaos, troubles, battles, unrest and anxiety. The life of a man on earth is ordinarily not a peaceful one because of the different struggles he passes through constantly. But this has been made easy in God for the believer; a life that knows God will experience rest on all sides even amid storms and chaos because there is an assurance that God is always there with him/her.

At one point or the other in life, you will experience distressing circumstances, but be reminded that God is with you and is willing to bring you peace and rest even in such situations. The rest God provides is only for those who are His own; those who keep His precepts and who walk right before Him. The rest of God can only be obtained through obedience. Total obedience to His word and instructions as you live a holy life will bring you into God's rest.

Action Point: Only God can give true rest. Prophetic Declaration: I am favoured before men.

### RECEIVING GOD'S PROMISES Isaiah 1:19

God appeared to Abraham and asked him to leave his father's country. Abraham obeyed and in exchange for his obedience, the Lord promised to make him a great nation. This looks impossible, but he believed God nevertheless. Though it took a long time before this promise came to pass, Abraham kept serving and obeying God all through the way. He did not lose his faith and he finally had what the Lord promised him.

As you go through the journey of life, one of the key principles you need to receive God's promises over your life is prompt obedience to His words and instructions. God's words are not suggestions, they are instructions, therefore, prompt and total obedience is needed. Even when you do not know how He will do what He has said, fulfil your part of the deal and leave His to Him. It might even seem the fulfilment of His word is delayed but God will surely bring them to fulfillment. Just make sure you play your part by being obedient to His instructions.

Action Point: God's words are instructions, not suggestions. Prophetic Declaration: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

### CALLING UNTO THE LORD OUT OF TRUST Psalms 13:1-4

Many times, when people are going through difficult situations, they tend to assume God has forgotten them. In most cases, until God shows up, challenges, problems, pains and difficult experiences often make many, believers inclusive, think God has abandoned them. The above thought is not peculiar only to our generation, it happened to people of old, just like David. However, the fact that you are facing tribulations and problems does not necessarily connote the absence of God.

When in your limited human mind, prayers seem unanswered, do not let the devil make you feel you are all alone without God. There is a need for you to cry out to the Lord even in your distress, not as though He has forgotten you but for your trust in His unfailing love, rejoicing over the past victories you have received from and through Him. Never keep quiet in your problem; remember, crying cannot take you out of that problem. Call unto God today as David did in the scripture, sing His praise, for He is good to you.

Action Point: Reflect on your victory in a past battle and pray to God out of trust about the battle you are in at the moment. Prophetic Declaration: The Lord is with me, I shall not be moved.

#### BE THE CHANGE Psalms 14:1-5

Our generation exists at a time filled with killings, kidnappings, robberies and all forms of atrocities. We now live at a time when holiness and faithfulness have become very difficult and almost impossible to come by. A generation where a father uses his child for ritual and viceversa. A generation where neither the government-owned establishments nor the private sectors are secured for workers. A time when bribery and corruption are the order of the day, where wrong is paraded as right, all of which reflects that many do not believe there is a God in heaven. However, in all of the corruptions and all kinds of evil, God expects to see men of understanding, who will seek Him. God will not for any reason lower His standard nor compromise His ways. He is counting on you to be holy, faithful and make a difference in this perverse world. Never say, "If I cannot beat them, I will join them." God demands you to be an agent of change in your community. He is counting on you and expects you to remain faithful irrespective of what society is doing.

Action Point: Take your stand to always do what is right not minding the consequences. Prophetic Declaration: I am the light of the world. I am the salt of the earth.

### CHOOSING THE RIGHT RELATIONSHIP Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

No man can survive in isolation. Humans are fundamentally created and designed to crave the presence of another, be it in the form of parents, siblings, friends, colleagues or spouses. In Genesis, even God admitted that it is not good for a man to be alone. This further reinforced the inalienable desire of humans for relationships. It is not even a want, it is a necessity.

However, as a believer, you have to be deliberate about the kind of relationship you'll be involved in. You cannot afford to be carnal and non-purposeful with the people you walk with. Remember that bad companies corrupt good manners. You need divine guidance, and instructions to start or join any relationship. There are many wolves in sheep's clothing. Their appearance might be appealing and their company seemingly fulfilling, but you need to seek the face of God who knows the heart of every man. If you hope for a satisfying return for your labour and investment in any relationship you must allow God to lead you and make decisions for you.

Action Word: Evaluate all the relationships you currently have, and end anyone that is not fulfilling. Prophetic Declaration: I cancel every evil connection in my life.

# THE PERIL OF HARD-HEARTEDNESS Exodus 7:13

A hard-hearted person is simply disobedient and arrogant. He is full of himself. He feels he knows everything, so he's not to be corrected, advised or admonished. It's either his way or the highway. Pharaoh was such a person. He won't allow the Israelites to leave despite making their lives miserable. He increased their labour, beat them to submission, denied them the fruit of their labour and even killed them. Yet, he won't listen to the voice of God to allow them to leave so that they will go and worship Him. Until he was completely destroyed, he remained adamant.

You may not be blatantly hard-hearted like Pharaoh. Yours may be subtle and half-hearted disobedience to your parent, spouse, and/or the authority God has placed over you. There's no one that would speak to you and you'll yield. You always know what's best, and your decisions are final. God is calling you to repentance today. Don't wait till God deals with you the way He dealt with Pharaoh. The expressway to destruction is hard-heartedness. Take heed now and receive from God a fleshy heart that obeys.

Action Point: Today, pray for the spirit of humility and the wisdom to obey. Prophetic Declaration: My home is preserved.

#### RESTORATION Ezekiel 36: 8-11

Restoration means to bring something old, worn out, dilapidated or broken back to its former, good state. When God restores, He renews and revamps. The word of God came expressly to the Israelites about His intention to restore them to their home. The restoration was intended to upgrade them to a better position. Restoration from God is inevitable whenever His people accept Him as the Lord and return to Him.

Whenever you forsake the Lord or ignore His counsel, you give the enemy the legal right to destroy. However, God always desires to visit His people to undo the havoc of the enemy when they return to Him. The Lord wants to come and restore your life just as He restored the children of Israel. If you will allow God, He intends to bring back everything you have lost. You might be in the furnace of affliction right now, you might be alone and lonely, you might feel lost and afraid and your life may be in pieces but God can take the shattered pieces of our life and mend that which is broken. He restores completely.

Action Point: God can restore whatever has been lost. Prophetic Declaration: The Lord will do a new thing in my life.

# THE LORD KEEPS THE RIGHTEOUS 1 Samuel 18:17-19

After David defeated Goliath and the Philistine army, he was brought into Saul's court to live and he began to record other successes but this got Saul jealous and he sought to kill David. When Saul realized that he could not kill David because the Lord was with him, he thought of the option of allowing the enemy to kill him at war.Nonetheless, the favour of the Lord continued to preserve David. No doubt, God always turns situations meant to destroy His children around for their good.

Saul utilized every opportunity he had in attempting to kill David, but all failed because David through God's wisdom was able to avert every of such plans. God kept David because he was His beloved and would not allow any plan of the wicked to prosper against him. Hence, when God is with a man, He makes him escape every snare and makes his enemies afraid of him. You must also learn that though David knew the Lord was with him, he didn't see it as an avenue to misbehave. He comported himself, and no wonder he kept winning.

Action Point: Read scriptures of God's promises of protection and affirm them. Prophetic Declaration: I am preserved by the Lord from all attacks.

# GOD'S COVENANT IS SURE Exodus 24:1-8

It is only the nature of humans to say things they cannot accomplish or take responsibility for. Humans are limited, even with the most sincere and honest promise, one might not be able to fulfil it because of reasons beyond one's ability to control. So, don't be too disappointed when someone promises you something and they are not able to fulfil it, they may sincerely be limited by their humanness. That is why rather than looking to men, you should look to God in all situations.

When God initiated a covenant with the Israelites, for as long as they obeyed Him and submitted to His will, He fulfilled all that was promised. When God asked Moses to lead the Israelites to Him, He wanted to confirm their readiness to seek Him and accept His instructions, and once they acknowledged, worshipped and accepted His ordinances, He established a covenant with them and fulfilled it. As a believer, the blood of Jesus established a new covenant with you; all that is required of you is your acceptance of His Lordship, worship and obedience.

Action Point: Consciously live a life of worship to God. Prophetic Declaration: I cancel every mark of evil on my life.

# AMIDST THE UNCERTAINTY Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

No side of life is certain. In fact, at any given moment, one can only be certain of what had been; no mortal can be sure of either the present or the future. You can make good plans that will never see the light of day because while you're making those plans, other natural occurrences are taking effect, which you could neither have anticipated nor imagined.

However, there is better leverage for you as a believer that is your relationship with the Alpha and Omega, the God who knows the end from the beginning. Jesus promised His followers and every Christian by extension, the gift of The Holy Spirit to teach and guide and also reveal the mind of the Father. Through Him, you can make the right decision and not just waste efforts trying different things. As a child of God, you don't have to labour in vain, or invest by chance, you only need to commit your plans to the Lord in prayers and He will lead you through. No matter the level of uncertainty that beclouds your path, the Holy Spirit can guide you through.

Action Point: Commit all your plans to God's hands. Prophetic Declaration: I receive the eyes to see clearly.

### MAKING RESTITUTIONS Exodus 22:5-15

We are currently in an era where the word of God is deliberately turned upside down to suit worldly and personal narratives. People no longer accept the word of God as it is, but as they want it to be. We've seen, read and experienced several instances where sinners claimed to come to Jesus without wanting to forsake their old lives. They have stolen from someone but they don't want to return what was stolen, they have cheated but they don't want to give back what was deceitfully gained.

The scriptures specifically highlighted some of the things that must be done to restitute for wrongdoing in the Bible days. The domineering theme of the instructions is simply to actively restitute for any wrongdoing. As much as those laws do not hold a grip today in the exact letters, the essence of the instructions remains. Every man must be ready to take responsibility for wrong deeds done to others and be ready to play their part to soothe the wound of the offended and this can take different forms in this dispensation.

Action Point: Seek forgiveness from people you've offended. Prophetic Declaration: I am free from the guilt of sin and shame.

# CHRIST THE FOUNDATION 1 Corinthians 3: 10-11

When the foundation upon which a house is built is strong, the house built on it is strong as well. Conversely, when the foundation is weak, the house built on it is also weak. Such is the life of a person who claims to be a Christian but has not made Christ the only foundation of their life. If you are ever going to base your entire life on anything, then you must be sure that it is solid and it is the truth. It will be tragic for you to build your entire life on a foundation that is wrong and does not promise eternity.

Apostle Paul also emphasizes in our text for today, that Christ is the only foundation upon which a man can lay and build his or her life on. The only foundation that has been laid for you as a believer is Christ Himself. On Christ alone stands your hope, growth, faith and eternal life. Therefore, do not build your life on the things of this world or the pleasure of this earth. Build up your life upon the foundation that has been laid for you.

Action Point: Christ is the only solid foundation. Prophetic Declaration: I stand upon the Solid Rock, I shall not fall.

# DO NOT STOP PRAYING Daniel 10:12-14

Over time as seen in the journey of the believer, it seems there are certain times you live and operate under close heaven. This happens to different people for different reasons. Whatever the case may be, as a child of God you should know that the challenge is not from God as He does not have difficulty granting you the desires of your heart. He is more than able to give you far beyond what you can think or ask for.

Be conscious of the fact that all the challenges you are encountering are not just to afflict you, but it is to build your faith and at the same time, the devil uses them to attack your faith in God and if possible, push you to deny Him. When you go through all of that, do not faint in the place of prayer. Daniel prayed unto the Lord continuously and he got a word from God through His servant after three weeks, He will surely come through for you as well. Though a slight delay might be experienced, be assured that God will answer you.

Action Point: Keep praying until you receive the answer. Prophetic Declaration: I receive speedy answers to my prayers.

#### NEW IDENTITY 2 Corinthians 5:15-17

Every nation of the world has its means of identification which are symbolic to them, such as their national anthem, national pledge, national flag, national colour, and probably languages that are peculiar to them, which helps to differentiate them from other nations. As it is in the nations of the world, so it is in the kingdom of God. There is a way of life that is acceptable for Kingdom citizens and that primarily serves as their identity.

This is why Apostle Paul admonished the Corinthians to live to please God as a citizen of His kingdom. Once you are saved, through the acceptance of the gospel of Christ, from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of light, you must forsake your old ways of life which are against the will of God and put on the new way of life which conforms to Christ's. You must be deliberate about reflecting Christ in all of your speeches, actions and relationships. The new identity which you now have must be expressed such that it invites others to the fold of Christ.

Action Point: Let Christ be reflected in your daily living. Prophetic Declaration: My past will not hold me bound.

### THE WISDOM OF GOD Job 32:4-9

Your heavenly Father is perfectly wise. Everything he does is perfect. Every thought and idea He has is filled with complete wisdom and He is the source of true wisdom. God's wisdom is vastly superior to human wisdom. Wisdom itself is defined as the right application of knowledge and through the Holy Spirit, you have access to the wisdom of God. From today's passage, Elihu who was Job's youngest friend admits that wisdom is not a function of age but that the Spirit of God gives understanding.

Experience as often said is not the right source for wisdom as children of God and definitely not the best teacher. For your daily living, you must trust in the Holy Spirit, not your knowledge or experience. Your experience is insufficient to guide you through the path of life but God's wisdom is sufficient. Through God's wisdom, you will live a life devoid of error and you are wiser in all you do. This will be possible because the all-knowing God is the source of your ideas and instructs/directs you. Ask God for wisdom today, He will give you.

Action Point: The wisdom of God is essential. Prophetic Declaration: My spirit always receives inspiration from the Holy Spirit.

## SEEKING GOD'S COUNSEL 2 Samuel 2: 1-4

In every step you take in life as a Christian, God should never be left out of the decision-making process. Seeking God's counsel leads you to walk with God and make the right choices. God desires that you walk before Him in an uninterrupted experience of victory through Christ. But one of the surest ways to interrupt that victory and bring great harm upon yourself is to move ahead of God, not stopping to enquire from Him.

One truth you will learn from the life of David, that will help in establishing you in your walk with God, is that David would never take a step without God's permission. David always sought God's counsel in his affairs. David got his greatest moment of victory (being crowned king) because he sought the counsel of the Lord before taking steps. A godly person always seeks to follow God's guidance and wisdom. You should also learn to always seek God's counsel before making a decision or taking an action.

Action Point: Always seek God's counsel before taking an action. Prophetic Declaration: My steps are continuously ordered by the Lord.

# TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS 1 Thessalonians 3:1-4

Trials and temptations are inevitable in the Christian journey. Jesus Christ when He was leaving the earth didn't promise you a journey free from trial and temptation, but He assured you He will be there and you will overcome trials and temptation when they come. Though trials can be so overwhelming that it makes you want to question God's love and faithfulness over you, but when you stay through in God and overcome, the reward that comes after it is worth it.

The apostles were pressed on all sides, they were faced with all kinds of trials, yet they decided to stay focused. They were not distracted. They devoted their lives to God not minding the opposition. They kept their gaze not on the sufferings but on the prize placed in front of them and you should do the same. Are you faced with opposition or trials because you believe in the name of Jesus? Do not be dismayed, Christ is for you. Don't be confused and disoriented, He has won the victory on the cross. Just be focused and determined and victory will be yours.

Action Point: Encourage yourself in the scriptures today. Prophetic Declaration: I have been saved and I won't go back.

# SAY NO TO WORLDLINESS James 4:4-5

Human nature is unrepentantly hedonistic; you cannot help your nature from the inordinate love of pleasure and worldliness. This is more evident in contemporary times with the length people are ready to go to satisfy their lustful desires. There is recurring news of ritual killings, cybercrime and so on. People want to gratify their fleshly inclination at the expense of other people and wouldn't mind if others are at a loss because of their gain.

Thanks to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross at Calvary, He saved you completely from human nature and offers you His life in abundance. Through His words, he opened your eyes to the value of contentment, and how you should live within your means. Therefore, you must not succumb to the allure of worldliness in pursuit of your needs or wants. Today, ordinary things like fashion, dance, music, slang and so on as become means through which worldliness creep into the life of many Christians unknowingly. Therefore, guard your life against these contaminants and ensure your consistent sanctification to God.

Action Point: Beware of your lifestyle, ensure it glorifies God. Prophetic Declaration: I break every yoke of worldliness in my life.

### RETURNING WITH GLADNESS 2 Samuel 6:12-18

The Yoruba tribe of the South-Western region of Nigeria is characterized by their love for celebration which is usually a reflection of a heart of gratitude. The Yorubas will celebrate every little achievement including the possession of properties such as cars, houses or even a motorcycle. I know this about the Yoruba tribe because I have grown up in the region and could tell they love celebration. It is important to know that showing gratitude for the success achieved is a good attitude.

David rejoiced at the return of the Ark of Covenant. Notably, that was because of what the ark symbolizes; the presence of God Almighty. One of the weaknesses experienced during Saul's reign in Israel is the absence of the Ark of the Covenant. This informs why David and all the house of Israel rejoiced at the ark's return. It was a great achievement for them. As a believer, always appreciate the presence of God in you. Also, appreciate God when you achieve success in your endeavours. Never think your success is a function of your diligence alone.

Action Point: Sing a song of praise and dance to the Lord for previous successes achieved. Prophetic Declaration: I have the presence of the Lord Almighty in me.

### ABOUNDING IN LOVE 1 Thessalonians 3:12

The summary of the commandment is love; love to God and love to other people. Paul wrote to the Thessalonian church on the necessity of the existence of unconditional (Agape) love among them. Agape love is that kind of love that is committed and dedicated regardless of the actions of the other person. It is God's kind of love. God was so committed and dedicated to the world that He gave His only Son on the cross so that men can have eternal life and expects that we also love others around us.

To love others as God has commanded is not possible by human strength, you must ask the Holy Spirit for help. Naturally, you cannot love those who despise but unconditional love is what God demands from you. Therefore, it is the Holy Spirit that works through you to fulfil this command of love from God. The scripture states that the evidence of you being a child of God is that you love your brother. Loving others as a child of God is not optional it is mandatory. It may be difficult to love some people but the Spirit is always available to help you.

Action Point: Ask the Lord to help you love as you go out today. Prophetic Declaration: My heart is saturated with the love of God.

#### GREAT GRACE 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Paul, an apostle of God went through a lot of suffering for the sake of Christ while he was on earth, but did not fail to accept that the suffering was for God's glory. He noted that when "he was weak, then he was strong", this statement can only be made by a man who has a relationship with God. God's sufficiency, grace and supply are available to as many who believe. What a wonderful grace! What a marvellous grace!

The promise of God to you in all the situations you find yourself is "God's grace is sufficient for you", all you need to do is to access it through Jesus Christ. If you need more grace, then much more will be provided. God's grace is more than enough to make us perfect in weakness, it delights to forgive, to deliver, to keep you spiritually active, to slay the power of sin within and much more. This grace is readily available for all. Are you going through any turbulent times? Ask for the grace to wade through the storm. Ask for grace in every area of your life.

Action Point: Ask for grace to wade through the storm. Prophetic Declaration: I begin to enjoy God's grace.

# MEMORIALS OF GOD'S GOODNESS Joshua 4:1-7

A story was told of a woman who had a stack of frames of spectacular things God had done in her life over decades. She wrote on a piece of paper a situation that seemed very dire at the time, her prayer points, the time God answered and how He answered. She had these papers framed and kept showing them to friends and family members through the years as a testimony of God's goodness to her.

God desires that memorials that remind His people about His goodness be set up to educate subsequent generations about His might and wonderful acts. Believers must deliberately make efforts to immortalize God's goodness to them. Has God done anything spectacular in your life since you were little? How have you preserved these wonderful acts both for your remembrance and the instructing of your children? Think up a way to keep record and preserve the stories of the acts of God in your life so that you will always be in remembrance and you can use it to teach younger ones about God's abilities also.

Action Point: Get a book dedicated to documenting God's goodness to you. Prophetic Declaration: I am a beneficiary of God's goodness all my days.

## THE LORD'S PRESENCE Psalms 114:5-8

A young boy was standing on the path in a thick and dark bush. As young as he was, he stood bravely in the bush with just a burning torch in his hand. An elderly hunter saw him from afar and walked towards him. He questioned why he was alone in the bush and why he wasn't afraid. The young boy smiled and replied the hunter, "I'm not scared because my father is with me", pointing to his father who sat amid leaves at some distance.

One thing that should not be found wanting in the life of a Christian is the presence of God. A man who carries the Lord's presence will overcome any battle, no matter how fierce. The presence of God is enough to melt insurmountable mountains standing before you and also dry up stormy seas raging against you. The sea did not dry up because the children of Israel were many or because Moses raised the rod against it. The sea parted because the presence of God was with them. Do you carry the presence of God? One thing you should pray to God so earnestly for is His presence. His presence never fails.

Action Point: Pray to God to make His presence evident in your life. Prophetic Declaration: I am a carrier of God's presence.

# GODLY ASSOCIATION 2 Corinthians 6: 14-18

The Bible made clear the kind of association believers should pursue as they set their gaze on heaven. You cannot run the heavenly race effectively when you are loaded with ungodly relationships and associations. They will continue to draw you back, slow down your pace and ultimately take you out of the race. You have to be deliberate about who you choose as friends, your church members and the doctrines you accept. Many believers have been subtly alienated from the heavenly race as a result of their association with the ungodly.

There are stories of people whose fire of faith was burning fiercely but when they innocently associated with unbelievers, the fire was abruptly extinguished. A very good example is Samson; his life and ministry were cut short because of his association with Delilah. You should also be careful of the people you expose yourself to, the company you keep and those that surround you. Be spiritually discerning to uncover wolves in sheep's clothing when giving anybody access to your life.

Action Point: Seek the wisdom of God in every association you keep. Prophetic Declaration: I cancel every plan of evil over my life.

### A CRY OUT Judges 3:15

Ruth, a young lady was being maltreated by her stepmother. She was threatened by the stepmother so much that she was afraid to speak out to anyone. When Ruth could no longer bear the suffering, she ran to a woman of God and told her about her predicament. This woman stepped into her matter and helped her out of the situation. Ruth then lived a life that was free of maltreatment and suffering.

As they say, "A closed mouth is a closed destiny". If you do not open your mouth and cry out for help when and where you need help, help might not come through for you. Some openings and breakthroughs are not just automatic, it takes an effort of speaking up and crying out to God to get them. It was when the people of Israel cried out to God that God raised a deliverer for them. They would probably continue in that suffering if they were mute and kept bearing. Don't keep quiet on matters of life. When you need help, cry out to God. Talk to men when necessary too.

Action Point: A closed mouth is a closed destiny. Prophetic Declaration: I am delivered from every pain and struggle.

# THE LOVE OF THE WORLD 1 John 2:15

The world is God's beautiful creation which testifies about the wonders of God. This world system also exalts man and is in rebellion against God its creator. The things of this world also testify to us about God and His power about the material possessions in it. The love for the things of the world should not be the pre-eminent love of a man's life. You must love God and Him alone, your love for Him must be pre-eminent.

Two cannot walk together except they have a common ground to leverage on. A man who loves the world and the things therein cannot serve God, the love for the world pushes out the love for God and vice versa. Scripture affirms that you cannot serve two masters, you will love one and hate the other. The one who loves the operation of the world is controlled by sin and fleshly desires and cannot focus on God. Love God and do His will (believe in Him) and you will live with him forever but when you do otherwise you will pass away and perish eternally.

Action Point: Allow the love of God to find expression in your heart. Prophetic Declaration: The love of God is within me.

### A TIME FOR ALL Ecclesiastes 3:1

Man is bound to undergo many phases in life, the ability to pull through all these phases depends on how best you can rely on God. Man's time is appointed by God. There is time for everything here on earth. God is the giver of life and the one that can take it. He is the only one with the power over the birth, the death and the happenings of living things on earth. As a Christian, you should know that God has appointed time for everything here on earth. Anything that happens is controlled and allowed by God. His power holds the universe from the smallest creature to the biggest, from the most important thing you know to the most unimportant thing of all, God put them all in the way that He wants them. It is expected of you to trust God for all you are going through, your timetable is different from God's. Are you facing a delay or the challenges around you are overwhelming? Why not just rely on the owner of the universe, who controls all things? Trust in Him and follow His direction.

Action Point: God makes all things beautiful in His time. Prophetic Declaration: Joy comes in the morning and my morning is now.

### THE LORD IS MY REFUGE Psalms 16: 1, 8-11

A refuge is a place of protection, safety and shelter. The sayings of the Psalmist inform that there is no refuge in man or things of this world. Unfortunately, many put their trust and confidence in earthly things. Some trust in money, properties, relationships, education etc. However, there is no safety in all of that except in the Lord. It is in God and Him alone that you can find refuge.

With the level of insecurity in the country, where even the security personnel are not secured themselves, there is a need for you to allow God to be your refuge. David would have died many times but thank God he never trusted in the arm of flesh at any point but in God. If you make mortal men your refuge, you will be let down in no time. If you must scale through this unsecured world, your refuge must be in God. The three Hebrews put their refuge in the living God and He secured them even in the fiery furnace. As you proceed in the journey of life, let your refuge be in the Lord who cannot fail you.

Action Point: In Christ alone will you find absolute safety. Prophetic Declaration: God bless Nigeria!

## KNOW GOD'S VOICE John 10:1-5

One of the most beautiful things in the life of a Christian is knowing your father's voice. A child recognizes or is familiar with his father's voice as a result of constant communication and interaction that has developed between them. How much more your heavenly father who loves and cares for you unconditionally? Knowing His voice should be of utmost importance to you at all times.

If you will thrive, you must know and follow God's voice. You cannot live by trial and error. You cannot live on assumption. You will live successfully only if you do the right things at the right time and the sure way to this is to be guided by God. Therefore, this year, it must be your priority to know God's voice and follow His instructions and leading. It is of great importance to know God's voice so that you will not go astray and will be preserved from danger. Forasmuch as you desire great things in life, desire to be able to discern God's voice when He speaks to you.

Action Point: Make a conscious effort to know how God speaks. Prophetic Declaration: I enjoy divine leading this year.

#### SEEK THE LORD Psalms 105:4

The Hebrew verbs translated as "search" and "seek" are similar in meaning. Search (darash) suggests care and intentionality in the process of looking for something, while seek (baqash) implies eagerness and desire. Seeking the Lord involves living intentionally with reliance upon him. You are to search for God's strength by calling out to Him for help and allowing His Spirit to guide and empower you. You seek the Lord when you desire to honour him with all of your life, not just the obviously religious stuff. You can seek God by praying, reading scripture, gathering with other believers for worship, and joining in the work of the church. But you are to seek the Lord "continuously," according to the passage read. When you're in the classroom or the boardroom, when you're chatting with your friends or deliberating with your colleagues, you should seek the Lord by being open to His guidance, wisdom and strength. The very act of seeking God honours Him, giving Him a rightful place as Lord over your life. It also enables you to live for His purposes.

Action Point: Consistently seek God. Prophetic Declaration: I love and serve God all the days of my life.

### PROMPT OBEDIENCE Exodus 7: 1-6

One major key that helps a man live a fulfilled and successful life is obedience to the commands of God. Moses was able to successfully help the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt because he paid attention to God's leading and obeyed His commands given to him. Moses did not subtract nor add to God's word, He did exactly as God told him. Many want to live a successful life today without obeying God. Let it be known to you that success without God will lead to crisis. You need the leading of God to go far in life and to experience 'good' success, especially in this confused world.

Do you want to record success on that project? Do you want to experience a great turnaround in the God-given assignment in your hands? Submit yourself to His instructions. You need God to have clarity and direction in this world. To get the clarity you need, submit totally to following the instructions of God as given to you. Remember, to the extent to which you obey God, to that extent you will experience His leading.

Action Point: Success without God will lead to crisis. Prophetic Declaration: I live in total surrender to God's will.

#### RIGHT WAY TO LIVE Ecclesiastes 9:7-9

God is very interested in your life and well-being. His desires and expectation over your life are allencompassing. As far as God is concerned, His design is for you to enjoy all that He has made. He wants you to be joyous and glad in all your endeavours. He desires that you have bread to eat, wine to drink and clothes to wear. Nevertheless, the chief of it all is to seek the will of God for your life and existence, only then can your work and life be acceptable to Him.

God designed life to be pleasurable. The purpose of God is that you live happily and enjoy all the good things in life. Being a Christian is not signing up for a life of penury. It is a step into the abundance that is available in God. He owns everything and can give it to anyone. More than earthly fathers can ever do, God cares for His children and provides for their needs in every aspect. In case you have been told that Christianity is characterized by suffering, no, it is a call to good life. Good life is God's plan for you.

Action Point: God loves you and will take care of you. Prophetic Declaration: The plan of the enemy of my life is destroyed.

# BEYOND THE OFFERINGS 1 Samuel 15:20-26

Ever before Saul came to be king of Israel, the Amalekites had entered God's record book of offenders. Then the Lord sent words to Saul to go and destroy everything that existed in Amalek but instead, he reserved animals which he claimed were for offering and spared the king. The consequence of Saul's action led to him being rejected by God. Saul, in his mind, felt that he had really obeyed the Lord when in the real sense, his partial obedience is disobedience. Saul must have thought that offering of sacrifice would make up for his disobedience but it did not.

It is important for you also to learn from Saul and know that you can't use another thing as a substitute for (full and complete) obedience. When God gives instructions, He is to be obeyed. Nothing else can be done to bribe God, not money or offering of whatever form. God rejected Saul because he disobeyed His instructions which means his sacrifice was offered in disobedience. An offering that is not borne out of obedience is an abomination to the Lord.

Action Point: Unlike men, God cannot be silenced with gifts. Prophetic Declaration: I am helped by the Spirit to live in obedience to God's words.

### REAPING WHAT YOU SOW Isaiah 3:10-11

We are indeed in a perilous time. Evil seems to be prevailing so much that the heart of the saints consistently fails and quivers. It appears painfully as though evil people own the world and legislate over it. Believers are oppressed, suppressed, and prosecuted unjustly and it sorrowfully feels nothing will happen sooner to change the tides of this wickedness. However, God already declares the end of the wicked and the righteous.

The scripture declared about the wicked that it will not be well with them. It doesn't matter what the reality seems like right now. The word of God is always true. Their end will be eternal damnation. You as a righteous person should not be discouraged from pursuing what pleases God and doing His perfect will. The scripture declares that it will go well with you. You will gain the reward of your faithfulness and righteousness in multiple folds, here on earth and certainly in eternity. You should never envy the wicked because they appear to prosper now, you have a better end and a better reward.

Action Point: It shall be well with the righteous. Prophetic Declaration: It shall be well with me.

# NO ISOLATION IN CHRIST 2 Chronicles 15:2

In life, people tend to seek after those who show love and care for them. The care and love make them feel that they are not alone. Isolation is a feeling of being alone or not being cared for and also an avoidance of interactions with others. An isolated life is a life without Jesus and such life is prone to loneliness, nakedness, fear and all manner of evil.

In today's scripture, it was emphasized that in life you should seek God and He will be with you. One of the benefits of seeking God and not despising Him is living a fulfilling life. A fulfilling life is a life that receives its direction from God, it has a vision and purpose to pursue which gives room for connecting with other people and impacting a general sense of purposefulness. Remaining in God through Christ as a believer gives your life all it needs to be nurtured and flourished. You cannot thrive without God! In God is all a man needs to thrive and flourish in all aspects of life. He is ever present to help and guide you, so, do not hide yourself from Him.

Action Point: Christ brings man sufficiency. Prophetic Declaration: I receive the grace for an undying and unending relationship with God

# THE BEST WAY TO FIGHT 1 Samuel 24:1-12

Oftentimes, when we read 1 Samuel 24, one general idea that comes to mind is that, David had the opportunity to kill Saul, who wanted him dead but he did not utilize it. David proved to Saul that he had no plan of harming him neither has he (David) sinned against him in any way. David decided not to touch the Lord's anointed. When Saul saw his skirt which David had cut off, it dawned on him that his life was actually in David's hand yet he chose to spare him. At this point, David's act melted Saul's heart and he discovered that David was the real man for the throne but he still did not give up on seeking his death in later chapters until he eventually died.

David's decision to not fight for himself revealed that there is a better way to fight. He involved God and allowed him to fight his battles. Like David, allow God to fight your battles too. God will do far beyond what you could ever think or imagine in fighting your course, and whatever He does is to your advantage.

Action Point: Allow God to fight your battles for you. Prophetic Declaration: I am more than a conqueror.

### TEST OF LOVE 1 John 5: 1 – 3

God tests your love for Him from time to time. Your love for God is one of the virtues that qualify you for His earthly and heavenly blessings. The love for God is the secret to triumphant living; it is the power behind a life of exploits. The litmus test for your love for God is obedience to His commandments. The commandments of God are not grievous; obeying them is proof of your love for Him. The commandments of God are found in His word.

Some benefits of obedience to God's commandments are living an overcomer's life, possession of eternal life, having the petitions you ask of Him, becoming an intercessory tool of God, covering and immunity against the wicked ones and God gives you the understanding and ability to discern spirits. God will continually test your love for Him in your day-to-day activities with diverse encounters with Him and people. The decision to yield to sin or not is also a decision to love God and His people or not.

Action Point: To prove your love for God, you need to obey all His commandments. Prophetic Declaration: My love for God shall not diminish.

### ACT OF GIVING Exodus 25:1-2

Every good and perfect gift comes from God. Giving is a Godlike trait and God expects His children to be like Him. God does not require everyone to give the same way or the same amount but to give bountifully and cheerfully, not grudgingly or under compulsion. Giving should not be a mindless routine but be done as an act of worship.

When you give, you testify that all you have belongs to God and that you are merely a steward. God's gifts are vital to the life of mankind, and as stewards of God, we are required to be faithful in our service of giving to Him. Giving requires diligence, readiness and attention. It is a heart that is attentive that would pick up the impression to give. Jesus Christ values giving because He said that "good measure shaking together and running over" will be the lot of those who give. Giving also requires willingness. A willing heart would be the one to enjoy the blessing thereafter. It is not the possession of material things that becomes a challenge, rather, it is your obsession with amassing and hoarding them.

Action Point: What is that thing you have been asked to release that is so hard, release it today. Prophetic Declaration: I have a receptive heart to obey as God leads me.

### THE OMNISCIENT GOD Psalms 139:1-6

Today's text is a psalm of David which shows his personal relationship with God. King David spoke like God had examined him in a court, looking not at his actions but at the motives of his heart. The Lord being omniscient knows everything about our lives, including our intentions before it's even acted out. Omniscient means all-knowing, allseeing, all-mighty, infinite, knowledgeable and wise.He knows how your thoughts are: whether pure or not. He is aware of your sins and weaknesses.

Knowing that God knows all should strengthen your faith in Him because He has the right word to comfort your soul in distress. Knowing Him becomes experiential when you allow Him through your intentions and your heart, letting all down and allowing Him to bear your burden. Who else cares enough about you to get to know the deepest parts of you, the parts that are hidden from everyone else and yet still finds you worthy of His attention if not the Lord Almighty? Come to Him today and let Him ease you of all life burdens.

Action Point: Cast all your cares on Jesus today. No one knows how to help you like He does. Prophetic Declaration: Jesus is my inheritance.

#### CALL ON GOD Psalms 107:13 - 21

The unfailing love of God over His people is incomparable. God loves you first and gave you His only begotten son to reconcile you with Him. The greatest asset you have is His love for you, it cannot be quantified, it is unfailing irrespective of the time or situation. The love of God is the basis and summary of the New Testament and the chronicled details of the Old Testament in the Bible. God loves you and is always ready to help.

People can love you so dearly but may fail to act accordingly in certain circumstances but you can call on God any time and He will come to your rescue. He is unfailing. Many forget to do this and first try to reason ways out of their problem and can be subject to worry, which saps energy. Whenever you are in need of help, call on God. He is ever ready to listen to your pleas and request.

Action Point: Make it a habit to speak to God about every trouble you are facing. Prophetic Declaration: I am rescued from every trap and snare of the enemy.

### GROW AND MATURE I Titus 1:9

It is very important as a mature Christian to live out what you believe according to the scripture and to hold firmly to the trustworthy message you have been taught so that you can encourage others with sound doctrine. You must know what the scriptures say, not what people say. There are numerous untrustworthy but well-articulated messages that one can easily be swayed by. If you remain an immature Christian, you would not be able to encourage others correctly.

The reason many false teachings are proliferating is that many believers are and remain immature. Be committed, pray and let the Holy Spirit teach you the truth as you listen and look into the scripture to confirm all you are being taught. Then, hold firmly to your conviction with the help of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth which is in you. If you remain in Christ and His Word remains in you, you will be able to discern true teachings. You need to grow and mature as a Christian. Be guided and led by the Holy Spirit, depend on Him solely not to be swayed.

Action Point: Study the word of God, keep it in mind and consciously apply it in your life. Prophetic Declaration: I grow in my knowledge of God.

### GROW AND MATURE II Titus 3:3-7

God saved you and accepted you with all the faults, passions and pleasures that enslaved you. You have been justified by grace even with all those things you did before. However, you must be intentional about making those acts your past. You must mature in your knowledge and walk with God and rise above being controlled by your passion and lust. Your sinful desires must be put to death and you must embrace the life of Christ.

An expedient addition is that being a mature Christian calls for certain behaviour which includes obedience, humility towards all men, readiness to do good, peace, compassion, rising for the salvation of others who are yet to be saved and so on. When you grow, you do not only leave the old things but you pick up the new ones. The fruit of the Spirit must be evident in you. This does not mean that each attribute will miraculously come upon you. You will need to discipline yourself and allow the Holy Spirit to work on you for the expression of the fruit.

Action Point: Possessing the fruit of the Spirit is an expression of your maturity in Christ. Prophetic Declaration: I grow in grace and bring forth fruit.

### GROW AND MATURE III Titus 1:6-8

There is a common saying that God looks at the heart while people look at the appearance. However, out of the abundance of the heart comes the things that people see. Christianity is a lifestyle; it is the way you live your life and the things you do. You cannot separate your attitude from your faith or spirituality

A mature Christian must not be negligent about certain things they do. You cannot just live your life as you please. Your maturity will be evident in how much you are willing to represent the kingdom of God in your daily endeavours. Beyond you, as you mature, you also bring others into the knowledge of Christ. You will always see others around you who do not yet understand all that is required of them as members of God's kingdom. They can be considered as children, and as a mature member of the Kingdom, you should take responsibility for them. You know you will not be able to do all these if you are a child yourself. So, you must grow and become mature.

Action Point: Teach others around you the way of the Lord. Prophetic Declaration: I live for Christ who died for me.

# BEWARE OF DECEITFULNESS Joshua 9:3-15

A wise old man once said that every human is wise in their own eyes, but the wisdom they possess is limited until they subscribe to the wisdom of God who is unlimited. Many times as humans, we make decisions based on our analysis, observations or even experience, but these decisions still end up being wrong because even the best of our knowledge can still be deceived. Only the wisdom of God is all-encompassing. Joshua depended on his analysis of the people who came to him in today's text and did not enquire of God about what was correct and because of this, he and the children of Israel were successfully deceived and trapped in the scheme of the people.

The only way to successfully avoid the deceitfulness of the enemy is by deferring to God always and on all matters. You are to trust in the Lord and lean on His wisdom always. Then He will direct your path and shield you from all deceit. Submit all matters to God today and watch Him direct you in the right path.

Action Point: God cannot be deceived, allow Him lead you. Prophetic Declaration: I walk in the wisdom of the Lord always.

# GOD'S PRESENCE IS WITH YOU Psalms 101:7

A brother and a sister were on their way to church and were discussing. The sister said she had not been going to church because all her clothes were not fit for church. She also listed other things that should not be done within the church, like envy, covetousness and false speaking. These were the things she thought she was guilty of, and according to her, the presence of God was in the church and she should not take those in there. In their conversation that day, the brother made her realise that as a Christian, the presence of God is with her everywhere and she cannot do things outside the building of the church if she agrees they should not be done within the building.

There should be no segregation between who you are in church on Sunday and who you are at work on Monday. You are a Christian anywhere and the life of Christ should be revealed in you every time and everywhere. If it is not worthy of Church, it is not worthy of your life at all.

Action Point: You are not a Christian only on Sundays, you are a Christian every day. Prophetic Declaration: I live a life holy and acceptable to God.

#### AVOID COMPROMISE I Exodus 8:25-28

All through the scripture, it was never suggested that a believer should have a concession with the devil, rather, you are told to resist him. This is because the devil is anti-God and a liar by nature. Therefore, yielding to him is an invitation to truncate God's counsel towards one's life. Unfortunately, when the devil comes with his tricks, many believers fall for it and allow a compromise in their obedience to God's word.

The conversation between Moses and Pharaoh was a temptation to compromise. Pharaoh said he will allow the Israelites to worship their God as Moses has requested and commanded but it has to be in the land of Egypt. This sounds like both parties gaining and is an example of how many people live their lives today. They are believers, yet they allow compromise at certain points in their lives instead of total obedience. That you compromise God's standards reveals that you value men in that instance than you value and trust God and His word. Reflect on the compromises you have allowed and make adjustments.

Action Point: Ponder on ways you have allowed compromise and make amends. Prophetic Declaration: I live a life that is totally yielded to the Lord.

# AVOID COMPROMISE II Exodus 10:8-11

The devil has no power over a child of God; however, he has schemes and plots against the believer to make them do contrary to God's words and leadings. Needless to say, this tactic of his has been in existence since the fall of man; it was even the genesis of the fall.

The devil suggested to Moses by the instrumentality of Pharaoh to allow the men alone go and worship the Lord, leaving behind their sons, daughters and flocks. Today, he has sowed this seed of compromise in many believers, they serve God with all of their hearts, leaving behind other parts of their lives (such as their children and spouses) to the hand of fate, not engaging in any conscious effort to bring them out of "Egypt". If you are living this way also, it is a pointer to the compromise you have allowed (especially if you are the leader in your case) and it is a dangerous path to tread. You must be resolute on serving God with everyone that is attached or connected to you.

Action Point: Never leave anyone to fate, do what you can to see that they serve God. Prophetic Declaration: I and my entire household live for the Lord.

### VARYING AUDIENCE, SAME MESSAGE Galatians 2:8

Many times, there seems to be unhealthy competition leading to rivalry among believers. This happens due to many factors, one of which includes either or both parties involved not having an understanding of their specific calling, assignment or placement in the body of Christ. Until that is settled, the work of ministry might not be done as Christ intends it to. Regardless of how long you have been saved, how gifted you are and what ministry office you function in, the basis is that you bring men to the knowledge of Christ.

Also, you should be aware that God, in His wisdom, strategically situated you where you are with your own unique audience in place. It will be an aberration fighting to be in another man's space and having access to his audience. Everyone will be judged based on what is committed to them. Hence, God desires faithfulness in your given assignment; therefore, it is expected of you to be faithful and committed. Discover, stay in and maximize your opportunities for the expansion of God's kingdom.

Action Point: God expects faithfulness in your assignment. Prophetic Declaration: God works effectively in me, in my space and in His time.

# TRAPPED ALONE Psalms 142:4-5

The passage of consideration today teaches how to pray when you feel trapped and alone, with no way of escape from the dark cave of overwhelming trials. It also teaches that faith in God must be personal. Your parents' faith will not do when you find yourself in a cave. Husbands, your wife's faith is good for her, but it won't get you through dark and difficult times. You must know God yourself through personal repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. And you must know how to personally call upon Him when you feel trapped, lonely and under attack.

Also, your faith in the Lord must be strong enough that you can stand alone when you need to. It's great to have fellow Christians who can pray with you and support you. But there are many times when fellow Christians and perhaps even your family will not stand with you. They may distance themselves from you because of your convictions or they are busy dealing with theirs. Let your loneliness, gloom, and despair make you cry out to the Lord to bring your soul out of prison.

Action Point: When you feel trapped and alone, cry out to God in prayer. Prophetic Declaration: I come out of every cave and cage of the enemy.

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S SIGNAL Exodus 3:1-10

Many advertising and marketing departments in firms make use of symbols or information that is targeted at appealing to the sense of their target audience/market. They try to infuse symbols that will get the attention of the people to increase sales. Similarly, God also orchestrates events in a man's life to get his attention. He could cause something to happen or inspire someone to say or do something in a way that calls out to you specifically. This He does in an attempt to get your attention.

In the text today, God reached out to Moses through a burning bush. And the moment Moses' attention was caught by that scenario, God began to speak to Him about the children of Israel and his role in their liberation from Egypt. You should be sensitive to the different events that God has been orchestrating around you. Perhaps like Moses, if you turn aside to see that sight God has been calling your heart to, there will be more revelation about your life and purpose to you. Trust the Lord for an accurate response to all His signals to you.

Action Point: Carefully observe events in your life that seem to call your attention to God and respond quickly. Prophetic Declaration: I understand God's move in my life.

# WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT MARRIAGE 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

God ordained marriage for companionship, procreation and purpose fulfilment. Humans have needs and cannot live happily independently, which is why sometimes we need a committed companion. One of the needs for married couples that is mentioned in today's text is sexual needs.

The writer of today's passage encourages marriage to the Corinthians because sexual immorality was becoming unbearable. He said each man should have a sexual relationship with his own wife. This should happen within the confines of marriage. Unfortunately, today's youths act against this, giving different opinions on what sexual sin is and what makes sex itself. Some hold the opinion of having a 'friend with benefit', which is totally against God's will. Marriage has its function and one of it is the provision of emotional and sexual needs. No present-day opinion can change God's stand. Scripture also gives instructions on how married people should relate to guard against being tempted by the devil.

Action Point: Sex is acceptable only within the confines of marriage. Prophetic Declaration: My generation will live for God.

### THE BODY I 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27

The body can only function effectively when all the parts do their job. In fact, the body is only called a body because it has different parts. The body of Christ must understand this and live and act in unity. The global church is a body. The local church is also a body. The understanding of how the success of a member affects the success of the other and how the hurt of one affects the well-being of the whole will guide how we deal in the body and how we address issues of the church.

What have you been assigned to do in the body of Christ? It is required of you to do it with all diligence. If the church as a whole will advance maximally, every unit of the church must be in its correct state. If a unit will function well, every member of the unit needs to individually put in effort. Hence, the success of the church as a whole is dependent on every individual doing their work well. Make sure you know your responsibility and do it well.

Action Point: You are part of the main, and you should not slack in your role. Prophetic Declaration: I am helped to be a functioning member of the body.

### THE BODY II 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27

Not only do we thrive together as a body, but we also get hurt together. Unfortunately, many members of the body of Christ do not understand this and it is revealed in how they address matters when a member of the church falls or fails. In this digital and social media age, it will be wrong of you to address the matters of your local church or the global church in a bad light in public. Remember that hurt to one is hurt to all.

Do not join the bandwagon to troll ministers on different social media pages. Do not condemn anyone because they fell. The church is meant to help in their journey towards restoration. If a part of your body is hurt, defence cells are generated to prevent more problems like infection and while that part heals, the whole body feels the pain. You cannot address the matter of any member of the body, local or global, as though their failure does not affect you. The church is one body; we must function, protect, present and defend ourselves as one. The success and failure of a member is the success and failure of every member.

Action Point: The church should help in the journey towards restoration. Prophetic Declaration: The gates of hell will not prevail against the church.

#### TRUST IN THE LORD 2 Chronicles 16:7-9

Life has its ups and downs and when you are faced with troubles your human instinct tends to find the nearest possible solution to the problem. It takes a heart that trusts God to remember Him amid chaos. At times, you may forget about God and the ways He has delivered you in the past until you have tried all else and failed.

In today's passage, King Asa chose to turn to the King of Aram when he felt threatened by Baashan King of Israel instead of turning to God despite the ways that God had helped him out in the past by delivering his enemies into his hands. As a punishment for what he did, the Lord decided to take the control of the army of the King of Aram away from him and told him from that moment onward he will always be at war. Your failure to trust in the capability of God endangers you. In times of trouble, always remember to turn to the Lord and not to a man because He is your ever-present help in times of trouble.

Action Point: Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your understanding. Prophetic Declaration: My trust in God will never fail.

#### SEEK GOD 2 Chronicles 17: 3-7

A child will always seek after their father because they know that from him comes their sustenance. If the earthly father knows how to give good gifts to his child how much more your father in heaven? The more you seek God, the more He gets attached to you and stays readily available for you.

Seeking God is a continuous process. At all times you need to seek God in all things. Seeking should not only be when you are in pain, trouble or passing through hard times, but even when things are perfect you need to seek Him. It is of more benefit for you to seek God because when you do, He stays in charge of your life. He ensures that nothing goes wrong with you and that even your enemies are subdued for your sake. When Jehosaphat sought God, He gave him victory and caused men to bless him, all these and many more are in God for his children that seek after him. Seeking starts from surrendering your life to Christ, daily intake of God's word, obedience to His word and instructions, and consciously following Him daily.

Action Point: Consciously seek after God. Prophetic Declaration: I declare nothing will come before God in my life.

### DIVORCE 1 Corinthians 7: 10-16

We are now in a world where believers think divorce is relative. The truth is separation is always unpleasant, especially when it's on the ground of hurt and bitterness. In marriage, when there is divorce both parties carry hurt in their heart with the hope that one day they will heal. Divorce has a strong impact on the life of the children the most. It becomes puzzling for them to receive love from both parents and sometimes they grow up to be hostile. Though there may be excuses for grounds on which divorce may be acceptable, it is still not the desire of God that it happens. This altogether is avoidable

Do not join the community that thinks they can get into a marriage carelessly, and if it doesn't work, they will quit. Do not start a relationship carelessly. Do not be carried away by the feeling of being in a relationship, the thoughts of getting married and the glamour of a wedding ceremony that you fail to check all things out. Divorce is not God's plan. It is avoidable.

Action Point: God has a plan for marriage, follow it. Prophetic Declaration: I will have a successful marriage.

### BE KIND TO ALL Esther 1: 5 - 8

We are currently in a world that segregates people along their financial, gender, social, religion, race and political identity. People are rarely treated equally as humans - the ultimate creation of God, but rather selectively according to individual preferences. King Ahasuerus made a feast for all his officials and servants, both the great and the small. No one was left behind. The drink was served in golden vessels to all who attended the feast without favouritism or segregation. Everyone was treated equally.

Also, during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, no one was segregated because of their societal status or identity. He treated both the rich and the poor alike. As a believer, this is a worthy example to follow. Your act of goodness, kindness and love must not be selective. Be deliberate about showing kindness to everyone around you. You cannot claim to be a Christian and you stand to favour the powerful while you exclude the powerless. You cannot only be friendly to those of your ethnic, religious, and denomination extract. Your goodness must be seen by all.

Action Point: Let there be no favouritism in how you deal with people. Prophetic Declaration: I cancel every covenant of death over my life.

# OBEYING GOD COMPLETELY 1 Kings 13:11-24

After delivering the message God had sent Him in the preceding verses, the prophet went ahead on another path as instructed. Unfortunately, he met with an old prophet who convinced him to stay to eat and drink which was specifically against God's instruction to him. The old prophet claimed he had also heard from an angel. Even though he (the prophet God had sent) had obeyed God in delivering the initial message, He was killed by a lion because he did not obey till the end.

Many times, believers receive an instruction from God and even though they start to carry out the assignment, something along the line distracts them from continuing. Know that incomplete obedience is also disobedience before God. You should stick to God's instructions irrespective of what others think about it.God is interested in total obedience. Partial obedience is still disobedience before God. The beauty and blessing in God's instruction to you will only be revealed when you obey Him fully. Ensure you are obedient to all of God's instructions.

Action Point: Be an obedient child of God. Prophetic Declaration: I am the messenger of Christ and I fulfil all my assignments by grace.

# SELFLESSNESS: A KEY TO SUCCESS 1 Kings 3: 1-15

God is mysterious, He moves and works in mysterious ways. But as mysterious and unpredictable as God's ways are, there are certain postures of His children that He never takes for granted. Looking through the story in our text, King Solomon went up to a famous mount to offer sacrifices to the Lord. Afterwards, he had a dream and God asked him what he wanted. The young king chose wisely and asked for the wisdom to rule God's chosen people. This act and request of Solomon showed that he never had his interest at heart rather he was concerned about God's people.

His request was highly sacrificial and selfless. God was impressed and even gave him more than he asked. One thing you should understand as a child of God is that God never reject or abandon a man with selfless values and interest, especially when it has to do with His children. God values the soul and well-being of every person on earth, if you value them as well, you will see God working things out in your favour.

Action Point: Life is not just about you, think about others. Prophetic Declaration: I impact my generation positively.

#### GOD'S WAY Joshua 11: 18-20

Our God is a sovereign God who chooses to deal with matters in His way. His ways are always different from the ways of men. In the text for today, God had been tolerating the wickedness and hardness of the enemies of Israel towards the Israelites. So, in God's quest to destroy them, it pleased Him to harden their heart. God could still have destroyed them in so many other ways, but He chose the way that pleases Him.

God does things in a way that is pleasing to Him. The hardening of the hearts of the enemies of Israel by God meant that God was controlling them. It was also proof that God can do whatever He likes with anybody at any time. I don't know those who stand to be your enemies today. Probably you have even been trying to deal with them in your way. Give God a chance today and let Him deal with your enemies the way He dealt with the enemies of the Israelites His way. Let every matter of your life be settled by God.

Action Point: God does things in His way. Prophetic Declaration: I will not step out of God's way.

#### GOD'S OWN 2 Timothy 2:19

God is the creator of all things and man specifically was made in His image and likeness. After the fall of man, reconciliation became necessary and because of this, Christ shed His blood and only those who believe in Christ and return to God can become God's own. Salvation is key to becoming God's own.

In becoming God's own you start living a life free from sin, you daily communicate with Him through scriptures and prayers and live a yielded life. God sees the heart of man; therefore, he cannot be deceived. He wants you to serve Him sincerely and wholeheartedly. He desires that you remain in Him at all times, not only when things are going as you desire but even when they are not. As God's own you are to say no to lusts and all fleshly desires by His grace at all times. When you become God's own, you ought to live your life fully in service to Him in order to please Him solely. And in return for service, He takes absolute responsibility for you in such a way that no one else can.

Action Point: Constantly remind yourself that you are God's own. Prophetic Declaration: I live a life pleasing to God.

# GOD'S TIME; THE PERFECT TIME Genesis 30:22-24

All believers have to go through a period known as the waiting period, although the timing might be different for each person. The starting and ending time of such a period depends on God's time. Sometimes the understanding of the occurring events might not make sense. One thing to understand is that God is still in control.

God was in control of Rachael's life as she wanted a child badly, but God did not give her what she wanted until it was His time to do so. Many times, you get impatient and make wrong decisions, but if you wait on God, He will provide a way for you. God has a plan and He is in control of every situation you are facing. You must first trust in Him. For Rachael, the arrival of Joseph at God's time rolled away her reproach. Is the situation around you reflecting a waiting period?If yes, then wait for God's perfect time to establish those promises. Our God is a God of time and season, be patient and prayerful, wait on Him and in due time, He will answer you.

Action Point: If it's not in God's time, it's not the perfect time. Wait for God's time! Prophetic Declaration: I receive grace to wait for my time.

# CALL OUT TO HIM Jeremiah 33:2-3

Bisi needed a pen urgently as her pen failed while writing her examination. Fortunately for her, the person sitting next to her was having two pens. So, Bisi without asking was expecting the person to give her one of his pens, but he did not. Not long after, she decided to ask for a pen from him and he gave her immediately without hesitating. Then she realized she was the one who did not do what was expected; which is to ask for the pen.

God is more than ready to reveal things to you and grant your requests, but it's your responsibility to call on Him. Unless you call, there will be no answer. The reason you have not heard from Him might be because you have not called on Him.

So, instead of murmuring and complaining, call out to Him today in prayers? Remember, the Israelites perished when they murmured. But then, you can only be bold to come to Him when you are free of sin.

Action Point: Repent of all your sins and when you call out to God in prayers, He will answer. Prophetic Declaration: As I call on God, I receive answers speedily.

# VICTORY THROUGH OBEDIENCE Psalms 81:13-15

Dave's mother asked him to read and prepare towards his examination but he chose to play around instead. Unfortunately, He failed the exam woefully and his friends who passed made jest of him. The following year, he registered again and his mum ordered him to read his book. Having failed the first time, he knew it was important to obey his mum's instruction. He read his books as instructed and passed his exam with a very good score. He became so happy and celebrated the victory he has attained by obeying his mother's instruction.

In our text for today, God told the people of Israel that to become a victor over their enemies, they must be obedient to His instructions. God can subdue in no time, the mountain before you if you walk in obedience to His instructions. If you have prayed and nothing is still working, check your obedience. Prayerfully, check where you are walking in disobedience, repent and watch God cast down every mountain before you. Always remember that prompt obedience to God brings an all-round victory.

Action Point: Obedience guarantees victory. Prophetic Declaration: I am victorious.

# CORRUPT RICHES James 5:1-6

Riches are good and necessary; contrary to the belief that it is evil and should be avoided. Every man desires to be rich; though it should be handled with the fear of the Lord. Also, the source of riches determines if it is corrupt riches or uncorrupted riches. Any riches gotten outside of God is corrupted because it is God that gives man power to make wealth. Hence, ill-gotten wealth is not from God. God's judgment is set on all those who amass wealth by defrauding their workers and other people.

There are different ways one can acquire riches; it can be through business, career or other means. All these ways are right only if done according to the principles of God. Corrupt riches originate from evil sources like cheating, stealing, deception, manslaughter, embezzlement and many others. It is with the help of the Holy Spirit that you can dominate over riches without it influencing you negatively. Allow the Spirit of God to control all aspects of your life including your finances. Furthermore, give less focus to riches but rather on the giver of riches which is God.

Action Point: Let your riches not be corrupt. Prophetic Declaration: In riches and wealth, my life will please God continuously.

# SHEPHERD FEEDS THE SHEEP Ezekiel 34:1-6

From a biblical standpoint, a shepherd is an individual that feeds, cares for, tends, and guards a sheep just as Jesus described himself as the Good Shepherd. This particular assignment is not only given to clergymen and women but believers. At some point in life, God can decide to appoint you as a shepherd over the souls of friends or people in contact with you. Unfortunately, many have turned down their spiritual assignment and are already running the devil's errands by devouring and destroying the same set of people God attached to them to build.

It is the responsibility of a believer as a shepherd to heal up the broken-hearted by the words of grace, releasing strength to weak souls and many more. It is worthy of note to add that the only way men can truly know the person of Jesus as the true shepherd is by the committed heart of love, care, and show of concern that you exercise to people that God has committed into your hands. Stand firm and labour with grace in your heart and love for God's people.

Action Point: Be deliberate in investing Christ into the life of people around you. Prophetic Declaration: I receive grace and strength for my assignment.

# THE DAY OF THE LORD 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5

Man lost the position God gave him at creation in the garden due to disobedience. Therefore, for man to be back in relationship with God, Jesus had to come. The first coming of Jesus Christ into this world was to redeem and reconcile man back to relationship with God. God sent His son to pay the price for the redemption of man with His life. He has died, risen and ascended to heaven but will come back, and that is the reminder of Apostle Paul in today's text. Jesus will surely come again though no one knows the day or hour.

The day of the Lord is the second coming of Jesus to glorify those who had received Him. That day will be a day of joy and celebration to some, and to all who reject Him, it will be a day of sorrow. You should not doubt His coming, rather, assess your life and see if you are qualified to reign with Him when He comes. The Lord's return will be unexpected and unannounced, but it is certain. You should be alert and not careless regarding His return and your preparation.

Action Point: Be deliberate with your daily living as you expect His coming. Prophetic Declaration: Nothing will separate me from the love of God.

# EXCEL IN EVERYTHING 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

In recent time, many people tend to equate Christianity with mediocrity. The reason for this is not farfetched, many Christians seem to only live to get by. They do things averagely well. There's rarely a godly commitment to excellence and greatness. In faith, they are mostly lukewarm; in speech, they are mostly superficial; in knowledge, they are mostly simple.

Apostle Paul commended the believers in Macedonia for excelling in everything and admonished the Corinthians to do even more. The expectation of God from you as His beloved is for you to excel in everything — both in religious space and other human endeavours. He wants you to excel in business, career, politics, leadership, giving, good deeds, and other godly ventures. He wants you to consistently be the best in your academics, at your place of work, amidst your colleagues and everywhere you find yourself. This may mean that you will enrol for an advanced course and/or acquire expert skills. You cannot always stay in your comfort zone. Aspire to be the best.

Action Point: Write out the areas where you need improvement and steps you will need to take towards achieving excellence in each. Prophetic Declaration: I live a life characterised by excellence.

### REJOICING IN TRIALS Romans 5:1-5

When I was much younger, I hated visiting the hospital because the doctor would always prescribe injections whenever I got sick. This made me dislike him and the nurses. I cried at the sight of the needle and syringe. However, I cannot deny that I recovered faster than when I took only drugs. The injection could be equated to a form of suffering at that period, yet it had the significant benefit of quick recovery.

Trials and problems that come your way because of your faith in God could be likened to the experience earlier explained. No one loves trials when they come, yet you and I cannot but live with them; your trust and patience are put to the test that way. Problems build your faith and hope. When you remember that God makes all things work for you, it brings peace and joy to your soul. Often, the bigger the suffering, the bigger the glory that comes with it. So, be calm and rejoice in your hard times, for it builds you up and will soon turn to testimony. Don't give up.

Action Point: Awaken your hope in God today; the suffering is for glory. Prophetic Declaration: My faith in God produces results, and His glory shines in my life.

# REMEMBER GOD'S GREATNESS Psalms 77:10-15

Whenever life becomes unfavourable and situations are unpalatable, it is almost impossible to see anything good about God. Asaph, the writer of this Psalm expressed his anguish and painful experience to God. Yet in the midst of the painful experience, he chose to remember the wonders and greatness of the Lord. He chose to speak about the better seasons when God's power was evident and cannot be hindered when His hand of strength and deliverance was mighty. In discouraging times, he remembered better times and took firm hope for the future. The passage presents a three-step process to encouragement in trouble. It begins with remembering God's great works, His wonders of old. The second is to meditate on those works, and what they have taught you. Thirdly, to speak to others about those great things you have experienced. If there is no good in the present you should allow the Holy Spirit to bring to you the greatness of God you have experienced in the past. This will bring comfort to your heart and renew your hope in God.

Action Point: Decide to praise God today, rather than complain about your situation. Prophetic Declaration: I enjoy the peace that passes understanding.

# HE STILL LISTENS Jonah 2:1-2, 10

Looking closely at the relationship between a father and his son, every good father punishes when necessary but never cast away, especially when the child acknowledges his misdeeds. Also, when you acknowledge your sins and repent, God forgives you. You must accept this truth that there is no sin so grievous that God cannot forgive. Sins usually come with consequences but these consequences do not mean that God has forsaken you. Whenever you cry out to Him, He will hear you and restore you.

However, that God forgives and restores is not an encouragement to sin. In no way is sin encouraged to continue. This message is to spur hope in you if you have thought God discarded you because of a mistake. He has not and never will. Repentance is what he demands from you. Like the prodigal son, acknowledge your sins, pray to Him for forgiveness, and He will answer you. Do not fall for the enemy's deceit that God will not hear you. Call, He still hears.

Action Point: God forgives and restores. Prophetic Declaration: I have the Spirit of God, I am not a slave to sin.

### BE FRUITFUL Genesis 9:1

Fruitfulness means to multiply. Fruitfulness is to have an outstanding result in one's assignment or chosen career. It could also mean having excellent results where others are failing. It is not restricted just to procreation. God has always been very conscious of the purpose for which He created man, which is to be fruitful and multiply. Before He wiped out the world because of the wickedness of the people, He asked Noah to ensure that man would continue to be fruitful and multiply by putting every living thing into the ark. This shows how deliberate God was to see all his children becoming fruitful. God expects His children to be fruitful in every area of their lives.

One of the keys to fruitfulness is total dependence on God. As a believer, it is important to always remember that with God nothing shall be impossible. God is the author of fruitfulness and He has put the desire for it in all living things. Know that God plays a prominent role in the fruitfulness of His children and all He needs from you is total dependence on Him so that you can be fruitful.

Action Point: Cultivate the habit of totally depending on God. Prophetic Declaration: I am fruitful and I multiply.

# WORK YOUR DREAM TO REALIZATION 1 Kings 3:16-28

God has diverse and different ways through which He communicates His wishes, plans, purposes and promises to His children. Many believers receive and claim these things with joy and gladness but fail to work them to realization. God has communicated several dreams, visions and assignments to you, but are you waiting for them to come to reality by themselves without playing your part? Things do not work that way all the time, there is a need to play your part. Solomon had a dream that God was going to give him wisdom, he did not just sit back or start jubilating, but, he stood up and gave something that quickened the manifestation of the request.

He went and stood before the Lord's covenant box and offered burnt sacrifice. Just after that, a situation arose that showcased his God-given wisdom. Your dreams and visions will remain abstract if you do not take needed godly actions to activate them into reality. God has given the vision and dreams to you, you also have a part to play to bring it to realization.

Action Point: Don't just wish/wait, take action. Prophetic Declaration: God's plan for my life will be fulfilled.

# IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIP John 5: 2 - 7

Humans are generally social beings. They are social because no one can live comfortably in isolation, without the help of others. You can rarely get committed help from someone without an established relationship with them. Solid and quality relationship is what will make someone to be so devoted, committed, and invested in your course that they wouldn't let good opportunities pass you by. The man at the pool of Bethesda certainly lacked such a relationship. All he needed was just a man to push him into the pool when the angel stirs the water.

As a child of God, there are many pools around you that are consistently being stirred by God to your advantage and you've only been missing them because you lacked human relationships to inform, push, and connect you to explore and take advantage of those opportunities. These relationships are built deliberately and intentionally through acts of kindness, generosity, sacrifice and service. You must be selfless, caring and concerned about others if you will build helpful relationships.

Action Point: Assess your relationships and do the needful. Prophetic Declaration: I break barriers.

# GROWING TO PERFECTION Philippians 3:12

There was a purpose in the heart of God that necessitated Him sending His only begotten son into the world to die for the sin of man. That purpose is that Jesus will be the perfect example of those who will inherit the kingdom of God. The author of today's passage expresses his desire to lay hold of that which Christ Jesus laid hold of. That is, to be perfected in the growing knowledge of conformity to the image of God which is in Christ. He is not willing to settle for any less than perfection. He presses on, trying hard with all of the resources and grace at his disposal to become that which God wants him to be.

In like manner, God does not desire you to settle for anything less than perfection in your relationship with Him. His expectation is for you to grow as a Christian in the knowledge of Him who had saved you from the power of sin. Take up this challenge to press on in your quest for God until you lay hold of Him. There is a deeper experience in God than you are presently experiencing.

Action Point: There is more to enjoy in Christ. Prophetic Declaration: I break loose from every hindrance and obstacle.

# TAKE AWAY THE ACCURSED Joshua 7:12-13

God's plan for His children is to stand victorious over all things. He also designed and set strategies that will enable His children to have dominion over the enemy. God has set the course but oftentimes, believers abort God's plan when they bring an accursed thing into their lives. Sin must be taken away from your life before you can take your stand against the enemies and have victory over them.

In our text for today, the people of Israel had an accursed thing amidst them which hindered them from being able to take a stand against their enemies and God assured them that they would not have victory over the enemies until this accursed thing was taken away from them. As a believer, until you do away with the accursed (every form of unrighteousness), you will not be able to take a stand against the enemy or have victory over them. Take away the accursed thing(s) from your life and ask God for sanctification. By doing this, your victory is certain in the Lord.

Action Point: Do away with sin. Prophetic Declaration: I am not a slave to sin.

## HE IS MINDFUL OF YOU Psalms 8: 3-9

Have you ever sat back to think about the works of creation? The earth's formation, the birds, the trees, the aquatic life, the organisms living under the earth, yet it is one God who manages them all. It is great grace that man (human being) is prioritized over all other creations that God has made. The book of Jeremiah explains that God has your name written in the hollow of His palm. Despite this great show of love, man goes astray from God's commandments. Other creations don't rebel against their creator, but He still chose man over all.

The Psalmist here recognized the mercy God has shown Him, despite his unfaithfulness and unworthy living. God kept him from his enemies, made him king, blessed him and gave him victory on all sides. His response to this unmerited love was to praise God and meditate on his wondrous works. How do you respond to God's blessings and goodness to you? Many times you complain about what God has not given you, failing to see how much God has done already.

Action Point: Take out time today to reflect on God's goodness and faithfulness. Prophetic Declaration: God's countenance shines on me always.

# ONE THING IS NECESSARY Luke 10:41-42

Jesus told Martha that only one thing was needed. Although serving is good, sitting at Jesus' feet is best. Nothing is better than what Mary chose. It is best to sit at Jesus' feet and hear God's word. What feeds the soul is more important than what feeds the body. Mary seems to have known that listening to Jesus was an extraordinary opportunity. Being at the feet of Jesus and just listening to Him speak was an incredible opportunity that was way more important than other concerns. Jesus said that Mary had chosen the good portion, and it would not be taken away from her. Spending time with Jesus and learning from Him, is never wasted time but a good portion.

Many people are preoccupied with getting better grades, having more money, being more likeable, attractive, and trendy, etc. While it's okay to have these things, they will never make you a complete person or bring you to the place where God's Spirit wants you to be. Your greatest pursuit in life should be getting a hold of God's word, knowing it, and living it.

Action Point: What feeds the soul is more important than what feeds the body. Prophetic Declaration: Prophecies are fulfilled in my life.

# DON'T LEAVE GOD OUT Genesis 32:6-14

A young schoolgirl was kidnapped after school hours while waiting for her parent to come pick her up. She did not realize they were kidnappers until they told her but the shocking part was that she was not afraid nor did she cry. She rested assured that God was with her and she maintained her peace. She prayed to God as taught by her parents to see her through. She was later released without any ransom and unharmed.

The same attitude should be exhibited by Christians irrespective of the situations you find yourself in. Calm yourself down and remind yourself that God is with you. Then, you can pray to God to deliver you from any situation you are in.

God is nearer to you than a mother in any circumstance, He is closer than a father. He is with you in that situation. He has promised never to leave nor forsake you. Don't lock Him out and try to solve it all by yourself, your strength will only fail you and you'll end up being frustrated.

Action Point: Live with the consciousness that God is with you. Prophetic Declaration: God is with me.

# FAITHFULNESS BEGET'S FAVOUR Jeremiah 37:17-21

A group of employees were given a team work by their boss. They were to give a personal account of all that they do. Every other team member agreed to give a false report except for a man who was determined to say the truth at all costs. They conspired against him, but when the boss became aware, he suspended other members and promoted the faithful employee.

Our God is not wicked, He rewards every act of faithfulness. Jeremiah's faithfulness earned him favour in the sight of the king; a reward for standing for the truth. As a Christian, you must be faithful in whatever it is that you're doing regardless of the circumstance. Whether you are being supervised or not, be faithful in that which is committed to your hands; the gifts, skills, talents and all that God has given you. He who is faithful in little, more will be committed to him. Your faithfulness determines your reward from God and that is why you must be faithful in all you do.

Action Point: It pays to be a faithful steward. Prophetic Declaration: I receive grace to be faithful in all that I do.

# POWER OF PRAYER James 5:13-16

Prayer is talking to God and hearing from Him. One of the ways by which God moves on earth is when men invite Him by praying. It is a powerful weapon in the hands of a Christian which when wielded correctly produces the desired result by faith. The power of prayer cannot be overemphasized. It commands the impossible to be possible, makes the invisible visible, and also brings about the manifestation of things in the spiritual realm to the physical, breaks barriers, yokes, provides solutions to problems, causes miracles, signs and wonders to be seen. The power of prayer can also change negative to positive, heal diverse sicknesses and diseases, change people's character for good, and grant breakthroughs in all spheres of life. All these and many more are achievable through prayer. Moreover, the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. For your prayers to be effectual, steadily and consistently build up yourself in Christ through the word, prayers and fellowshipping with brethren.

Action Point: Live a life of prayer. Prophetic Declaration: All my prayers are answered, none shall fall to the ground.

# HE FORGIVES AND RESTORES Ezekiel 34:11-16

Ruth was a lady who served the Lord back in her college days. She was very active in the Ushering Department of her campus fellowship. She had a male friend in the ministry who was very close to her. Unfortunately, the closeness translated into an emotional compromise that eventually led to fornication. For many weeks she was in tears, depressed by the act, and opened up to her pastor in the church. She asked if God could still restore her. 'Oh yes', the pastor responded and told her that though Satan may have deceitfully drawn her into sin, God is faithful and eager to restore her and gather her from where she had been shattered.

The past events might have caused you pain or even made you lose some treasured possessions, but God can still fix you and bring you back to that mountain where He gives you the peace that the world cannot offer. All that is needed of you is that above all your challenges know and identify that you have a divine shepherd who will always come through for you.

Action Point: Do not remain in your past. Prophetic Declaration: The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

# DON'T STOP 2 Corinthians 8:8-12

Many distractions are pressing to get people's attention away from the necessities nowadays and Christians are not insulated from them. These distractions are so pressing and seemingly reasonable that if one is not very careful, one would easily lose track of the established purpose of God for one's life. Paul admonished the Corinthian believers not to cave in to distractions and abandon the good work they started "a year ago." As a believer, you should also take wisdom from Apostle Paul's admonishment. You must not cave in to any distraction pressing to steal your attention from God's work.

It is natural for discouragement to set in, it is not peculiar to only you. It happened to everyone who has ever succeeded at one thing or the other. To remain focused, continuously connect with the Holy Spirit, your helper, through studying the word of God and prayers. The Holy Spirit is always available to encourage and inspire you not to give up or stop. You can never go amiss walking with Him.

Action Point: To remain focused, continuously connect with the Holy Spirit. Prophetic Declaration: I am strengthened by the Spirit.

# YOU ARE NOT ALONE Genesis 8:1

Have you ever felt forgotten by God? Sometimes, you hear a heart-wrenching story of a child who has been abandoned by his parents, but God is not like that. God does not forget or abandon his children. Noah may have felt like that after being in the ark for many days. The whole world had been destroyed by the flood. The rain had beat down in torrents upon that lonely ark for 40 days and nights. He probably felt forgotten by God and you are likely at the same point now. Be reminded that God is mindful of you. The trials in your life may make you think that God went on vacation and forgot about you and your problems. God never forgets his children, He is always near even when people don't see or feel it. This is to remind you of Jesus' words that the Heavenly Father's eyes are on each sparrow, so you know that He cares for you. All the days in the ark,

Noah waited patiently and obediently until God told him to go out. Wait on the Lord and He will always come through for you. Always remember that you are not alone.

Action Point: You are not alone. God never forgets His children. Prophetic Declaration: I have the backing of the Most High.

### NEVER LATE Mark 5:35-43

Jairus ran to Jesus to save his only daughter from a terrible sickness, Jesus agreed to be there but somehow didn't get there early enough. Afterwards, Jairus got the news that his daughter had died and there was no need to bother Jesus to come to his house. However, Jesus urged Jairus to have faith. The little girl who was dead came back to life at Jesus' arrival. It seemed that Jesus was late to some of the wailers, but He was right on time.

Do you also think that God is already late in attending to your situation? Do you think that the issue at hand is beyond what God can handle because He's late already? God is never late friend, He makes all things beautiful at the right time. That situation has lingered this long so His name can be glorified. It is not too late for you to get married, it is not too late for you to secure admission into the university, it is not too late for you to get a new job. Just wait on Him, He will attend to you just at the right time. Believe and don't be afraid.

Action Point: God is never late. Believe! Prophetic Declaration: All that is dead in my life receives life.

### LIVE RIGHT Exodus 21:12-15

In the world presently, there is a high rate of violent attitudes and behaviour, evil deeds and an increased rate of criminal activities. However, for every crime committed, there is a punishment and consequence attached to it according to the law. God made it known and established it in His commandment that He does not permit violent and criminal acts.

In our text for today, it is made clear that no amount of money or property can be used to atone for the crime of murder. Life is so valuable that the only punishment high enough for taking a life is to kill the person who took it. There are so many other crimes and every crime has its punishment and consequences. Getting involved in any criminal act will either cut short your life or cut your relationship with God. But when you live with the consciousness that you stand to lose touch with God and also get punished for any crime you commit, it helps to guide you against committing crimes. Instead, you will live an intentional life that reflects Christ.

Action Point: Be determined to live right. Prophetic Declaration: No harm comes near my dwelling place.

# OVERFLOWING LOVE Philippians 1:9

Apostle Paul wrote to some of his very dear friends in Philippi. Having made mention of how he longed for them with the affection of Christ, he made a prayer that could be considered the best of its kind that anyone could pray. The prayer was not imprecatory and neither was it selfcentred. His prayer revealed his desire for God's love for others —"My prayer for you is that you will overflow more and more with love for others."

As insignificant as this prayer may be to so many people, probably because of their ignorance of God's word, it has the required element to solve all of man's (physical) problems. If the love for others is firmly rooted in everyone's heart, there will not be the various vices we see today in the human race. Now, as a believer, love for others is a non-negotiable element regardless of who is involved, it is proof that truly you are saved and is also a fruit of the Spirit. Do you have anyone who seems unlovable? Show love to such a person today, regardless.

Action Point: Show love to someone today. Prophetic Declaration: Love flows from me to others effortlessly.

# THE BLESSINGS OF ALIGNING WITH GOD Joshua 2:4-15

God always has His vision and intent in every generation. And though people may be many that exist in a certain generation, only those who are aligned play a part in the fulfilment of His vision in that generation, no matter how few. Once a person can find out and align with God's vision, he attracts the blessings of being included in the fulfilment of that vision. Truly, there is no greater honour than to partner with God in what He is doing.

Rahab who was known as a harlot was the one who received and hid the spies sent by Joshua from the camp of Israel to Jericho. Though she was in Jericho, she was able to discern God's intent and His people and she aligned herself with God even though it was at the risk of the wrath of the rulers of Jericho. She recognised God's hand over the Israelites and by it, she bought redemption for her family and friends because she bravely kept the spies safe. Whoever finds God's vision and aligns with it attracts God's blessings. Seek and find God's vision in your generation and align with it.

Action Point: Take time to enquire about God's purpose and vision and seek how you can align with it. Prophetic Declaration: I walk in divine alignment with God's vision and purpose.

# BE READY TO ENDURE 2 Corinthians 11:23-27

Paul went through a lot of trials and suffering and displayed a lot of long-suffering and endurance in the midst of it. Paul got flogged in the synagogue but did not quit, he endured the flogging by going to the next town to preach, all for heaven's course. Endurance means to harden, to make lasting, or to have inner strength. The ability to persevere through difficult and seemingly painful situations is a virtue that every believer must exhibit through the Holy Spirit.

Have you reached a point in life where it seems you have lost it? Are there seasons of your life where it seems that life just keeps coming at you? Whether it is over something big or even little, as Christians, it is expected to know that life is not going to always look like what we desire; there will be trying seasons. Temptations, trials, troubles, pains and heartache may come around but do not lose hope. Know that God will show up every time and he will make everything work out for your good. Do not fear, be ready to endure for heaven's course.

Action Point: Take a decision not to compromise God's standard in your trial period. Prophetic Declaration: I am coming out of my trials triumphantly.

# THE LORD INSTRUCTS Genesis 31:6-13

Just as we have earthly parents that create time to teach, guide and instruct their children, so also we have a Heavenly Father who through His Holy Spirit instructs us in any situation or activities we are involved in. Jesus said 'When the Advocate comes, He will teach you all things....' How well do you pay attention to God's instruction? Do you even hear Him speak to you? There are different ways God instructs His children. He instructs through dreams, the inner man, the word of God, His servants and many more, as applicable to everyone. God has made provision for you so you will not fall into error.

For you to hear God while He instructs you, then you must be in a close relationship with Him. Just like little children pay close and listening ears when someone close to them is talking or correcting them. God desires that you have an intimate relationship with Him, He wants to guide and instruct you in all your ways.

Action Point: Desire to have a close relationship with God which will make you hear Him while He instructs you. Prophetic Declaration: I yield to God's instructions.

# ACT RIGHT 2 Samuel 12:7-14

In every home, every establishment, and any organized setting of whatsoever kind, some guidelines guide the individual within such a group. Anyone who does contrary to the terms and conditions of the establishment will be regarded as a violator and dealt with accordingly. This also applies to the household of God, there are biblical injunctions that must be obeyed else it will be a lawless household.

As a believer, the Holy Spirit resides in you and the moment you engage in anything that is against the codes and conducts of believers as revealed in the scripture, the Holy Spirit informs you of your rule-breaking act. Therefore, you must do all things under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Never engage in acts that will give an opportunity to the enemies of the gospel to blaspheme and despise the message of the cross and the person of God. Do all you can to shine as light in this perverse generation, bringing praise and glory to God.

Action Point: Let the meditation and the words of your mouth be gracious, bringing praise to God. Prophetic Declaration: I have the mind of Christ.

# EXPRESS IT Psalms 6: 6-7

Your earthly parents would do all in their capacity to cater for your needs, especially when you tell them about your pains or desires. God is more concerned than any earthly parent "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" He has shown this by sacrificing his only son for the sins of mankind. All He needs you to do is to present your requests before Him. He wants you to express your heart to Him. He is ever attentive and ever willing to bring you solutions.

God always moved in David's favour because he hid nothing from Him. From his grievances to his happiness and victories, about his enemies and all his overwhelming situations. He knew God was his only hope and help in time of need. You are still feeling that bitterness, hurt and sorrow because you have not told the Father. He is ready to listen to you and bring you solutions.

Action Point: Express every feeling to God. Prophetic Declaration: My prayers receive answers.

# THE PLEA OF INNOCENCE Psalms 7:3-5

Innocence is the lack of the ability or intention to harm or damage. From the passage read, David did not claim to be sinless, instead, he simply rejected the idea of moral equivalence between himself and his enemies. David expressed himself as innocent of the crime he was charged with. He knew that his enemies were thirsty for his defeat but he was so confident in his righteousness in comparison to his enemies that he was willing to be given over to their desire if they were right.

God is impartial and He can never be indebted to you. He is the God who gives back more than you give to Him. In your service to God, have you ever gone the extra mile to please God? Obedience and sacrifices are important for any man who will walk with God. The author of today's passage approached God on the premise of his righteous living and standing before God; he had a legal ground to plead his innocence before God. Always ensure you are in the right standing before God.

Action Point: Make your walk with God intentional and consistent. Prophetic Declaration: I receive the grace to walk and work rightly with God.

### STAND IN THE GAP Psalms 106:23

A man shared a story of a day he woke up suddenly and felt like praying for his home, he was in a different state at the time for work. Thank God he followed the leading of the Spirit because he later got to know that at that moment, his only son was convulsing in the middle of the night but was miraculously saved shortly afterwards. Another testimony of a newly saved brother who felt led at a particular time to pray for financial blessing for his church, and by the next day, the church pastor shared a testimony of how the church received an enormous donation needed at a time that corresponded with when the brother was praying.

There are cases where destruction would have occurred if someone had not stood in the gap before God to keep it from happening, and there are situations in which it did happen because someone failed to stand in the gap. God has chosen you to stand in the gap and you should wake up to this call and keep destruction from happening. This strengthens your relationship with God.

Action Point: Begin to include intercessory prayers in your prayer time, and don't hesitate when suddenly prompted to intercede. Prophetic declaration: There shall be no evil near my home.

## SAFETY AT RAMAH 1 Samuel 19:18

No one anywhere can exist on his own without the impact of others at one point or the other. There is no self-made person anywhere. It is a deceit if anyone claims to be selfmade, we all need somebody to lean on. A popular song says, "I need you, you need me, we are all part of God's body". In the escape of David from the 'death plans' of Saul, men were instrumental.

When David escaped the death plans from a man (Saul), he went to another man (Samuel) for safety. The evil act of one man does not mean that all men are evil. Therefore, you cannot decide to live all by yourself because one man treated you badly or meant evil to you. There are still good and godly men and you need them. For David, there was a Saul and there was a Samuel. Like David, go away from the wrong and harmful people and get into the company of the good and godly. There is a friend, family, or group with which you will enjoy safety. Not all men are evil.

Action Point: If there is a 'Saul', there is a 'Samuel'. Prophetic Declaration: I receive help to utilize the gift of men you have placed around me.

# THE TEMPLE OF GOD 2 Corinthians 6:16

A temple is a place of worship and fellowship. It is a sacred place that does not allow impurity, unholiness and ungodliness. A temple is also the dwelling place of God where acceptable sacrifices are offered. Apostle Paul in today's passage is bringing to your remembrance the injunction of God concerning you; you are the temple of the Living God. This invariably means that you are the abode and dwelling place of God and acceptable and pleasing sacrifices should be made through your life to God.

You don't belong to yourself because you are bought with a price, which is the precious blood of Jesus. As the temple of God, your life must be void of the works of the flesh; fornication, adultery, malice, lies, backbiting, murder, drunkenness, and so on. These impurities will contaminate the temple of God. You must be intentional about making your life separated for the father's use. God desires to work wonders through you if you will cleanse and sanctify yourself for His use.

Action Point: Submit your body to God as His holy temple. Prophetic Declaration: My body is the temple of the living God.

## TRUE WISDOM James 3: 13 -18

Wisdom is very pivotal to the Christian faith. All believers must seek to have wisdom. This wisdom is not one fuelled by worldly knowledge, which is susceptible to the corruption of the flesh, sensuality and Satan. Although the Bible never condemns the wisdom that comes from education, however, it clearly directs you to a superior source of wisdom, which is the wisdom from God. This kind of wisdom is manifested in meekness and its consequent fruit is righteousness. This true wisdom is not boastful nor seeks to be always right. It is humble, kind, loving, understanding, forgiving and accommodating.

The result of walking by the wisdom from above is that the nature of God such as peace, gentleness and mercy becomes your disposition to life and your way of relating with others. People must convincingly witness the character of Christ in you to lay claim to this true wisdom. In your conduct both in the private and the public, Christ must be evident. The righteousness of God must be your everlasting pursuit.

Action Point: The result of walking by the wisdom from above is that the nature of God becomes your disposition to life Prophetic Declaration: I shall manifest the wisdom of God through righteousness.

# WHEN YOU WORSHIP IDOLS Judges 2:11-15

To worship means to pay homage and give reverence to a being or a thing. An idol might not necessarily be a god carved out with wood or metal, it could also be anything that has taken the place of God in your heart or life. Whatever you treasure more than God, whatever drives your thoughts and actions becomes an idol in your life. However, it is important for you to know that as a believer, giving your heart to the worship of idols will take you away from God. Some of the things that tend to happen to you when you give your heart to idols are that it takes away your spiritual hearing, hardens your heart to the things of God and also thwarts your destiny.

When the people of Israel forsook God and worshipped idols, the anger of God was kindled against them and the hand of God was against them for evil. You also endanger your life when you give your heart and life to idols instead of the Almighty God. So, consciously check yourself and make sure you stay away from anything that looks like an idol in your life.

Action Point: Worshipping idols will lead to destruction. Prophetic Declaration: I rise in victory against sin.

# OUR WARFARE 2 Corinthians 10: 3-6

It is important for you as a believer to understand that your principal enemy as a child of God is the devil. He is the one that is not happy about your progress and he is doing everything possible to set you back or pull you out of your eternal pursuit. Yes, it is impossible to carry out his intentions in your life without a human vessel, he is not capable of executing his plans alone. However, the devil remains the ultimate enemy.

The persecution, condemnation, and ostracism you suffer at work, in school, in your neighbourhood and everywhere for righteousness' sake are not necessarily because you are hated by the people who are orchestrating those attacks, they are simply instruments through which the devil intends to discourage and break you. Fighting these humans who are simply a tool/means would change nothing. Your weapon of warfare should not be carnal, it should be spiritual to attack and defeat the devil himself.

Action Point: Satan is the enemy, not any human. Prophetic Declaration: Activities of the kingdom of darkness in my life ends.

# GOD'S COMPASSION ON YOU Psalms 103:8-13

A father left his son under a guardian who was known to be very strict to help raise him. For almost a year, the father did not check on him, but one day he decided to come to spend the night at the guardian's house and witnessed how harshly his son was being treated. He had compassion on him and resolved to check on the boy more often.

Compassion is defined as а humane quality of understanding the suffering of others and wanting to do something about it. The God we serve is compassionate. God's compassion brings about His grace for us. His about His removal compassion brought of our transgression. He always wants to do something when His own is in an unpleasant situation. Nevertheless, verse 13 of today's text gave a good condition for God's compassion for us. The Lord has compassion for those that reverence and fear Him. God's understanding of your suffering and wanting to do something about it is a big grace that you can enjoy in life.

Action Point: Reverence God in all you do. Prophetic Declaration: I and my family will continue to enjoy God's compassion.

### REPENTANCE 2 Chronicles 12:3-7

Repentance can be said to be forsaking the evil life once lived and being ready to obey and serve God. It does not happen by mistake but by the conviction of the Holy Spirit through the word. Just like the Israelites who knew God yet chose to go back to their sinful ways, some people who have known God have also backslidden into some of their old ways. However, no matter how far gone a man has backslidden from the ways of God, he can repent and receive forgiveness from God.

Genuine repentance is not merely a confession but has to proceed from a broken and sincere heart. Anyone who is repenting must have a sober mind towards the wrong that has been committed and a desire to not go back willfully to it again. God is not interested in the death of a sinner but in the salvation of all. Repentance is a man's response to God's call of salvation which can come through various means. However, you must recognize a call to repentance regardless of whatever means it comes through.

Action Point: In any way you have transgressed, repent sincerely before God. Prophetic Declaration: I have a cordial relationship with God.

# WORTHLESS FAITH James 2:14-17

Faith can be described as a strong belief or trust in someone or something. For a Christian, faith is the assurance of things hoped for, and evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is one of the most golden necessities that you must possess as a believer and a paramount necessity to please the Lord. As a believer you must understand that faith is an action word, that is: faith is not just about belief, it also calls for doing things that will help your belief. To be precise, according to the scriptures, faith and work go hand in hand. Faith in God without complementary work is worthless – dead. You need to take steps that will help you birth that which you believe into reality.

Declaring and praying the scriptures in faith is good. However, your faith becomes effective when you work diligently and follow through with God. What brings supernatural intervention is the consolidation of faith with godly works. Effective faith is accurately demonstrated when you don't just sit back idly, but take actions.

Action Point: Do not only believe, take necessary actions. Prophetic Declaration: My lot is preserved by the Lord.

# THE GREAT GOD 1 John 4:4

God is great, incomparably greater than the enemy. Apostle John affirms that the incomparable, superior might is available in the humblest believer, so there's no chance of Him being swept away by the errors of the day. God is greater and it's in this simple trust in His might that makes it possible for you to lay hold of all greatness of God. The world at large is hostile to the faith of Christians, there is no question about that but you have a victorious life because you are a child of God.

Are you working with a harsh boss, an unfaithful friend or you are battling with some unmet life goals? You are reminded today that you are an overcomer over the spirit of the antichrist or any other perceived enemy in your life. Sometimes, as a child of God, you feel defending the Gospel of Christ is a lost battle especially in a time like this when evil teachers are all around in their numbers. This you should know; you are victorious because the one inside you is greater than he who is in the world. Therefore, be ready to defend the faith at all times.

Action Point: Maintain your stand for Christ. Prophetic Declaration: Greater is He that is in me.

# ESTABLISHED BY THE LORD 2 Samuel 5:3-5, 10-12

It is in the attitude of a natural man to continually seek his good even at the expense of others. People lobby to get their desired position, whether they are qualified or not. However, as a Christian, you already know from the scriptures that God has a plan and purpose for your life. His plans for you also have an appointed time for their fulfilment, and manipulating your way to get things done wouldn't be in your best interest.

It's so amazing how the entirety of the nation of Israel approved of David as their king and he was anointed accordingly. In your case, it might not be a hundred per cent acceptance by people around you. Moreover, you must know that public acceptance or rejection does not always mean God's approval or otherwise. Importantly, like David knew and testified that the Lord had established him, you will also share your testimony. The time of your establishment will come, you only need to wait for God's timing. Doing the right thing at the wrong time and with the wrong approach makes it all wrong.

Action Point: Do not take wrong actions; God has an appointed time. Prophetic Declaration: The Lord establishes me at my appointed time.

## SCATTER YOUR SEEDS 2 Corinthians 9: 6-9

I once asked a farmer how he plants rice on his farm and he said "by broadcasting." That means scattering the rice seeds on the farm. However, from my observation, rice seedlings on some farms are more compacted than others and after enquiry, it was said that some farmers sowed "bountifully" while others "sparingly" on their farms. It is no doubt, this is reflected in their harvest. This scenario presents the reality of today's text.

God has given you portions of land or lives to sow and has also given you seeds to sow on these portions. The choice is yours whether to sow or not. But note these: seeds unsown will either be eaten up or rot away, and the quality and quantity of the seed you sow, all things being equal, determines the quantity and quality of harvest you get in return in many folds. Identify the lands you are given and cultivate them. Scatter your seeds there and give them time to grow and mature. You will soon have a bountiful harvest. Sow your seeds (money, time, energy, skills or possessions) joyfully in the lands God has assigned to you.

Action Point: Identify a life or ministry to sow into as you prepare for the new year. Prophetic Declaration: I receive seeds to sow and I have a bountiful harvest for my sowing.

### DIVINE DIRECTION 2 Samuel 2:1

Standing at the brink of a life-changing decision is one of the greatest challenges in life. At such a juncture, making decisions is not easy; a lot of ideas come to mind with the fear of not making a mistake. Most people allow impressions, emotions, or other pressure-packed forces to influence and direct them. David was at such a juncture in his life, where he needed direction on what to do and where to go. When he sought God for direction, he got a response from Him.

God understands your past and future. He desires to lead you along the path to fulfilling His plans for your life. He is the one who knows the direction you are to follow and He can lead you accurately. However, to enjoy the leading of God in your life, you have to acknowledge Him as Lord in all your ways. Settle it in your heart that God's opinion is the final. Then, you can pray to Him for direction. He is willing to direct you and will never lead you astray. Trust Him to guide you on the right path and be resolute in obeying Him.

Action Point: Ask the Lord to direct your path and resolve to walk alongside Him. Declaration Point: I receive divine direction to fulfil my destiny.

# FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER 1 John 1: 3

Beginning from the first man, Adam, man was created to be in constant fellowship with God the creator, sustainer and owner of life. God's agenda is for mankind to fellowship with him uninterruptedly. To fellowship means to have deep communion, friendship and communication. Fellowship is based on getting to know someone and being known by them. It is an intimate sharing, one with another. Fellowship with God is to build a sincere relationship with the Father. God desires that every man becomes His friend; to be open-minded to Him, build a close relationship and relate with him as father to son.

However, this kind of fellowship doesn't just happen overnight, it takes time. One of the ways to know Him is through the scriptures. His word is the written revelation of Himself. Christ chose this method to give us a true revelation of Himself. This is the beginning of the fellowship. He is waiting for you to interact with him. You cannot build a healthy and lasting relationship without true fellowship.

Action Point: Find a Bible study plan and commit yourself to it. Prophetic Declaration: I am a child of God.

# LOYALTY 2 Samuel 11:11

Loyalty in general terms refers to a person's devotion, allegiance or sentiment of attachment to a particular object, which may be another person or group of persons, a duty or a cause. It expresses itself in both thought and action and strives for the identification of the interests of the loyal person with those of the object. Uriah, though a Hittite, was such a loyal follower of David and the army of Israel that he refused to enjoy the pleasure of his wife when called back from battle by David the King. Uriah was a loyal and committed man. He could not imagine going to enjoy himself while those he left on the battlefield were warring. He considered others and the mission more important than pleasure.

As a child of God, you are expected to be loyal and faithful to the cause and purposes of God. The love for God and His work should consume your passion. Even though the loyalty of Uriah was betrayed by his master, your loyalty to God can never be betrayed. Your allegiance to God proves that you are truly His own.

Action Point: Let your trust and allegiance be wholly on the Lord and His power. Prophetic Declaration: No conspiracy and attack over my life and family will stand.

# THE APPOINTED TIME Psalms 102:13

God created time, but men are limited to time. God steps into time to relate with men. There is always an appointed time in the spiritual realm, it is a spiritual ground where many activities are divinely standing to take effect. King Hezekiah's date of death was announced to him but he prayed to God and the set time was reset. The Bethesda healing water was known to be stirred at a certain time. Jesus replied to his mother at the wedding at Cana that His time has not yet come. There is time for everything. We must understand this and walk with it.

However, several people don't realize this truth in their life or identify it in their walk. Daniel realized it, the Israelites realized it, Paul realized it and spent several days in Damascus for spiritual gestation, and Jesus realized this at every point in his life. You will miss a lot if you don't realize the set time and cry to God as at when due. The good thing is when you walk with God intimately, you will identify and understand your set time.

Action Point: Prayerfully, meditatively, and patiently identify by the help of the Holy Spirit the times and seasons in your life. Prophetic Declaration: My time of favour is now.

# BE CONTROLLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT Esther 4: 1- 3

Injustice and oppression have taken a front seat in our society today. Many have been unjustly condemned, jailed, sent out of school, workplace and other institutions with impunity. In the face of such injustice, the emotions of the victims often take the fore and in a bid to fight back, went beyond the line. We've heard of wives who in an attempt to fight back abuse, murdered their husbands; citizens who destroy public facilities in a bid to protest against injustice. When Mordecai heard about the plan to annihilate the Jews, he tore his clothes in mourning, put on sackcloth and ashes and cried out bitterly in public but only went as far as the king's gate.

Mordecai won't allow himself to be ruled by emotions and act rashly to incur the king's wrath. The Jews expressed their dissatisfaction about the decree and law honourably without resulting in violence. They fasted and cried out to their God. As a Christian, you should also be ruled by modesty at all times. Your emotions should be subjected to the meekly Holy Spirit.

Action Point: Be filled with the Holy Spirit. Prophetic Declaration: I am filled with the Holy Spirit.

# FULFILMENT OF PROMISES Luke 1:65-66

There is usually great excitement when a couple conceives a child, especially if the couple had difficulty conceiving. There are months of preparation and excitement as the couple awaits the arrival of the child. Finally, the child is born, and there is further joy at the birth of that child. Parents love to celebrate with others following the safe arrival of the newborn.

The birth of John shows that God always fulfils His promises irrespective of the circumstances. You should never doubt God's ability to fulfil His promises. There are thousands of promises in the Bible and every single promise has or will come true. So, when you encounter difficulty or struggle in your life, go to the word of God and claim his sure promises. When you are anxious, God promises you peace (Philippians 4:6-7). When you need help, God promises to help you (Psalm 121:1-2). When you are lonely, God promises His presence (Matthew 28:20). When you are weary, God promises you rest (Matthew 11:29). His promises will always come to fulfilment.

Action Point: Remember God's promises and believe Him for them. Prophetic Declaration: I will see the goodness of the Lord all the days of my life.

#### SONGS OF PRAISE Luke 1:67-79

Zechariah's faith was indicated in verse 64 when he insisted that his son's name would be John and not Zechariah (after his name). He declared the name with boldness, his mouth opened and his tongue was loosed. He sang praises to God for what He has done through him and his family and for all mankind. He did not complain or query God as to why he was silenced for some months. This was possible for him because he is a man under the influence of the Spirit of God.

Irrespective of the challenges around you, there is a need to always sing songs of praise to God, even in situations that are not palatable. Giving thanks to God, especially in tough times shows that you have faith in God and you know that He is in control. You are to thank God for what He has done, what He is doing and what He will still do. Just like Zechariah counted the blessings of God over his life and the whole world, you should do the same. Open your mouth to praise God with a thankful heart.

Action Point: God is worthy of all praise. Prophetic Declaration: I am a living testimony of God's goodness.

### THE BEST NEWS Luke 2:1-20

The text for today talks about the best news in the world, the news of the birth of a saviour. This is a news that keeps resounding, the news you cannot live without. This good news about Christ the Saviour is based on his unique person; born in the city and lineage of David, yet, there were no special royal privileges for Him. He has authority over every living being but He assumed full humanity so that He might bear the sins of the entire human race. He is also God which makes the sacrifice weighty before the holy throne of the Almighty. He came to save and reconcile all who are lost to God.

The wrath of God was satisfied when Jesus died for mankind. Jesus alone provides salvation for sinners. His coming as a baby was the beginning of the redemption programme. This makes the birth of Jesus the best news for all, not just elites. If you have not believed, today, confess your sin and make Him the Lord of your life and you will be saved. That makes the celebration worth it. Merry Christmas!!!

Action point: Think over the sacrifice of Jesus for becoming flesh and praise Him. Prophetic Declaration: I am no longer under the condemnation of sin.

# SHINNING BEACON Philippians 2:14-15

Many believers in the bid to please God are so heavenconscious to the point that they neglect important things that need to be done here on earth. The sermon on the mount and other places in the scriptures identifies the believer as light and salt of the earth. But it is so pathetic that, among whom you are expected to shine as light, you say it does not matter, so you blend into their space thereby not fulfilling the purpose for which you are made.

As an individual, irrespective of how dark a place is, God still expects you to shine in such places; not primarily within the church or the gathering of believers but everywhere you find yourself. Therefore, it is not really about the intensity of the darkness, as much as it is about the intensity of your light. Can the unbelievers in your place of work, home and community say of a truth that you are a bearer of light? Until then, your being a son of God is questionable. Stop the compromising life and live to please God always.

Action Point: You are the light of the world. Share a gift with someone today. Prophetic Declaration: I am a city set on the hill.

## THE GOD THAT KNOWS ALL THINGS 1 Kings 14:1-6

It was said of a prophet in the South-western part of Nigeria many years ago that when He met people, he often had very detailed information about their ancestry and events that happened in the past even before they were born. Due to this strange operation, he became wellknown. On one occasion when he was being interviewed and asked how he knew so much, he replied "Nothing happens outside of God's purview and sometimes, God chooses to reveal a bit to me to deliver His counsel to men. I am only a partaker of a little of what God knows".

Today's text explains how Jeroboam planned with His wife to disguise himself to receive a prophecy about their sick son's fate from Ahijah the prophet. God knowing all things revealed the plan to the prophet even before Jeroboam's wife arrived with her disguise. Your hope must be awakened once again in God's knowledge of all things. As a child of God, acknowledging that God knows all and that He guides you from His knowledge should make you promptly trust His leading in your life.

Action Point: God knows all things, trust Him. Prophetic Declaration: I trust God and I will never stumble.

# THE LORD'S ANOINTED 2 Samuel 1:5-15

Have you heard or seen a case where a man of God committed an offence so grave that it is out of place for a commoner, talkless of one who is said to be an oracle of God? Such could happen due to so many reasons. When the nation of Israel sinned, oftentimes they were being punished by God through godless nations. However, such nations never go unpunished afterwards, for he has said, "Do not touch or do any harm to my prophet, the anointed".

In the text read today, David asked the man with the false report of killing Saul where he came from. That was probably not to tell you of his background. David was only surprised and interested in knowing more about a man who would be so audacious to kill the Lord's anointed. Why will you be a part of the team against the Lord's anointed, seeking his downfall or punishment as the case may be? The same question is what the Lord is asking you today; where are you from? Before your case ends in destruction, make amendments and desist from such acts.

Action Point: Desist from talking ill of any minister of God. Prophetic Declaration: I am protected from every form of evil.

### WRONG ALLIANCE Exodus 23:31-33

The word alliance can be referred to as a union between people, groups, countries etc. That is, a relationship in which people agree to work together. Before a successful alliance can be established, there must have been a common interest, goal, and belief between those who are involved in it. However, not all alliances are good, some alliances can drain and destroy you and an example is an alliance with an unbeliever.

God took the land for the people of Israel and warned them not to make a covenant with their enemies and their god. God gave them this instruction because he knew making or forming any alliance with the enemies would be a snare to them and lead to their destruction. So, you also as a child of God, do not entangle yourself in an unholy alliance with an unbeliever. Do not associate with people who are capable of turning your face away from God. It is dangerous to live in a bad neighbourhood or live amongst unbelievers. Their way of life will be a snare to you when you agree with them.

Action Point: Assess a group before joining it. Prophetic Declaration: I step out of every unholy alliance that I have walked into.

# SPIRITUAL SENSITIVITY 1 Kings 3: 16-21

It is quite easy to rob and manipulate a blind man without his knowledge because his major tool of sensitivity (sight) is not functioning. The same thing applies to the spiritual. A Christian who is spiritually blind will lose spiritual alertness. The story of the two prostitutes speaks volumes on how the devil can manipulate believers. One of them had mistakenly laid on her child to death and decided to exchange the child with the other. This is what happens when a child of God is unconscious, the devil comes to do an exchange. It is quite unfortunate that so many will accept this demonic exchange as theirs because they are spiritually insensitive.

The other prostitute examined the child properly and discovered the child was not hers. She stood her ground till they got to the king and she got what was rightfully hers. You are not expected to accept the demonic fate given to you by the devil. You should fight and reject it because it is not yours. Just like that woman reported to the king, take your request to the king of kings.

Action Point: Spiritual sensitivity is needed to know what is yours and what is not yours. Prophetic Declaration: I am alert and discerning.

### GLORY TO GOD Psalms 115:1

The simple action of returning all glory to God in all circumstances is not being exhibited by so many Christians today. Many always want to accrue glory to themselves for the fulfilment of certain things. While some will say they gained admission because they studied every day, for some it would be that they got some contracts because they are intellectually sound and can speak eloquently. They refuse to give glory to God the maker of time, intellect and eloquence. It should be solely on your heart that whatever you are, will be and have is by God's grace; therefore He deserves all the glory. No man should share in His glory. Be like the Israelites according to our passage today who returned all glory to God. It is the end of a year, give God

returned all glory to God. It is the end of a year, give God glory for how far He has brought you. Thank Him for the successes and breakthroughs of the year, and for the strength, comfort and peace you have enjoyed this year. None of the good things that you have achieved or enjoyed this year is by your power. they are all by the grace of God. Therefore, give God genuine thanksgiving today.

Action Point: God has been good to you. Prophetic Declaration: I live for the glory of God.