





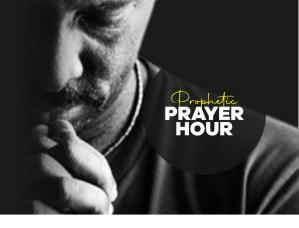


ear friend, "Fresh start" devotional is a transformative resource designed to provide readers with daily inspiration and guidance as they start or continue in their walk with God. The devotional is specifically crafted to help individuals establish a personal connection with the Holy Spirit by providing fresh insights into well-known biblical passages. By actively engaging the devotional, readers will discover renewed hope and a revitalized perspective on their relationship with God.

The "Fresh Start" Bible Devotional focuses on fostering personal growth, maturity, and transformation in readers' life journey. It offers foundational teachings, character formation, personal and transformation growth. It encourages growth, and provides tools for goal setting and progress tracking. It also recommends additional resources for further study. Through this, readers will embark on a purposeful and intentional path of life development, equipping them to grow in their faith, live out biblical principles, and become transformed individuals who reflect the love and grace of God in their daily lives.

Get ready for an awesome moment of refreshing.

DISCERNING THE VOICE OF GOD



And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him. And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child. Therefore, Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So, Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. (1st Samuel 3:6 – 10)

ne of the most important and yet illusive concepts in Christianity is the ability to discern God's voice. Many Christians today are very confused when it comes to discerning God's voice, because God is spiritual and rarely communicates with us through our physical senses. Most of our interactions with God is based on our ability to discern Him spiritually. This makes it difficult for us who have always relied on our physical senses to discern our environment. (John 10:27)

We have a God that wants to be known and has made it very easy for us to discern His Voice. There is a saying that goes, "start from the known to the unknown", God has done just that. Since we rely primarily on our physical senses, God has put everything that we need to know about Him in His Word (The Bible). God expects us to start by reading His word and becoming familiar with His person and character, so that when He begins to speak to us, we will begin to understand how He speaks, the content of what He will say and what He will never say. We can be sure that God will never say anything that contradicts His word, so the more you are familiar with the Word, the more you will be able to discern God's Voice. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

There are other ways to discern God's voice, one of which is fellowship with people, people who are more experienced in discerning God's voice. Notice in the opening scripture that Eli taught Samuel how to recognize and respond to the voice of God. Without Eli, Samuel probably would have missed the opportunity to recognize God's voice and to respond to it.

God wants to speak to us and we must be very confident in this. But God's voice must be discerned spiritually and this can be done by studying his Word and in fellowship with other believers.

Praver

Father, I thank you for the privilege to discern your voice. (Matthew 13:11) Father, I thank you because as you speak to me I discern your voice accurately and precisely. (Isaiah 30:21)

Confession

It's my right to hear the voice of God and I discern His Voice today. (John 10:27) The voice of a stranger I will never follow, I am well able to discern God's voice. (John 10:5)



DEVELOPING A CONSISTENT PRAYER LIFE



"But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."
(Acts 6:4)

hristians must strive at having effective prayer lives. Prayer is not just a fellowship, it's also a labor. That's why it might be amusing to think we should pray only when we feel like it.

Actually, because prayer doesn't appeal to our minds and senses, our bodies and minds may not enjoy praying and can even rebel against it. "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary to one another: so that you do not do the things that you wish." (Gal. 5:17)

Many times, we put off praying till the end of the day, but by the time we're through with the activities of the day, we're tired and drowsy and we struggle to concentrate.

As funny as this sounds, it's real. This is where the labor comes into prayer. This is where the fight is, but it's not a fight with devils or men, neither is it a fight with God. It's a fight to keep yourself on track against the dictates of the flesh.

It takes training and so you must resolve to stick with your personal prayer schedule. Some Christians find it almost impossible to do this, simply because they've not been able to discipline their flesh. They go to work every day of the week without ever considering getting to work late, much less not going at all. If you can train your mind and body to do this, then you can train yourself to pray regularly and on time too.

The challenge is that too many aren't willing to make such a sacrifice for their prayer lives, and that's because they don't know the importance of prayer. But when trouble comes, they're the first to say, "Please, pray for me!" Don't depend on emergency prayers, consistency is key.

So many things will try to compete with your prayer time, but there's so much you can achieve on your knees. God's promises over your life can only be enforced in the place of prayer. Make a fresh commitment to your personal prayer life today, develop a prayer schedule and stick with it.

Praver

Father, thank you for loving me so much and for your guidance daily through your word. (Jer. 31:3)

I subdue the flesh and receive strength to stand and be consistent in fellowshipping with you. (Eph. 3:14-16)

Father, I ask that you help me to grow in my prayer walk in Jesus name. (Zech. 12:10)

Confessions

As Jesus is, so am I in this world, therefore I do not struggle to stay connected to my Father. I hear His word and I have a rich fellowship with Him in prayers daily. Glory to God!



HOW TO PRAY WHEN NOTHING IS WORKING



Every Christian has gone through that phase in their lives, when a particular problem seems unsolvable no matter how much you try and pray.

(Acts 3:1-8)

ometimes, the reason why people do not have answered prayers is because answers come with action. Sometimes God is waiting for you to take corresponding action/s before your answers get to you. In Acts 3, it was not when Peter prayed for the lame man, that he began to walk. It was when there was an attempt to walk, the lame man received his healing. Most times our faith needs action to work. You have to put in effort to get what you need; you don't pray and relax waiting for answers.

Another reason you might not receive answers to your prayers is your confession. When you go to the place of prayer, ensure your confessions are not contrary to your prayers. No matter how much prayer you have said and you still say negative words, it affects getting the answer to your prayer. In **Luke 1**, an angel came to Zechariah with answers to his prayers, but Zechariah couldn't believe it and answered questions that could affect this testimony negatively, the angel made him dumb because the angel understood the power of negativity.

(Daniel 10:12) When Daniel prayed, his prayers were answered but it took 21 days for his answers to be delivered to him. If Daniel had been negative during his trying times, it would have affected the outcome of his prayers. When you see what you don't want, maintain what you want in speech. (Genesis 1:1-3), God saw that there was darkness, He spoke light into existence.

The most difficult times are the waiting times, there are lots of tussles and spiritual warfare that are going on and it is always a battle of words. Know that the loudest and most consistent words win. If you continue saying you are "broke" in a financial crisis you will remain broke.

Another reason why your prayers might not be answered is your mentality. (2 Kings 5), Naaman almost lost his miracle because of his mentality. Sometimes, it is pride and ego that hold us from receiving our miracles. It could also be following a way that seems right to us, while the way to our success is another way God is directing us to. (Isaiah 55:8-9). Most times, we try to force God to do it our way but He won't do that (Proverbs 3:34).

One reason God refuses to do things our way, is so we learn to trust Him. The reason most people are not strong Christians is because they have not positioned themselves where it is only God that can help them.

What You Should Do When Your Prayers Have Not Being Answered?

- · Learn how to pray by reading your bible, so you can pray God's will.
- Make a Prayer of inquiry, (James 1:2-5). Ask God why your prayers are not being answered. Prayer of inquiry opens up/reveals a dimension to your problem or a solution you don't know. Prayer of inquiry is a prayer for wisdom and direction. Going to the Holy Ghost, to inquire must be done in a neutral state.

Praver

Father, give me the strength to wait patiently and remain positive in my waiting time. (Psalm 37:7)

Oh Lord my Father, reveal to me the hindrances to my testimony. (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

Father give me the zeal to seek you through you word. (Psalm 119:18)

Confeccione

I believe that everything is working together for my good. I receive answers and solutions to my prayers



UNDERSTANDING YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

dentity is the distinguishing character or personality of an individual. When someone asks, "identify yourself", they are simply asking, "who are you?"

Many years ago, in school, I was a member of a secret cult. When we travelled to other schools, we would use some gestures and codes to identify ourselves to our members in that school. We would also identify our rank in the system. This determines what kind of reception we got, people we could meet, places we could go to, etc.

In life, identity is a big deal. If you walk into the airport, who you are determines where you can go. You can fly the plane if you are the pilot, search others if you are a security staff at the airport, walk through customs without hassles if you are a VIP, etc. Your identity tells everyone who you are, what you can do, what access you have, what authority you have, etc.

So now that you are born again what does this mean? Who are you?

You are a child of God – (John 1:12)

You are enabled to bear fruits – (John15:16)

You are special – (1 Pet 2:9)

You are 'manufactured' to do good works – **(Ephesians 2:10)**

You are a citizen of Heaven – (Philippians 3:20) You are a replica of Jesus – (1 John 4:17) However, the way identity works, you must know who you are to be able to engage external circumstances accordingly. You must know you are a pilot to be able to confidently walk towards the cockpit of the plane. If you do not know who you are, then it is all a big waste.

Do you know who you are in Christ? One core ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to teach us who we are in Christ—(John 16:13-14).

2 Corinthians 3:18 captures this so beautifully. As you behold/contemplate, you get transformed. Your work is to behold, His work is to transform. **Joshua 1:8** captures the same essence.

You must allow the Holy Spirit to work in you, by making your heart a fertile place for His work. You do this by simply filling your heart with the raw materials He needs – the word, worship, your meditation, confession, etc. Be conscious of the atmosphere you create in your heart by the things you expose your heart to – (Proverbs 4:23)

As you do this you will be amazed at the transformation you will experience. Praise God!

Praver

Father, I thank you because you always hear me when I call. (John 11 vs 42)

Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 15

Father, I receive manifestation of all I ask for according to your word, in Jesus Name. (Psalm 91:15)

Confession

I decree and declare that I am connected to Christ, because I abide in You and Your Word abides in me. (John 15:4)

I see manifestation of answered prayers. When I declare Your Word it goes forth and fulfils all that it is sent to dp. Hallelujah... Isaiah 55:11



THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH IN EVERY DAY LIFE



But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident; for, the just shall live by faith. (Galatians 3:11)

he essence of salvation is predicated on the fact that we as believers are made righteous as a gift from God to us. This is not a gift that we earn or deserve, it is imputed in us. The only way you can access the daily benefits of the gift of right standing with God is through faith. In other words, there is no other life you can live as a believer other than the one that is full of total trust in God's word and plan for your life. Every day, and in every way, God expects us to access and obtain the realities of His Kingdom through faith. Faith is the currency of God's Kingdom and nothing is obtainable except through it. This currency has been given to us to spend on earth; it is our mode of exchange as Christians. As such, we have to come to the realization that when life demands anything from us as Christians, our response always has to be through faith in God's great and precious promises (2 Peter 1:4).

Hebrews 11:1-35 tells us that the early saints obtained daily undeniable results and victories by faith, with many examples are these found under the old covenant. In this new, better and greater covenant paid by the precious blood of Christ, Heaven is waiting to record your own results obtained through faith. As believers, we access a life full of victories and success through faith every day and every time. Faith is the substance of things He has freely given us, the evidence of our heritage in Christ. Live everyday by faith and obtain unquantifiable results, for this is our true nature in Christ.

Remember, always, that you are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, and this new life you have can only be maximized by living everyday by faith in God's promises, not just your own abilities. Spend that heavenly currency (faith) and obtain daily victories.

Praver

Father, thank you because everything that I need has been made available to me. (Eph 1 vs 3).

Father, give me the grace to continually strengthen my faith by your word. (Romans 10 vs 17).

Confessions

I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5 vs 21)
I obtain daily victories by faith in God's word and promises. I am more than a conqueror and I am victorious on all sides. (1 John 5 vs 4)



HOW FAITH COMES (1)



If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

(Romans 10:9)

good understanding of how faith comes is important for a victorious Christian life. Faith is unarguably the most important asset of a believer. There are numerous passages in the bible that corroborates this assertion and we shall look at some in todays' devotional.

Salvation, the most important provision of God to redeem man from sin is not possible without faith. Apostle Paul lends credence to this with his epistles to the believers at Ephesus and Corinth:

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." – **(Ephesians 2:8)**

"If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." – (Romans 10:9)

Similarly, a walk with God is not possible without faith.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." – (Hebrews 11:6)

Having established why we must pay attention to the subject of faith, let's delve into how it comes. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." – (Romans 10:17)

Faith comes by hearing and believing the word of God. We got saved by hearing the message of salvation and believed it. Consequently, we acted on the message by confessing the Lordship of Jesus.

Although faith is a universal principle, faith in one area of life doesn't necessarily connote faith in all other areas. Through consistent hearing of the word of God on finance, some are able to believe God for finances and have achieved tremendous success in this regard. If you need faith for finances, you'll have to hear the word of God on finances, meditate and act on it. Similarly, if you need faith in the area of healing, you need to hear the word of God concerning your health, believe and act on it.

Faith looks beyond impossibilities and pictures the desired state before the change manifests. If you will receive faith for victory in any area of your life, this must be your approach.

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." – (2 Corinthians 4:18)

Praver

Father, thank you for the power to build up my faith for the next level. (Jude 1:20)

Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 17

Father, thank you for spiritual wisdom and revelation in your knowledge that strengthens my faith against any opposition. (Ephesians 1:17-18)

Confession

In the name of Jesus, I declare I am walking by faith and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)



I decree all things are working for my good in Jesus name. (Romans 8:2)

HOW FAITH



And there they [Paul and Barnabas] preached the gospel. And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked."

(Acts14:7-10)

et's look at the account of the impotent man at Lystra that received his healing and the salvation experience of Cornelius.

There are valuable lessons we can learn to build faith in any area we desire:

- 1. The man heard the word
- 2. The man believed the word
- 3. The man received faith and acted on it by leaping and walking.

Let's look at the account of the centurion at Capernaum (Mathew 8:5-10)

"And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, 'Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented'. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel".

There are valuable lessons and deductions we can make from the passage that can help immensely to receive faith in any area we desire:

- 1. The centurion had heard Jesus preach and minister to the sick or else he wouldn't have approached him to heal his servant.
- 2. The centurion believed the word of God was able to heal his servant hence the reason he told Jesus to speak the word.
- 3. Jesus acknowledged in verse 10 that the man had faith. I believe God will empower you for an encounter of a lifetime and you'll have remarkable testimonies.

Praver

Father, thank you for strong faith for incredible exploits. (Mathew 21:21–22) In the name of Jesus, I receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation that will build my faith for victories. (Ephesians 1:17–18)

Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 18

Confession

In the name of Jesus, I declare I am walking by faith and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

In the name of Jesus, I receive my desired breakthrough by faith. (Romans 4:17) I decree all things are working for my good in Jesus name. (Romans 8:28)



HELPING HURTING PEOPLE



"14 And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick." (Matthew 14:14)

ave you ever asked the question "why do bad things happen in the world?" It would surprise you to know that it is not always the work of Satan hunting you directly. In most cases, it could be a continued effect of the fall e.g., as we grow older, we age. Another reason is the poor choices we make. A third reason is circumstances beyond our control, like where we were born. To be a part of the solution, we must learn to develop compassion.

In Luke 10: 30-37, a Levite, a Priest, and a Samaritan pass by a badly wounded man, and each acted differently. There are differences between compassion, pity and empathy: compassion sees a hopeless event and takes action, empathy and pity see and discuss or mope over it. As spiritual people, we may be aware of a bad situation and feel bad or sorry about it, but this does not guarantee that we will do anything about it.

According to the scripture, Jesus saw and was moved to do something. Compassion is important because it triggers the power of God. We have to cultivate the heart of compassion. It is difficult for God to use a man that is not compassionate, because the needs of the people can't get his attention. Where your compassion is, is where God can use you.

How many times do we see the homeless, the naked, or even drug addicts and quickly forget that there just might be something that could come from us, which would be an answer to their prayers for the day. We may have excess clothes but, rather than give somebody wearing the same outfit everyday we'd rather keep stacking up. The Priest in the earlier scripture came by that way and looked away. Where

is your heart of compassion?

For God to do something, He has to look for people, especially those with compassion in that area. If it is in your heart, God will put it in your hands. God trusts compassionate people. God may bring you around a family in danger of divorce, hoping that you will pray and do what you can according to His wisdom. Do you have an idea of the statistics of jobless people? When the compassion of God grips the soul of an individual, God can capture such an individual's attention quickly, even in matters that concern nations. You can always start from somewhere.

A self-centered life is empty in the middle.

How do I become compassionate?

- ·Pay attention to others (you may care to know why a coworker does not smell too good).
- ·Develop a solution mentality; tell yourself, "I am God's force for good in the economy".
- ·Be involved; be a part of the solution (move to see a change. Join outreaches. In a world that is determined to phase Christ out of the school systems, no more Bible knowledge, LGBT in Disney cartoons, and divorced parents who don't go to church — it would be a joy to bring Christ to the children).
- ·Take action (as simple as giving out clothes you don't use, not bad ones; or praying for and with disturbed people.
- ·Preaching Christ. Some people sleep around to gain acceptance; some load on drugs just to get high and forget their sorrows.
- ·Remember, that the more you help others, the more help comes to you to help others even more. Matthew

Prayer

Father, please put compassion for people in my heart. (Matt 5:7) Help me not to be unconcerned. Make me Your hands to bring deliverance in ways you would have me. (Jude 1:22)

Confession

I refuse to look away from problems I see. I am God's answer to a dying world. Matt 5:7

In a world where people die daily without knowing Christ, I choose to be a Christian, sharing God's salvation by my lifestyle and through my words. (Matt 5:15) Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 19



Join Us Online On **MONDAYS - FRIDAYS** 5:50am W.A.T

⊕ Rev Sam Oye

HOW BIG SHOULD YOUR FAITH BE, TO GET RESULTS



"He replied, 'Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

(Matthew 17:20)

ave you ever wondered if your faith is strong enough to make a difference? In (Matthew 17:20), Jesus tells His disciples that even a tiny amount of faith, as small as a mustard seed, can move mountains.

Now, you might be thinking, "How can such a small thing like faith have a big impact?" Well, just like a seed grows into a mighty tree, our faith can grow and do amazing things.

Jesus used the example of a mustard seed because it is one of the tiniest seeds, yet it grows into a large tree. Similarly, when we have even a small amount of faith in God, it has the power to grow and bring about incredible outcomes in our lives. It's not about the size of our faith, rather, the One in whom our faith is placed.

Additional Scriptural References:

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV) - "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." This verse reminds us that faith is believing in things we cannot see but are confident will come to pass.

Mark 9:23 (NIV) - "Everything is possible for one who believes." Jesus reassures us that when we believe, there are no limits to what God can accomplish through us.

Remember, it's not about having massive faith from the beginning. It's about starting with even the smallest seed of faith and allowing it to grow and strengthen as we trust in God. When we place our faith in Him, nothing will be impossible for us. So, don't underestimate the power of your faith. Dare to believe and watch as God moves mountains in your life.

Prayer

Father, thank you for the unwavering support I find in you. (1 John 5:14). I thank You for empowering me to accomplish everything through your strength. (Mathew 19:26)

Confession

I confidently proclaim my possession of the faith capable of moving mountains, all through in the authority of Jesus' name.

I affirm that doubt has no foothold within my heart.



FAITH THAT MOVES MOUNTAIN



"He replied, because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

(Mathew 17:20)

t different stages and at different times in our lives, we come across mountains. Obstacles that stop us from moving to a higher level, living fulfilling lives, living out our dreams, or attaining our goals. These mountains, which can be a health challenge, a rebellious child, or a desire that just is not met, can be frustrating and depressing.

However, there is hope.

From this passage, we see that mountains can move! Glory to God! Mountains can move by faith. Nothing will be impossible for you if you have faith.

What then is faith that can move mountains?

- 1. Faith that can move mountains is faith that takes God at His word. If He said it, I believe it. Paul Said in Acts 27:25 "Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me". Believe God. Believe what His word says about you, about the mountain, what God has told you personally. Believe Him and hold unto His word.
- 2. Faith that can move mountains is faith that confesses positively. Not only do I believe it, I confess it. What God says about me, what God has told me, what I desire to see, I confess it. From the story of creation, the Bible says in Genesis 1: 2-4 "The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light." The earth was without form and void

but God wanted light and He called it forth, and there was light. In the story of the Shunamite woman in 2 Kings 4, even with a dead child, the woman confessed to everyone that is it well, it will be well and it was well. Faith that will move mountains is faith that confesses what you want to see and not the circumstances of the mountain.

- 3. Faith that will move mountains is faith that takes steps in the direction of the desired outcome. The woman with the issue of blood said in Mathew 9:21 "For she said within herself, if I may but touch His garment, I shall be whole." She must have heard some things about Jesus that made her know that if she can touch Him, she will be made whole and then she did it and was made whole. Believe God, confess what you want and then take steps in the direction of your desired outcome.
- 4. Faith that will move mountains is faith that will stand even in the face of adversity, delay, despair and pain. This is because you can believe the word, confess the word, take steps, and still not see what you desire yet. The Bible says in Ephesians 6:13 "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Therefore, concerning that mountain in your life, find out what the Bible says about it and what God is saying to you personally. Confess what you want to see, take a step of faith concerning it and then be ready to stand having done all these. The mountain will definitely move and be cast into the sea in Jesus name.

I trust God that He will move every mountain that has defied all, in your life and give you a testimony that will bring glory to His name in Jesus name.

Prayer

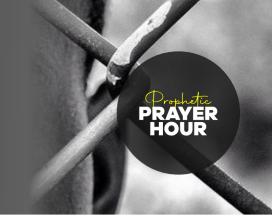
Father, I Thank you, because your word is quick and powerful. (Hebrews 4 vs 12) Father, I Thank you, because for every mountain that I confront, they move by faith and your glory is seen through my testimonies, in Jesus Name. (Mark 11 vs 23)

Confessions

I confess that I know the word for the mountain confronting me and that I know the steps to take, for I am strong and I stand on God's word. (Psalm 119 vs 105)
I confess positively and I see my desires come to pass in Jesus name. (Job 22 vs 28)



LIMITING BELIEFS



"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Proverbs 23:7)

here are so many beliefs people unknowingly have, that tend to destroy their happiness. You need to ask yourself, "What mindset do I need to have in order to have a very fulfilling life?" and "What mindset must I destroy?" You need to have a strong mindset because all the devil needs to do is give you a horrible mindset that contradicts the word of God. The devil knows that once he's able to do that, the mindset will begin to affect your belief. (Romans 12:2)

Whatever you believe will eventually come to pass. If you believe you can't make it in wherever you are located, then it will become so because the Bible says, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he". So, if there comes an opportunity that guarantees your success, you won't be able to recognize it and it will pass you by. Another belief that destroys your happiness is thinking you are not enough. It can either be you thinking you are not pretty, tall, rich, slim, funny, or talented enough. This belief comes up frequently in this age of social media where you can see all kinds of people that seem better-looking and talented than you. This brings up insecurities but you need to understand that there will always be something better to achieve. (Matthew 9:29)

Even if you have all the qualities you need, there will always be a desire to improve. You need to determine in your mind that you are enough. For the Word of God says, "Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it." (Psalms 139:14 NLT). God made you beautiful, He says you are enough!

What you choose to see determines your reality. You have the power to change your reality by shifting your focus. Begin to see the truth behind God's timeless words. (**Philippians 4:8**)

Prayer

God, align my mind with Your truth so I can strengthen my belief, and shape my reality (Philippians 4:8)
Lord, please help my unbelief (Mark 9:24)

Confession

Lord Jesus, help me change those mindsets I have that are limiting and preventing me from experiencing the joy You have promised me. (Romans 12:2)



BOUNCE BACK FROM DIFFICULT TIMES



"When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you."

(Isaiah 43:2NLT)

know you might not want to hear this but as Christians, we don't live trouble-free lives. It's the truth. There will be disappointments, failures, un-met expectations, pain and even betrayal but keep in mind that God will surely deliver you. Why am I so sure of this? Because God can never lie and this truth should be an anchor for your soul when you face troubles in life. (John 16:33)

It's so easy to feel like the world and God is against you when times get tough. It's easy to wallow in self-pity, depression and sadness but remember that what you're going through isn't peculiar to you. You aren't the first, nor will you be the last, to experience it. So, bounce back! Remind yourself that there's help in God. Look at scriptures, there are so many instances of God delivering His people from troubles: He rescued the Israelites multiple times in the wilderness despite their stubbornness. (Psalm 42:11)

If God has been delivering His children since the times of the Bible, why would He stop now with you? Impossible! Put all your worries, anxieties and that situation before God – hand them over to Him. God wants to help you carry the burden because He is more than capable of handling it. Completely handing over that burden doesn't mean just talking to God about it, it means completely trusting Him over that situation and not being worried about it. (Psalm 55:22)

Another thing to do to bounce back is being grateful. You can't be in constant gratitude and be sad or down. Thank God for all He has done, thank Him because despite your troubles you are still standing. Others have gone through what you are going through and they couldn't stand strong. Gradually, you'll realize that joy begins to spring up in your heart. With joy, you will be able to draw from the wells of salvation. That is, you will be able to receive all God has promised: peace, wealth, healing, abundance, etc. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

When going through trials, remember that God hasn't forgotten you nor is He against you. That is what the devil wants you to think. So, shame the devil and rejoice because our Lord is on the matter! God has surely brought you out of that difficult time. (**Deuteronomy 31:6**)

Praver

Grant me strength in trials and be my refuge. (Psalm 46:1)

Fill me with joy and unwavering trust in you Lord, especially in my time of troubles. (Romans 15:13)

Confession

Father, thank You because I am full of joy! In this year of laughter and exploits, I will sing a new song where there has been pain and strife.

Concerning my heart desires, they will come to pass as You, God, have spoken. (Isaiah 12:3)

Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 23



Join Us Online On MONDAYS - FRIDAYS 5:50am W.A.T • Rev Sam Oye

OVERCOMING YOUR COMFORT ZONE



The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon (Psalm 92:12)

et us consider ways to overcome the comfort zone. The first thing to attack is the story you tell yourself: Moses -a stutterer; Jeremiah - a child. Attack those insecurities. God uses the rejected to make the cornerstone. Recognize the story you tell yourself and change it. Tell yourself, your God-story about yourself. Breakthroughs happen when you change what you tell yourself. Think and talk as one who has grace.

Secondly, recognize that the gift you need to accomplish all that God has called you into is already within you. When God called Moses and he complained of his stammering, notice that God did not lay hands on him to deliver him from his stammering (Ex 4:10). Though God gave him Aaron as an assistant, we do not see the assistant say a word in all the negotiations with Pharaoh (Ex 6-10). 'Moses answered' is littered all over the passage. Do you realize that this Pharaoh grew up with Moses in the palace, so he knew all of Moses' weaknesses? I believe Pharaoh must have recognized a change in the Moses he knew.

Unlike the servant with the one talent, know and believe the goodness and love God (1 John 4:16). Once we've opened ourselves to that love, God works in ever-new ways. Watch for those new ways, accept them, and follow them. In our own personal lives, we find the way that God is working within our spirit, through the Holy Spirit who is within us. Acknowledge the work of the Spirit and walk in it.

Another way to leave the comfort zone is to do something different. It could be as little as increasing your giving or expanding your prayer topics. For example, shifting from praying for yourself and your family alone to praying for your pastors without a special prompt; scheduling to pray for the gospel to reach nations like Afghanistan or northern Nigeria.

Don't think about the big things and get overwhelmed. God is after your growth not your jump (Prov 4:18). Don't be discouraged by what others are accomplishing. If you can only read a verse a day, start there and keep at it. Then you can move to two verses, we celebrate you! After a while, you move to learning it by heart. Great! Only keep moving. The final installment on this topic will be tomorrow where we look at the second reason for not living a grace driven life and how to reverse it.

Prayer

Lord, I thank You for the work of the Holy Spirit in me. Lord, as I delight in You, I walk in the fullness of your grace and glory (Psalm 37:4)
Lord, illuminate my paths and point me in the proper route as I seek
You out. (Jeremiah 29:13)

Confessions

You make clear to me the road of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11)



RECEIVING HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN TOUGH TIMES



⁸Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place." ⁹The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there." ¹⁰So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places. ¹¹This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?" ¹²"None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom." ² Kings 6:8-12

s Christians we all face different levels of intensity when it comes to challenges and pain. It is crucial for us to be sensitive to the struggles of others and not trivialize their experiences. The Holy Spirit is our source of help, but if we don't know how to receive it, we may miss out on His transformative power.

Life is filled with tough situations, and it is a natural part of the human process to encounter them. However, as believers, we must remember that God has a purpose in every circumstance. Even when we are going through difficult times, if we hold on to our faith, we will come out with a testimony. The goodness of God does not depend on the outcome of our situations; He is our ever-present help in times of trouble.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is God's help to His children. It contains various gifts such as the word of knowledge, the gift of prophecy, discernment of spirit, and the gift of faith. God helps us by giving us the Holy Spirit, who provides us with these gifts to navigate through challenging situations. There are problems that logic alone cannot solve, but with the Holy Spirit's wisdom and guidance, we can find the solutions we need.

Sometimes, situations in our lives do not change until power moves on our behalf. It takes divine power to change our circumstances, and while we may not always see the power itself, we can witness the results it produces. As Christians, we have the authority to move situations in our lives from lack to abundance, from despair to hope. In **2 Kings 6:8-12**, we see how Elisha was able to advise the king on strategic war plans because of the special knowledge provided by the Holy Spirit.

So, what does the gift of the Holy Spirit do? Firstly, it deepens our conviction in Christ. As mentioned in **1 Corinthians 2:4**, the Holy Spirit enables us to boldly proclaim our stand in Christ. Secondly, the Holy Spirit helps convince others of the power of God. In **1 Corinthians 14:24-25**, we see how the Spirit's manifestation can touch hearts and bring others to a place of belief and surrender.

Prayer

Dear Father, let the Holy Spirit's transformative power be evident in my life as I open myself to receive His guidance and gifts. (Galatians 5:22–23)

Dear Lord, open my eyes to the gifts You have bestowed upon me through Your Spirit and help me use them well. (Romans 12:6-8)

Confession

I receive the grace to be sensitive to the leading of the spirit and the gifts of the spirit in my life



TRANSFORMATION BY HIS WORD



For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 44. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. 45. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh."

(Luke 6:43-45)

he focus of this topic is on "How God changes us by the word". We will be examining the word, the seed (what it can do) and the need to take care of your hearts and emotions.

Luke 6:43-45 simply tells us that the results we have in our lives are functions of what's happening in our hearts.

For example: You may be believing God for a job, but what you say about it is what you believe. What is the state of your heart?

The Word of God is a "seed" and we plant the seed by speaking. All what you are praying for will first come as a "seed". The power is in the word and as the word is released, the seed is planted. All you have to do is to let it grow from within.

There are corruptible seeds and there are incorruptible seeds. Corruptible seeds are seeds that can fail. For example: when you plant corn, not every corn seed you plant will do well. This means that the seed of a corn is corruptible but, in the bible, according to (1st Peter 1:23 KJV), we see that the seed of God's word is incorruptible, and God's word never fails.

Now, the question you are probably asking is: "If God's word never fails, why haven't my finances, job, career, or health changed since I'm applying God's word?

Why is there no change when you apply the word?

- 1. The soil dominates the seed: This means that the soil has the potential and power to limit what the seed can do. See Mark 4:3-9 for the parable of the sower. Here, the seed was sown and although the seed was incorruptible, it didn't bear fruits in all the ground they fell on.
- 2. The soil affects the seed: The soil is the "heart" of man, which means the core of man (spirit, emotions, mindset). What limits the word of God has to do with the things on the inside - the mindset, emotions. For example: You may be praying for your husband, but your emotions have been broken/damaged. The condition of your heart, your belief system, begins to limit the power of the seed. What you need to do is to fix your heart – the soil, because it limits the seed.

For example: You may be praying for your husband, but your emotions have been broken/damaged. The condition of your heart, your belief system, begins to limit the power of the seed. What you need to do is to fix your heart - the soil, because it limits the seed. Remember, when God's word is sown in your heart, you begin to see differently, because it will bear another kind of fruit.

Signs of a polluted heart.

For example, the moment the word "marriage" is mentioned, your heart is defiled. That's what you are praying for quite alright, but there is a negative way you feel about it and that shows faith is not present. Remember, the soil dominates the seed.

The reason why you don't have a testimony is because your heart is not fertile enough, your heart is negative. Therefore, when you are negative and you fast, pray, or sow, the outcome will be negative. The state of your heart should be good. The bible also says; "guard your heart with all diligence" (Proverbs 4:23 KJV)

What to do to actively take delivery of the Word

·By Faith (**Hebrews 4:2 KJV**). Faith is how we take delivery of what grace has done. Where your faith stops, is where your testimony ends. (Hebrews 11 KJV)

Why Faith is so important?

·Faith is the ever-winning force (1st John 5:4 KJV)

·When you have faith, you always get a good report (Hebrews 11:2 KJV)

·Faith has the power to shatter the attack of the enemy (Ephesians 6:16 KJV)

·You need to not just meditate on the word, you must act on it by faith. (James 1:22 KJV)

·The first step of faith is to believe (John 1:12) (Luke 1:45)

Faith makes the impossible become possible. (See the story of Lazarus who was dead but faith brought him back to life and also the story of water turned into wine).

What do I do about my Faith?

Faith is not waiting on God to work; it is putting the word to work. It is not passive; it is putting the word of God to test.

Here are some bible promises that will help you: Business and Career: (Joshua 1:5, Isaiah 58:11, Deuteronomy

Relationship and Marriages: (Psalms 34:10, Psalms 37:4)

Father, help me to act on Your Word by Faith. (James 1:22 KJV)

Father, help me to remove all the doubts and negative thoughts that are inside my mind, heart, and soul. (Proverbs 4:23 KJV)

Confession

I declare that my heart is open to God's word. (1st Chronicles 22:19 KJV)



EXPERIENCING THE POWER OF GOD



And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die."

(Genesis 30:1)

ne of the frustrating experiences as a believer is to know that God can do something, yet not see results. Many believers are faced with this issue. How do you practically experience the power of God, so that it brings the change you desire as a person? Un-met expectations (marriage, finances, a job, an illness, a never-leaving addiction, etc) can lead you to envy other believers who seem to have things working: like Rachel in the above scripture.

Understand first, that there is a difference between fact and truth. If the doctor says anyone who contact's a certain kind of illness will die, according to his medical profession, it's a fact; but is that the Truth? No, not according to God's Word. Could it be where your feelings of hopelessness are stemming from, that you have accepted the fact as the Truth? In fact, "facts" are always changing.

For instance, at some point in the past, COVID was said not to have a cure. Have they found a cure? Yes. Facts change, but the Truth always stays the same. Facts are not final verdicts (Mk 10:2). If you want to experience the power of God, you must be able to stretch your faith to the Truth, beyond the fact.

While we talk about the logical side of things, there's also the spiritual side. You keep talking about what the doctor said, instead, talk about the power to reverse what the doctor said. You keep telling God about your mountain; God already knows, start talking to your mountain about the Living God. There are no powerless Christians. There are only Christians that forget who they are because they are overwhelmed by the issues of life (Acts 1:8). The Holy Ghost came to make you a proof producer (Exo 8:16-19).

The story was told of a Christian guy who had a problem and went to see a witch doctor. The doctor tells him to stay in the room where he'll be visited by a snake or some animal. He is to wrestle with the snake and either kill it or get killed. He soon realizes he is losing ground to the snake and starts speaking in tongues. The snake is paralyzed to the dismay of the witch doctor who says: 'you have this kind of power and you come here?'. Who are the people around you? Are they the ones who encourage you to cut corners? That's why people begin to take alternatives that ruin them.

How do I experience the power of God? **Psalms 63** teaches us that we have to be hungry. You can't be okay just showing up in church on Sundays. Thirst is a currency. As a believer, the power you carry needs to be activated **(Ps 82:6).** You cannot live your life jumping from prophet to prophet. Time is an investment for spiritual things. Hunger reflects in separation. Hunger reflects sacrifice. Also, power flows to the lovers of God. Do you really love God, or do you just want Him to do something for you? **Jn 4:10, 2Chro 1:11,12**

Prayer

Father, help me to hunger for You. (Proverbs 18:1)

My life receives proof that God exists: the proofs are in my job, family, environment. (Acts 1:8)

Confession

I bear fruits in all my endeavors because the proof that God exists is on the inside of me. (Ps 82:6)

The Power of the Holy Spirit is activated on the inside of me. (1 Corinthians 14:1)

Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 27



Join Us Online On MONDAYS - FRIDAYS 5:50am W.A.T • Rev Sam Oye

DEVELOPING INTIMACY WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT



Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. (Psalms 51:11 NIV)

he Holy Spirit isn't just a distant concept-He's God Himself, eager to walk alongside you every step of the way. We're talking about tapping into a supernatural connection that will revolutionize your faith and empower you in unimaginable ways. So, buckle up and get ready to unlock the secrets of intimacy with the Holy Spirit! In this devotional, we'll discover the amazing things the Holy Spirit does in our lives, how the Bible describes Him, and some practical ways we can grow closer to Him.

The Purpose of the Holy Spirit:

- The Holy Spirit reveals your identity as a child of God. Romans 8:15 (NIV) "The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to son-ship. And by him, we cry, 'Abba, Father."
- The Holy Spirit claims ownership of you, protecting and guaranteeing your future. 2 Corinthians 1:22 (NIV) "set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

Different Descriptions of the Holy Spirit:

1. The Holy Spirit is like water – refreshing, life-giving, and quenching. **Isaiah 44:3 (NIV)** - "For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants." **John 7:38 (NIV)** - "Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." Water refreshes: When you feel drained, the Holy Spirit can bring refreshment and from walking intimately with the Holy Spirit.

rejuvenation, preventing you from becoming overwhelmed by life's pressures. Water gives life and growth: Like a tree planted by streams of water, you can bear fruit and prosper in all you do. Water quenches thirst: The Holy Spirit fills your deepest longings, satisfying the yearnings of your soul.

2. The Holy Spirit is like rain – pouring out blessings and empowering you. Joel 2:23, 28 (NIV) - "Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before.' 'And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions."

Practical Steps for Intimacy with the Holy Spirit:

- Cultivate a conscious awareness of God's presence. Become mindful of God in every aspect of your life, so you can recognize His voice and listen attentively when He speaks to you.
- Let go of mindsets hindering intimacy with the Holy Spirit. Identify and release thoughts and mindsets that distance you from the Holy Spirit. The more you yield to the flesh, the further you drift from His presence.

As you embark on this journey of developing intimacy with the Holy Spirit, remember that He is your confidant, comforter, and guide. He longs to refresh, empower, and transform your life. Open your heart to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to lead you into a deeper relationship with God. May you experience the abundant blessings and fulfillment that come from walking intimately with the Holy Spirit

Prayer

Holy Spirit, transform me, empower me to walk in Your light. (2 Corinthians 3:18) Guide me, Holy Spirit, to cultivate mindful awareness of Your presence. (Psalm 139:7-10)

Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 28

Confession

I confess that I am aware of God's presence in my life. I seek Him in every moment, listening for His voice and following His guidance.

Psalm 16:11 (NIV) - "You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."



RECOGNIZING SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE



The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly". (Proverbs 20:27)

fter being born again, another big decision to make is how to hear the Voice of the Lord. It prevents one from danger, grants access to victory and sustains it. God does not contact the believer primarily through his senses. The need for man to try and perceive God through his senses arose when man fell and died a spiritual death. Without knowledge of God's guidance, you may not be able to access God's plan for your life.

Spiritual guidance always puts you at an advantage. God is actually committed to leading you irrespective of you. Spiritual guidance came with salvation. It is part of our inheritance in Christ (Ezek 36:27). You didn't work for it. We need His own Wisdom more than our own calculative wisdom. If you are not led as a Christian, you will get into trouble often because we live in a dark world.

How do we recognize it?

It will always bring about peace and assurance, NOT fear and confusion. Whatever leading brings you confusion and not peace is not of God (1Cor 14:33). We are going to recognize spiritual guidance by faith. Spiritual blessings are received simply by faith, including spiritual guidance. A good reason we don't receive spiritual guidance is because we are desiring the spectacular. 1 Kings 19:11-13 teaches that there might be so much activity and God may not be in it. Some of us live in the belief that if it has to be God leading, it has to be dramatic.

Spiritual guidance can be missed **(Gen 28:10-19, 1Sam3:4-10).** It can also be ignored. God is often in the still small voice, not in the drama. We have to be careful of how we seek God's spiritual guidance externally, especially knowing that the devil can disguise as an angel of light **(Acts 16:16-18)**. Another good reason we don't recognize the Voice of God is dispositions. Dispositions are strong emotions based on received information. Emotions can greatly impact your recognition of spiritual leadership. You begin to interpret everything in the light of that emotion. Sometimes, it's often also like coming to God when we already know what we want. We have to learn to take our emotions and put them in neutral. For instance, we may desire to know whether God wants us to invest in a big business because it looks lucrative, knowing fully well that we want to go ahead whether God says yes or no.

Here's proof that you are already being led: What voice interprets the Bible to you when you read it? The Holy Spirit. The Bible says He'll guide us into ALL truth (John 16:13). Just like you begin to get used to a friend, you recognize the Voice of God the more you pay attention to Him. God is more committed to leading than we are committed to following Him.

Prayer

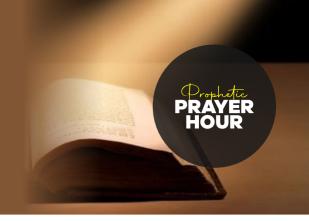
Lord, I thank You because You are committed to leading me. (John 16:13) Heavenly Father, help me kill all my emotional investments. (2 Corinthians 10:5) Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 29

Confession

I am full of God's Spirit. I sense God's leading for my life according to His Word. I do not ignore spiritual quidance.



THE BEDROCK OF SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE



For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. (Romans 8:14-15)

n our journey of faith, it is essential to establish a solid foundation for spiritual guidance. The starting point and practical way to begin is by recognizing that God's leading is the birthright of every believer. . We should have the same assurance about His leading as we have about our salvation.

Romans 8:14 assures us that those who are led by the Spirit of God are His children. Through the Holy Spirit, we have received the spirit of sonship, and we can confidently approach the throne of grace, knowing that we have the right to access the spiritual principles of God.

Often, the challenge lies in overcoming our own desires and the influence of the flesh. As humans, we naturally oppose God, and our feelings tend to lead us astray. When things go wrong, we are often swayed by our emotions. However, Galatians 5:16-19 reminds us that we are indeed led by the Spirit of God, even if we fail to recognize it. These leadings may manifest as simple nudges to attend church or read the Bible. Unlike the tablets of the law given in the past to Moses, God has now written His will in our hearts. When we ignore these nudges, the prompting weakens, and we silence the Spirit within us.

Romans 6:13-16 instructs us to yield ourselves to God, emphasizing that sin no longer has dominion over us. Whatever we yield ourselves to, becomes our master. The practical way to grow is to make daily choices that align with God's will. Although we may face battles as long as we reside in our earthly bodies, our responsibility is to resist yielding to sinful desires. If we find ourselves struggling, we must examine what we have been yielding to.

To follow the leading of the Lord, the first prerequisite is self-denial. Jesus Himself taught that those who desire to follow him must deny themselves and carry their cross daily. Self-denial is the pathway to surrendering to God's will and embracing His guidance in our lives.

Colossians 3:1 encourages us to set our affections on things above, focusing on God. As we drop worldly attachments for the sake of God, we can trust that He will provide something greater in return. Abraham serves as an example of obedience, following God's instructions even when they seemed difficult, such as being willing to sacrifice his son. Trusting in God's love, we can be assured that He will never send us anywhere that would destroy us, and He will not put us to shame. It brings Him delight to bless us, His children, and for us to represent His name wherever we go.

Father, I come before you today with a heart full of gratitude and a renewed dedication to seek the things that are above. I pray that in every moment, whether in your immediate presence or when I feel distant, my life would be pleasing to you. May my thoughts, words, and actions align with your will as I surrender to the leading of your Spirit. (Romans 12:2)

Father, I seek forgiveness for times when I have ignored the Holy Spirit's nudges and quenched His leading. I pray for the grace to set my affections on things above and prioritise God in all areas of my life. (Colossians 3:1-2)

Confession

I declare that as a child of God, I have the right and privilege to access His spiritual principles and be led by His Spirit. Today, I choose to surrender my will to God and carry my cross daily, trusting in His guidance.

Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 30



I declare that my affections are set on things above, and I willingly let go of worldly attachments for the sake of pursuing God's will

HOW DOES GOD GUIDE AND LEAD?



For as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (Romans 8:14)

s we grow as believers, we need to recognize the leading of God in our lives. Everybody hears voices, but the question is who are you following? It is important to note that you cannot respond to God if you don't know how He leads you and also until you respond to God, you will not hear everything that God wants to tell you.

It is important for us as believers to understand God's leading, so we don't confuse it with our feelings. Recognition of God's leadings will make us separate His voice from the many voices around us.

Some ways through which God leads us:

- · Visual Methods: These come by sight either physical or spiritual. Examples are visions and dreams as relayed in **Job 33:14,15(KJV)** "For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. In a dream in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed."
- · Supernatural Encounters: As seen in **Exodus 3:2(KJV)** "And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush and he looked and behold the bush burned with fire and the bush was not consumed."
- · Audible Voices: These are clear voices that sound as normal voices, but they carry spiritual instructions as clearly stated in **Isaiah 30:21(KJV)** "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee saying this is the way, walk ye in it when ye turn to the right hand and when ye turn to the left."
- · Another method of God's leading is categorized under Impressions: The Holy Spirit's inner witness makes us know about ourselves and things around us because The Holy Spirit is our perfect indicator. Some would call it intuition or sixth sense, but it is indeed the Holy Spirit.
- · Circumstances: These help confirm what God is saying and not necessarily inform. Things happen to us and around us that God uses to point us towards certain directions, and we can identify with our channel of spiritual guidance through; I) Knowledge of how God speaks II) How he has been speaking to you over time
- · The scriptures: This is the surest way by which God speaks, guides and leads us.

Praver

I declare that I am alive to God's leadings in Jesus' name. (Matthew 13:13)

I receive the grace to recognize and follow the voice of God in Jesus name. (John 10:27)

Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 31

Confession

I am led by the spirit of God, so I excel in all my endeavors. (Romans 8:16)
I hear and follow my Master's voice, which leads to profit. (Isaiah 30:21)



HOW TO TRIGGER CHANGE



"When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him,

"Do you want to get well?"

(John 5:6 NIV)

hange often comes from two basic areas, from the right belief system and right action. Most people seeking change usually do very little to trigger change or end up doing things that are extremely unhelpful. As humans, we tend to gravitate towards what is familiar and not necessarily what is effective. To have lasting change, we must shift away from what we are familiar with to what is needed to facilitate such change.

In (**John 5:1-7**), the response of the cripple by the pool shows that he had given up on the possibility of receiving a miracle. A response that required just a "Yes or No", he went on a sorry tale of how he is unable to get into the pool. This paints a clear image of someone that has lost faith in getting help.

After experiencing a series of setbacks, most people think and believe that they are genuinely helpless and they stop actively believing for a change.

"Hope deferred maketh the heart sick; But when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life." (Prov 13:12)

What Happens When Someone Is Helpless?

- They believe they have no control over their outcome.
- They believe that their effort or input has no connection to their outcome for success so they stop trying.
- · There is a lot of low self-confidence, they become inconsistent in the things they ought to do.
- · They unconsciously engage in habits that sabotage their likelihood for success.

How to get out of helplessness?

Change your perspective. If the man at the pool knew that he would be healed by the one that sends the angel, his response to Jesus would have been different.

Be clear on what you want. This helps you to ask and communicate effectively even in prayer.

Tame your feelings and expectations, don't make decisions based on feelings, we walk by faith and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7). You are not your feeling.

Faith enables us to take responsibility towards our goals. Like the response Jesus gave to the man at the pool in **John 5:8**, he was told to rise and take up his bed and walk. These are actions that are in sync with the goal of his healing.

Praver

Father, I bring under subjection every negative feeling and belief system that tries to belittle the grace of God upon my life. (Isaiah 59:19)

Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 32

Every false report about me, my business or goals in life is canceled by the promises of God. (Psalm 52:8b).

Confessions

I declare that I am helped by the Lord and favored on all sides.

I declare that I know what to do at all times because the Spirit of the Lord lives in me. I am not helpless, I am not hopeless



THE POWER OF GENEROSITY



And God is able to make all grace to abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

(2 Corinthians 9:8)

here is a spirit of materialism in our world today. People are willing to do anything just to be able to have some cash in their bank account. You are probably asking if there's anything wrong with having money and being comfortable. The answer is NO! Our Father is a good and kind God who wants us to prosper and be in good health 3John1:2. However, God is against us being controlled by our desire for money and material possessions. And it is through generosity that we combat materialism, greed and lust.

Every time we give - to our family, to people in need and to God, we are exerting our power over money. But every time, we hold back in selfishness or greed, we make money the Lord over our lives.

Generosity is also a powerful expression of our faith in God and His ability to provide for us. When we are generous, we acknowledge God as our source and sustenance, and remind ourselves of His ability to take care of us. Conversely, when we hold back from giving, we subconsciously tell God we don't trust Him enough to take care of our present and future needs.

Our giving is also proof of our love. We cannot claim to love and not be generous, because the first proof of God's love for mankind was His willingness to give His only son as a ransom for our redemption.

Finally, our generosity activates the law of sowing and reaping and creates a pathway for us to be blessed by God and helped by other people. **Proverbs 11:25** says "The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself."

God wants to bless and increase you, so that through you the world will be blessed. Are you going to partner with Him through your generosity, or will find an excuse not to be a giver?

Prayer

Father, I thank you because you always hear me when I call. (John 11 vs 42)

Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 33

Father, I receive manifestation of all I ask for according to your word, in Jesus Name. (Psalm 91:15)

Confession

I decree and declare that I am connected to Christ, because I abide in You and Your Word abides in me. (John 15:4)

I see manifestation of answered prayers. When I declare Your Word it goes forth and fulfils all that it is sent to dp. Hallelujah... Isaiah 55:11



THE REWARD OF GENEROSITY





Give and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you. (Luke 6:38)

hen God asks us to do something, we must remember that although we may be doing it for Him, we are ultimately the biggest beneficiaries of our obedience. A case in point is our generosity. There are numerous examples in the scriptures where God instructs us to live generous lives. In today's devotional, we will consider what some of the rewards of generosity are.

- 1. Giving results in receiving: Jesus himself said in **Luke 6:38**, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal [measure]it shall be measured to you again." The bible also teaches in **2 Corinthians 9:6** that the quality of our giving is tied to the quality of our harvest.
- 2. Giving adds to your account: People often see giving as something that takes away from them, but that's an inaccurate perspective. In **Philippians 4:17**, we see that our giving actually results in a credit to our spiritual account.
- 3. Giving helps us access divine blessings: When we respond in generosity to God, we position ourselves to access His blessings on earth. In **Malachi 3**, God promises us that when we give, He will open the windows of heaven over us. Do you want to access God's blessings for your life? Make a choice to live a generous life.
- 4. Giving increases our faith. Our generosity is a proof of our trust in God. The more you trust God, the more you will give. And the more you give, the more you learn to trust God that you will have enough left over for your own needs. Our trusting God is so big in God's mind that our finances are the only place He allows us to test Him, as seen in Malachi 3:10.
- 5. Our generosity results in thanksgiving and praise. God doesn't want to bring you a financial blessing just so you can sit on a fat bank account and gloat about what you have. He wants you to be generous with others, and as you do so, their thanksgiving will go up to God on your behalf. Is your wealth a source of thanksgiving to the Lord? If not, then you're not using your finances correctly.

God wants to bless so many of His children, but until we partner with Him through our generosity, we may find ourselves living sub-optimal lives.

Praver

Father, help me to be more consistent in my generosity towards You and other people around me. (2nd Corinthians 8:7)

Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 34

Father, help me never be weary of doing good. I reap in due season. (Galatians 6:9)

Confession

I am a generous soul, so I continually abound in fruitfulness and increase. (2nd Corinthians 9:8)

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Through my generosity, God causes me to grow and increase on all sides. I am a blessing to my world through my generosity. (Proverbs 11:25)

NURTURING YOUR GROWTH POTENTIAL



"There are "friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother. "
(Prov 18:24 NLT)

here is this popular quote that goes, "Show me your friends and I'll show you your future." This literally means that the people you roll with or build relationships with matter a lot on how your future will turn out. Even Jesus carefully selected His disciples.

How do you identify the right relationships?

- · Know the purpose of the relationship, this helps you know your boundaries and how to behave in the relationship. (Amos 3:3)
- · The guidance of the spirit (Acts 10:30)

One of the enviable relationships in the bible was between David and Jonathan; God uses our relationships to make us stronger. Sometimes God blesses us with a family member, colleague or friend who is super special. Our hearts feel tied so closely to this person, we want to be like them and live to bless them. This is how it was with David and Jonathan in the Bible. Jonathan was King Saul's son. Even though a son would normally be in line to become king, Jonathan knew David was chosen by God to be king after Saul. Jonathan could have been jealous of David. But he trusted God and loved David.

Identify your relationship with those around you and make intentional efforts to build these relationships. We can start choosing the right people from today!

Praver

Father! Grant me the grace to cultivate healthy and valuable relationships that will enable me to express my full potential in life, career and ministry. Pro 27:17(NLT)

Confession

I declare that the wisdom of the Holy spirit will guide my decision not to walk into destructive relationships.



INCREASING FINANCIAL FLOW



Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health even as thy soul prospereth. (3John1:2 KJV)

inancial change starts with a change of mindset as seen in our above text. Everything in life revolves around a belief system and so if your finances are going to change, then your mindset has to change. Your thinking about "what you do", "how you do it" and the way you see money generally is very important.

Do you see yourself as blessed or as a hustler? Your financial mindset will determine your behavior, your behavior will determine your action and your action will determine your result. One major way God changes our belief system is through revelation and it is also important to note that your association determines your language. When your life wants to change, God brings you relationships that raise your standard.

Relationships that stretch us are good for our growth and development rather than the ones that just accommodate us. When God wants to change us, He brings us to places and people that challenge our thinking and language. He also begins to throw financial weight at us by suggesting to us financial projects and assignments. When God throws weight at you, He wants to build your financial muscle and you don't build financial muscle by talking, but by carrying weight.

You must also be careful not to do what God is calling you to do in the flesh, that is using man's effort to carry God's weight, which will in turn produce an Ishmael. Ishmael is a typology of man's initiative to produce what The Spirit wants to do. Isaac is when The Spirit works through you to produce what God wants to do. That is why God allows people to disappoint you so that you can walk through The Spirit to develop muscles. The weight God puts on you might be initially inconvenient till you've mastered it and then He adds another weight to stretch you because you are the light of the world and if you are the light of the world, you will have global problems that you will need the spiritual muscles you've built over time to bring the global solutions.

The question is what mindset is God challenging you to change that you're holding onto? Where is God calling you to grow the capacity that fear is holding you back from? We must never forget the place of Grace in this and Grace comes as a weight or demand because it determines the engine that drives everything.

Prayer

Father, bring to me relationships that raise my standard In Jesus Name. (2 Chronicles 20:20)

In the name of Jesus, I receive the grace to grow outside my comfort zones this year. (1 Corinthians 15:10)

Confession

I am the light of the world, so I bring global solutions to problems of humanity (John 8:12)

I conquer every fear that has held me back from being who God says I am. (Romans 8:15)



SOUL WINNING - WHY YOU SHOULD BE INVOLVED



"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

(Matthew 28:19-20 NLT)

s a believer, you may wonder why it is important to be involved in soulwinning. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus gives us the Great Commission, a mandate to go and make disciples of all nations. This means sharing the good news of Jesus, baptizing new believers, and teaching them to follow His commands.

Why should we be involved in soulwinning? First, it is an act of obedience to Jesus' command. He entrusted us with the responsibility to spread the message of salvation and disciple others. By actively participating in soulwinning, we honor His words and fulfill His purpose for our lives. Second, soulwinning is an expression of love. When we share the gospel, we are offering others the opportunity to experience the forgiveness, love, and eternal life found in Christ. It is an act of compassion and kindness, demonstrating our care for their spiritual wellbeing.

Additional Scriptural References:

Acts 1:8 (AMP) - "But you will receive power and ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses [to tell people about Me] both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth." The Holy Spirit empowers us to be effective witnesses for Christ.

Proverbs 11:30 (NKJV) - "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise." Soulwinning is an act of wisdom that bears eternal fruit. Soulwinning is not only an act of obedience but also an expression of love and compassion. By sharing the gospel, we offer others the opportunity to know Jesus and experience eternal life. As you participate in soulwinning, remember that you are playing a vital role in God's kingdom and impacting lives for eternity. So, embrace the privilege of sharing the good news, trusting that God will use your efforts to bring transformation and salvation to those around you.

Prave

Father, grant me the courage and wisdom to effectively bring souls to salvation. Acts 4:29.

Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 37

My Father, as I engage in the task of soul-winning, manifest exceptional outcomes through me. May I witness healing among the afflicted, liberation for the oppressed, and illumination for those who cannot see. Act 4:30

Confession

I proclaim that I am dedicated to the cause of winning souls, and through my preaching, multitudes will embrace Christ. A multitude of healings, deliverances from oppression, and restoration of sight to the blind will unfold.



FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE



Take a lesson from the ants, you lazy fellow. Learn from their ways and be wise! For though they have no king to make them work, yet they labour hard all summer, gathering food for the winter

(Proverbs 6:6-8 TLB)

inancial discipline is very important, and it's something the Spirit of God can train you in. Some don't realise they're not supposed to spend everything they get. Simple wisdom is that you spend less than you earn or receive; otherwise, you could end up in debt. The response of some to this might be, "What I earn isn't even enough; after paying my tithe, giving my offering and doing other things I need to do, nothing is left." No! Don't think or talk like that.

First, understand that you're the seed of Abraham; therefore, your financial prosperity is independent of how much you earn or the economic situation around you. You're an heir of God and joint-heir with Christ; you're plugged to an unending supply. Thus, the idea of cultivating the habit to save isn't about keeping your money in the bank to accumulate interest; it's about discipline. **Proverbs 21:20 TLB** says, "The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets."

You may say, "What's the essence of saving a small amount; it's not going anywhere." Don't destroy it with your mouth. Never declare that what you have is small or not enough. Money is spiritual; it's not that coin or note in your pocket, wallet or bank account. Money has ears and can hear you. So you must learn to bless your finances.

The issue isn't the size of your income, but the size of your mind—your thinking, and what your faith can produce. Think about how much you might have received in the last one year; but then, how much of it did you reproduce? If your answer isn't satisfactory, it's time for a change. As long as the things you put money into aren't such that can reproduce what you put in and more, then there's a problem, and it's expedient that you change things.

God's Word imparts wisdom to you for financial intelligence and discipline. So, study and meditate on the Word more, and you'll always deal wisely in handling your finances

Praver

Lord, guard my words and bless my finances abundantly. (Proverbs 18:21) May my generosity reflect Your grace. Increase my faith, Lord. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 38

Confession

God has given me riches and wealth, and the wisdom to multiply them! I'm the seed of Abraham; therefore, the world is mine!

I lay up gold as dust; my prosperity is endless. I walk in abundance, having more than enough for myself and for others.



A CHANGED LIFE



And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

(Romans 12:2)

od's desire is for us to be changed into the image and likeness of His Son Jesus. For many of us, this is a long and sometimes painful process. However, along the way, there will be evidence of true internal change. Some will be noticed by others based on our lifestyle changes or how we respond to situations. Many of them will be noticed by us because we know we are not in bondage to those things that used to control or define us anymore!

However, many shreds of evidence can point to the fact that we are changed people. For example, we have a hunger to know the Word of God, we have a desire to put God first in all our affairs, or we want to see people reconciled to God and each other, all of those are shreds of evidence that we are being transformed. There are many other evidences as well. I would like to highlight a couple of those areas.

One of the major evidences of change is that we are moving away from carnality and allowing the Spirit of God to govern us.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such, there is no law – (Galatians 5:22-23).

The evidence of a transformed life is the fruit of the Spirit being developed in the life of a believer. This is where the rubber meets the road. We can say, teach, preach, pray, prophesy, or do a lot of other things, but the question is, does our life contain the fruits of the spirit? Especially when we are squeezed under tough, stressful, or hurtful situations, can we say that those qualities are evident in our lives?

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord – (2 Corinthians 3:18).

God wants us to know Him more so we will experience a transformed life in every area of our lives.

Praver

Father, help me to experience a transformed life in all areas of my life in Jesus' name

Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 39

Confession

Father, I thank you because I constantly show forth your glory through the transformation that my submission to you effects in my life.



UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL WARFARE



Have you ever wondered why you have a dream about a certain thing and it later happens? This is because before anything physical happens it has already been orchestrated spiritually; the spiritual realm controls the physical realm.

(2 Corinthians 10:3)

ometimes people go around to different places looking for a solution but still not find one and this is because they don't understand spiritual warfare. (2 Corinthians 10:4)

What are Strongholds?

Strongholds are imagination, thoughts and knowledge that holds you down **2 Corinthians 10:5**

Problems or things that happen physically are controlled by the spiritual realm. When you are praying for something and working for a solution, you will have to back it up with prayer; you submit a proposal you don't just check and relax, you have to enter the spiritual and present it to God too. Spiritual reality controls and dominates physical reality.

Even when you have everything, and you can physically solve a problem, you have to also boost your efforts in the spirit realm. Sometimes, the devil makes us believe or think we do not need God's help to solve a problem.

Weapons that the devil uses to steal and destroy our destiny

Ignorance (2 Corinthian 11:3) When we don't understand that we need spiritual backing in all our endeavors, it is the devil manipulating our lives and keeping us from success. Those thoughts or mindset that tells us that we can't succeed or reach a certain place is a spiritual attack and most times we are not aware of that. Isaiah 3:10; Hosea 1:6. Many Christians are destroyed because of their ignorance; some thoughts are not to be ignored.

Sometimes, our mindset holds us bondage and stops our progress, when you believe because of a certain reason; you won't succeed but when you believe you can succeed no matter what, you certainly will. **Deut 11:24**, **Psalms 1:3**

- **Accusation (Rev. 2:10)** Every time satan wants to attack you, he brings up your wrong and your fault, because once you feel accused, you feel condemned, when you feel condemned you cannot stand in faith, once you cannot stand in faith, you cannot stand in Grace. Any voice that accuses and reminds you of your faults is not the voice of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit reminds you of repentance, not accuses you. Isaiah 43: 18-19 What do you do when things are wrong spiritually? Abnormal behaviors; When things do not work as it should work. We always remember that our thoughts are portals of spiritual and demonic warfare, they are doors to attacks. **Ephesians 6:12**, when the wrong thoughts cross your mind, you shun it with the word of God, like Jesus in Matthew 1:4-11. 'A shut mouth is a shut destiny'
- Fear (Hebrew 2:15) Fear holds you down, when you are going through something and you are afraid you will fail, you will eventually fail. When you are going through a situation protect yourself with the shield of faith, Ephesians 6:16, Faith brings things to existence Job 1:10 Authorities are expressed by word. You have to study God's word so when the attack comes you can raise a shield of faith against it. The difference between two Christians where one is surviving and the other is not, is that one who has a shield of faith and the other does not.

Prayer

Holy Spirit take over my thoughts, let every thought I have be fueled by grace and faith. Father, give me the knowledge I need to function in both the physical and spiritual realm. Father silence the voice of the devil in my Life. AMEN

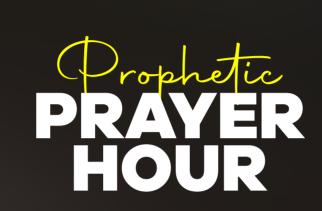
Daily Bible Reading: Genesis 40

Confessions

I am taking the shield of faith and I quench all the evil darts of the enemy. I sanitize my thoughts and refine it into good thoughts.



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