

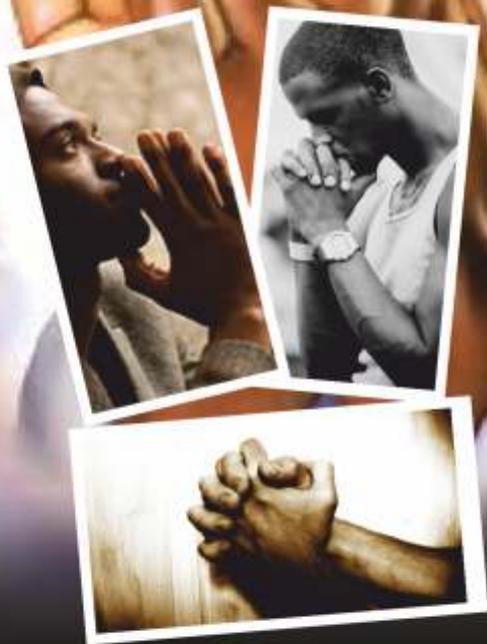
Welcome to
2018

Today
in
His

P R E *S* E N C E

chris & stephanie oarhe

experience the joy of
Salvation



Make this confession aloud:

Dear Jesus, I believe you died for my sins.
I believe in my heart and confess with
my mouth that you are my Lord and
personal Saviour.
Write my name in the book of life.

The versions of the Bible used in this devotional study are:

KJV	-	King James Version
NKJV	-	New King James Version
ASV	-	American Standard Version
AMP	-	Amplified Version
NIV	-	New International Version
CEV	-	Contemporary English Version
NASB	-	New American Standard Version
NLT	-	New Living Translation
TLB	-	The Living Bible

Today In His Presence

ISSN: 0794-0762

Copyright © 2018 by Chris & Stephanie Oarhe

Published by Faithwave Publications

P.O. Box 14444, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Contents and/or cover may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form without the express written permission of the publisher.

All correspondence to: devotional@hilltopinternational.org

Cover designed by:

Hilltop Concepts

Printed by:

Excel Prints Communications

0702 826 2657, 0803 305 7350

In this prophetic year of THY WILL BE DONE, everything God planned for you will come to pass in this season that God promised to extend His divine will to us on earth. The agenda of divine support from our father in heaven holds great promises for the believer in this year.

At the root of every mighty outpouring amongst men, there always exists a fervent and consistent flow of affection towards God. The proof of such God directed affection is in fellowship with Him. Yes, unrelenting daily devotion that keeps drawing you back to God for renewal, refreshing and refilling through affectionate prayer, worship and bible study.

To launch you into daily empowerment in this quarter, the Lord has guided us to present daily power packs. When you feed on these with unwavering commitment, you will definitely be thoroughly furnished for 2018 and beyond.

Contact us @

Hilltop International Christian Centre
Hilltop Drive Off Mini Wachara Road
By Waterlines /Elekahia Link Road
Port Harcourt, Rivers State Nigeria.
E-mail: icc97@yahoo.com
Tel: 08038100832, 08188249627

Services:

Sunday: 1st Service 7.30am (Business Service)

2nd Service 9:00am (Miracle Service)

3rd Service: 10.50am (Celebration Service)

Wednesday, 6.00pm (Leadership Service)

Hilltop International Christian Centre
44, Agungi Road, Off Agungi Bus Stop,
Lekki, Lagos.

Hilltop International Christian Centre
The Event Centre, Calypso Park,
12, Sakono Street, Opp. AP Plaza
Off Ademola Adetokunbo Crescent,
Wuse 2, Abuja.

Hilltop International Christian Centre
No 36 Umuzhi Street,
Ahoada, Rivers State

Hilltop USA
307 Sawdust Road, The Wood Lands,
TX 77380, USA
Phone: +12812054421

Hilltop International Christian Centre
Ari's Plaza,
Km1 Isaac Boro Expressway
Opp. SAGA Office
Etegwé, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State
Sunday Service 8.00am

Hilltop International Christian Centre
Off young Christian Bus stop
(Near wilbros junction)
Airport road, Bonny Island,
Rivers State

Hilltop Community Church
Foubiri, Aleibiri Bayelsa State.

Hilltop International Christian Centre
Minibelev - Akassa, Bayelsa State

Hilltop International Christian Centre
29 Amadi Wordi Street, Beside
Rumuapara Secondary School
East-West Road, Nkpolu, Rumigbo
Port Harcourt Rivers State.

Hilltop Sri Lanka
69, Old Kcttawa Rd, Mirihana,
Nugegoda.
Colombo, Sri Lanka.

INTRODUCTION

Devotion to God attracts promotion from God. Time spent alone with God should be a crucial part of the daily life of the believer. Jesus often withdrew from men to have time alone with God. Those who are celebrated among men are the ones that withdraw frequently from men to meet with God in private devotion. Abraham was a man of deep devotion to God and that was the secret to his unparalleled greatness. Job, the richest man of the east, was also a man who sought God daily. This was the secret of his unsurpassed success.

This devotional contains relevant daily bible readings for all-day meditation to build up your faith, and everyday confession (FAITH BYTE) to release your faith for daily victories. Many testimonies abound from the daily use of Today in His Presence and it is our firm belief that you would also be blessed as you use and put into action the instructions and revelations you receive.

Your life of faith will be jacked up as you study this quarter's devotional. As you use your "Today in His Presence" daily, you will be infused with inspiration, motivation, and wisdom for your spiritual growth and successful living.

Be blessed in His Presence.

Rev. Chris & Stephanie Oarhe

INSIDE TODAY IN HIS PRESENCE

To encourage a deep, powerful and productive Christian walk, we have included practical spiritual exercises that will give you a robust exercise with God such as:

- Ø Daily Bible reading.
- Ø Short Daily Bible texts.
- Ø Everyday confessions to build and release your faith.
Confession results in concentration.
Concentration results in penetration which produces speedy sharp results.
- Ø Wednesday fasting and prayer (Matthew 6:17) either 6:00am to 12:00noon or 6:00am to 4:00pm.
- Ø Weekly memory verses to help you remember God's word.
1st Corinthians 15:2
- Ø A one year Bible reading plan.
- Ø A short prayer guide to focus your praying.
Nothing hinders prayer like a lack of focus.

HOW TO USE TODAY IN HIS PRESENCE

- Ø Find a quiet place where you can be alone and free from distractions and interruptions.
- Ø Have this devotional and a Bible in a version that is in English that you understand. For example the New King James version. If you understand the King James Version, which we use ourselves. Please use it.
- Ø Commit your time and yourself to God in prayers asking Him to speak to you and bless you.
- Ø Meditatively read the scripture reading and text and put down your thoughts in your devotional notebook.
(you should have one)
- Ø Pray the prayer that follows and confess the Faith Byte to your own hearing at least thrice.
- Ø Pray for other issues that may come to your mind as God often gives His children a burden to pray for others.

Thank God for everything.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE JANUARY

GÉ Î Ĝ	BIBLE CHAPTERS
JANUARY 1st	Genesis 1-3
JANUARY 2nd	Genesis 4-6
JANUARY 3rd	Genesis 7-9
JANUARY 4th	Genesis 10-12
JANUARY 5th	Genesis 13-15
JANUARY 6th	Genesis 16-18
JANUARY 7th	Genesis 19-21
JANUARY 8th	Genesis 22-24
JANUARY 9th	Genesis 25-27
JANUARY 10th	Genesis 28-30
JANUARY 11th	Genesis 31-33
JANUARY 12th	Genesis 34-36
JANUARY 13th	Genesis 37-39
JANUARY 14th	Genesis 40-42
JANUARY 15th	Genesis 43-45
JANUARY 16th	Genesis 46-48
JANUARY 17th	Genesis 49-50, Exodus
JANUARY 18th	Exodus 2-4
JANUARY 19th	Exodus 5-7
JANUARY 20th	Exodus 8-10
JANUARY 21st	Exodus 11-13
JANUARY 22nd	Exodus 14-16
JANUARY 23rd	Exodus 17-19
JANUARY 24th	Exodus 20-22
JANUARY 25th	Exodus 23-25
JANUARY 26th	Exodus 26-28
JANUARY 27th	Exodus 29-31
JANUARY 28th	Exodus 32-34
JANUARY 29th	Exodus 35-37
JANUARY 30th	Exodus 38-39
JANUARY 31ST	Exodus 40



expand your

Horizon



Watch

New Experience

with Pastor Chris
on these tv stations

RSTV: Sunday - 1:00pm, **CMTV:** Saturday - 7:30pm and Sundays - 7:30am,
NTA Yenagoa: Tuesdays - 5:30pm, **STV:** - 8:00pm

KEEP FAITH ALIVE

Scripture: James 2:14-23



*“By faith Abraham when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son”
Hebrew 11:17 (KJV)*

Faith is absolute confidence in God and in the power of His word. God operates in the eternal realm, outside of time; therefore, with God, there is no yesterday or tomorrow. However, the manifestation of God’s action in the physical realm happens in time. Thus, we may receive today what God has already given to us yesterday. Therefore, delay in time does not mean that God has not answered or that we have not received, rather, we need to speak and act like we already have it.

Let your faith be manifest in your actions. When you have prayed and believed God for something, your actions must indicate that you believe God has answered. If you have prayed for rain, then act like one expecting rain. If you believe God for a job, start preparing for work. Take steps that activate your faith. Abraham believed and trusted totally in God enough to sacrifice his only son. He acted in faith and God confirmed his action.

What do you believe God for? A child, a job, or finances? Remember God is always faithful and will never withhold any good thing from you. Exercise your faith, take actions based on your expectation, obey the instructions that God gives you as proof of your faith and that which you believe for will become your physical experience. Your faith without corroborating action is dead.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to be consistent in my confessions and actions of faith in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am a firm believer and I show my faith by my actions. My faith is alive.





BE EXPECTANT

Scripture: Mark 5:21-29

"For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off." Proverbs 23:18 (KJV)

Expectation is a sense of anticipation. Expectation proceeds from faith; an absolute confidence that something will happen and you look forward to it. God has massive plans for your life but as you believe this, you also have to expect it to happen.

The woman with the issue of blood made an effort to touch Jesus' garment by all means because she had an expectation. She was not simply looking to get his attention, she expected that a touch would heal her and she got what she wanted. Most people in that day were aware of Jesus' power to heal all diseases but how many of them expected a miracle just by touching his clothes? His clothes must have brushed against thousands of people as he passed through the crowd but it was the woman who expected healing by that singular act of touching his clothes that got her desire.

It is good thing to pray for God to help you but it does not end there. After committing your cares and issues to him, you have to act in faith. Be expectant of your miracles and do not be careless about it. At every point in time, your words and actions should portray your expectation. You must take action that pushes you close to receiving your miracle. Just like little children have full confidence in their parents to feed, clothe and take care of them you should also have full confidence in God to deliver your answer.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: Leadership/Communion Service tomorrow, 5:30PM

PRAYER



Lord, I trust in you fully to see me through all my issues and I have confidence that you have answered me in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I have faith in God; I am expectant and my miracles manifest without delay.



HEED THE WORD

Scripture: Proverbs 3:1-5



*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
Psalm 118"105 (KJV)*

You are open to mistakes and failure when you are not properly guided. To avoid mistakes and regrets, many people get the services of professional counsellors when they are about to make important choices and decisions in life. But sadly, as helpful and supportive as counsellors are, their services do not guarantee an error free life. The surest and only antidote to an infallible life is to heed the Word of God.

You will never slip when you allow the Word of God guide and direct your steps. Keeping the Word guarantees long-life, peace, as well as favour and a good name with man and God. You need not trust in your wisdom, but rather trust and acknowledge God in all your doings, and He will guide your path and give health and nourishment to your body (Proverbs 3:5-8)

God's word is always with us but we often either just ignore it or bluntly refuse to hear and adhere to it. You must attune yourself to the Holy Spirit to be able to truly hear and heed God's Word. You must also be willing in times of challenges and difficulties to submit all your experiences, wisdom and knowledge to the infallible power of God's word. Do not ever be led by your emotions and desires, but rather in all doings, prayerfully rely on the Word of God, and your life's journey will be a smooth sail. Will you heed the Word today?

PRAYER

Lord, please give the grace to always heed Your Word in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I heed the Word of God;
my life is pure
and beautiful.





GOD SPEAKS

Scripture: Numbers 22:22-35

*"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip."
Hebrews 2:1 (KJV)*

God spoke in the Old Testament dispensation through his prophets and dreams. Today, he speaks to us through his word and the Holy Spirit but many believers complain that God does not speak to them.

God is still in the business of speaking and communicating with us and he does so via various means. Sometimes, he speaks through circumstances, the bible or through dreams. At other times, he could speak through the Holy Spirit, a prophet or even friends. Whatever the means he chooses, the important thing is that we listen and heed his voice. The onus, therefore, is on us to learn and identify his voice when he speaks.

How does the Lord speak to you? How often you hear from him is a function of your relationship with him. The closer you get to him, the easier it becomes to know and differentiate his voice from the distractive noise of reason. Take time to develop a routine that allows quality time spent in study of God's word. And when he does speak to you, commit to acting on his direction. You can count on God never to lead you astray or into error. When he speaks to you, do not let the voice of logic or reason cause you to act in disobedience. Listen and follow and he will lead you to your peace.

PRAYER



Lord, help me to hear you
and to do your bidding
in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I recognize when the Lord
speaks because I fellowship
with him closely.



WHO IS GOD TO YOU?

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20

*"He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am?"
Matthew 16:15 (KJV)*

As a new believer, you will need to consistently hear others talk to you about God so as to grow in your faith. It is also equally good to feed on the word of God from gospel messages (audio/videos), preachings at church services and through the experiences and testimonies of other believers. But you must have a personal knowledge of who he is.

Jesus asked the disciples, not just about who others thought he was but who he was to them. His desire was to let them know that their walk with him should not be based just on what others say about him, but should be based on a personal revelation and perception of him. By extension, it can be deduced that though you need others to grow our faith walk with God, there comes a point where you must be able to say for sure, who He is to you, based on your experiences and encounters with Him.

Who is God to you? How do you perceive or see Him? And what informs your idea or opinion about the nature of God? To truly know God, you have to hunger for Him. Diligently seek Him and He will reveal Himself to you. Your personal time should not just be for asking things of God, but also seeking His will concerning everything you are engaging in. Take time to study the Bible and meditate deeply on what you read. Above all, get filled with the Holy Spirit and speak in other tongues regularly.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: MAP Meeting (Home Fellowship) tomorrow.**PRAYER**

Lord, help me know Who you truly are, and endear me to you, in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

God is My Father.
He knows me and
I know Him





UPLIFT OTHERS

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

"But continually encourage one another every day, as long as it is called 'Today' [and there is an opportunity], so that none of you will." Hebrews 3:13 (NIV)

Feedback: Consider what it will take to actualise your 2018 goals.

People are faced daily with challenges in different areas of their lives. They strive to make sure that things are placed in the right perspective – family, faith, finance and relationships. Believers are not immune to the pressures that come from meeting these obligations and it can be very discouraging whenever they are not met.

Paul made it clear that we should always encourage each other in every way possible so that we will not be enticed into sin because of the temporary hardships in life and ministry (Hebrews 3:12-14). The body of Christ is a family. We are one and must always be a source of strength to one another. If your brother or sister makes a mistake you should be the first to pick them up (2 Corinthians. 1:4b). Let it be done in love and without blame.

The bible reminds us that time and chance happens to us all (Ecclesiastes 9:11b). Therefore, hardship and challenges can strike anytime, anywhere and on anyone. But our advantage is that we always have victory through Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:57). Allow this victory to be fully expressed by being a source of help and encouragement to the body of Christ. Do not be the one to tear them down in challenging times. As you uplift others, God will ensure that you never lack helpers in your life.

Reflection: What is my role in helping and encouraging others.

PRAYER



Lord, give me the grace to always be a source of help and encouragement daily in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am an encourager, a source of strength and comfort to my brothers and sisters daily.



This Week Walk of Faith:

Take out time to visit and encourage at least one person this week.

HAVE FAITH

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33



“But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] will gain new strength and renew their power; They will lift up their wings [and rise up close to God] like eagles” Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

Faith in God is a must! Any man that wants to respond to the issues of life with only physical and natural strength is in for a very rough ride. We need to have faith in God so that we can always have the necessary strength to overcome. Challenges come every day that attempt to lure one away from faith in God, but you must stand tall and never give in.

The tribulations of life are real. One may encounter it but what does God’s word say concerning them? The storm that hit Jesus and his disciples was real. His disciples were afraid of what will be their final outcome. However, Peter recognised the sovereignty of Jesus over the storm and put his trust in him. This gave him victory. He later lost focus taking his eyes away from Jesus to look at the waves which caused him to start sinking (v24-30).

What are those promises the Lord has spoken to you about? Are you sticking to them or are you allowing the storms of life to carry them away? Without faith, it is impossible to get anything from God (James. 1:5-7). When you lose faith like Peter, you will become overwhelmed by the storm; but if you keep your eyes on the Lord in constant faith and depend on his help you will overcome the storm. Have strong faith in God and never doubt He will surely save and strengthen you (Isaiah 40:31).

PRAYER

Lord, help my faith to remain strong and constant in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I believe in God, therefore, I live victoriously because I hold unto His every word.





FIRMLY ROOTED

Scripture: Matthew 16:5-12

*"And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived."
Luke 21:8 (KJV)*

A believer who is not firmly rooted in the knowledge of God and his word will become easily deceived. This is because the devil is always on the move in search of those to destroy. A scripture starved believer can easily fall prey to the deceptive schemes and teachings that the devil effectuates through his agents who often appear as children of light.

When you are a condition based believer in God, your faith in God is solid only when all is well in your life. When challenges come you waver. The devil seeing that your faith is weak and threatened, charges in and sows seeds of doubt and deceit in your heart through false teachings. You must remain vigilant lest you be swayed. Jesus emphasized this when he warned every believer to abstain from the yeast of the Pharisees (Matthew 16:11-12).

It is important to guard your heart diligently because the days are evil. Beware of false teachings and enticing words that play to your circumstances. Become knowledgeable in God's word so you can discern and sieve through the chaff of false teaching and deceit of the enemy. Whatever happens, never let your faith in God be threatened and never try to seek help outside God's fold. God is forever faithful and his word are ye and amen. Stay firmly planted in his word and you will not be deceived or led astray.

PRAYER



Lord, dominate my heart and equip me with the knowledge of you and your word of God in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am firmly rooted in the knowledge of God and his word; I cannot be deceived.



UNDER CRITICISM

Scripture: Matthew 11:16-19



*"We played the pipe for you and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn."
Matthew 11:17 (NIV)*

Success has many friends but can also buy you a lot of enemies. There will be people who will criticize and speak ill of you and your efforts no matter how good your intentions are or how well you perform. Your first thought may be to fight back but this is not always the best option.

Jesus experienced verbal attacks and more during his ministry on earth. While the bible records that he went about doing good, many were not pleased with his actions and sought to make light of his accomplishment. When people attack your good works, their purpose is to discourage, dissuade and put you down. They thrive on their negativity making you feel inferior. You cannot please everyone. Some will love you for the good you do, others may hate and envy you. Even Jesus faced the same challenge (v18-19). The moral and beauty of it all however, is that if you remain faithful and persist in your good works, at the end, you will be victorious.

Do not become discouraged when you experience verbal assault. Refuse to let the negativity projected by the enemy hinder your good work. If you do not let them win by becoming discouraged, your results will speak in the end (v19b).

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: Leadership/Communion Service tomorrow, 5:30PM

PRAYER

Lord help me to stand firm
in you, now and always
in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am rooted in God's word,
no matter what is said
against me.



UNFORGIVENESS: A TRAP

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

"And forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us." Matthew 6:12 (NLT)

When we keep a diary of the events that occur in our lives, there is a tendency to also keep a record of our hurt. We bury the pain deep in our hearts refusing to let go especially when it is caused by the ones we love and hold close to us.

Our scripture today recounts the incident of a servant who failed to pay his debt but was forgiven by the creditor when he pleaded for pardon. When, however, it fell on him to extend the kindness he had enjoyed to another who owed him, he refused and punished his debtor. When we are unwilling to forgive people who have hurt us, we make light of Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross. He paid the price that would purchase our forgiveness while we were still held down by the weight of sin. He forgave us even before we said we were sorry. We must act likewise to those who hurt or offend us.

You need to allow your old life or man be crucified with Christ if you still live in unforgiveness (Galatians. 2:20). You must always forgive totally just like he forgave and prayed for those who hung him on the cross. Jesus' action on the cross is a reminder that no offence is too grave to forgive. Just as he let go, you too can do the same. As long as you have breath in you, you will be offended but because you have the mind of Christ, the ability to forgive is already inside of you. Do not be caught in the trap of unforgiveness.

PRAYER



Lord, I receive the power to forgive at all times without holding back in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I forgive outrightly when offended without keeping grudges.



FOLLOW CHRIST COMPLETELY

Scripture: Matthew 16:24-28



"The Jesus said to His disciples, "if anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests], and take up his cross..." Matthew 16:24 (AMP)

What does it mean to be a Christian - a true follower of Christ? Many people can only be identified as Christians when you check up their bio-data on forms, other official documents or simply by their routine attendance of church services on Sundays. That is not Christianity and it is certainly not how Jesus expects us to follow him (Matthew 16:24).

To be a true follower of Christ, you must let go your bad habits and appetites (Matthew 16:24a). You must submit yourself in complete rather than partial obedience to God and then practice the teachings and principles of God's word. A godly and fruitful Christian life is possible but does not happen automatically as soon as you become born again (1 John 5:1-3). You must first commit to it and pursue it with consistency and faithfulness. It is a process that every genuine believer must desire and pursue.

Does your lifestyle announce you as a follower of Christ? Have your old habits become a stumbling block in your pursuit of a fruitful Christian life? Have you taken up the cross of sacrifice serving God and others in and out of your comfort one? You cannot profess to follow Christ when you have not denied yourself the pleasures of your old habits and appetite. Following Jesus is not what you do only when it suits you and is convenient. It is a minute by minute, daily and everytime commitment to God. Make the decision to follow Christ completely today and He will surely reward you for it (Hebrews 6:11).

PRAYER

Lord, give me the grace to follow you with all my heart and all my strength in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am following Christ and His blessing and love are evident all around me.





GIVE THANKS

Scripture: Matthew 15:32-39

"And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave them to his disciples and the disciples to the multitude" Matthew 15:36 (KJV)

Thanksgiving is a very powerful tool in the arsenal of a Christian. A heart of profound gratitude to God for what he has done and will do creates an atmosphere for answers to prayers (Phillipians 4:6b).

Jesus demonstrated the power of thanksgiving when he fed thousands of people with five loaves of bread and some fish. Some of the greatest miracles Jesus wrought were done on the grounds of thanksgiving. Lazarus rose from the dead after Jesus gave thanks to the Father and he did the same when his disciples confronted him with the challenges of feeding the multitude (v36). He simply gave thanks and thousands of hungry men, women and children were fed with 12 basketful of left-overs.

Have you become so weighed down by the challenges of life that you have overlooked God's command to you to give thanks no matter what (Ephesians 5:20)? Complaining about your circumstances is also not a solution to them. Thanksgiving is the anti-dote to every misery, it can bring every seemingly dead situation back to life. While it may seem that the door of breakthrough remains closed to you, refuse to give in to the misery and dejection that your circumstance calls for. Give thanks to God in the hallway of waiting and in time, your answer will be delivered to you.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: MAP Meeting (Home Fellowship) tomorrow.

PRAYER



Lord, thank you for all you have done for me. Help me to live a life of thanksgiving in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

In all situations,
I give God thanks always.



BE CONTENT

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:3-10



*"But godliness with contentment is great gain."
1 Timothy 6:6 (NIV)*

Feedback: Did you visit and encouraged someone this past week?

When we switch on our televisions, surf the internet or walk out into the streets, we are bombarded with advertising gimmicks from sellers to buy the next trinket or electronic gadget, attend the most exciting programme or send our children to the best school or programme in town. These can overwhelm our senses and pressurize us into a state of constant insatiability where we are never satisfied with what we have or where we are because there is always the next best thing to do or own.

The bible reminds us that not being satisfied with what we have can bring up evil desires in us and because of the corrupt nature of the flesh, we might be pushed to take actions that are not godly just to satisfy our desires. As we crave success, we should not allow our needs or the love of worldly desires get the upper hand in our lives. Being content with what we have is a virtue that we must covet and possess as Christians because it displays our trust in God to supply our needs.

God has given every Christian the dominion and authority required to prosper in the land but it is in God's time that he makes all things beautiful in our lives. We should not let delay or the desire to be like the Jones' push us to stray from what is right or to wander from the faith. We should endeavour to make do with what we have presently. We should spend time each day recounting our blessings and give God gratitude for what we have. Remember, the earth is His and the fullness thereof, He will perfect all that concerns us and provide what we need.

Reflection: Am I grateful for what I have and where I am?

PRAYER

Lord, I thank you for all you have provided for me; I put my trust in you knowing all my needs are met in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am content for I know the Lord shall supply all my needs according to his riches in glory.

This Week Walk of Faith:

Create your gratitude atmosphere, list out at least 10 things you are grateful for.



YEARN FOR THE KINGDOM

Scripture: Matthew 13:44-52

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Matthew 6:33 (KJV)

In many of Jesus' teachings, the kingdom of God is compared to everyday events - activities and things we can relate to. A consistent theme across these illustrations is the truth that every believer has a part to play to enjoy the kingdom of God. The discovered treasure hidden in a field, a merchant's quest to find choice pearls, and several other parables about the kingdom of God drives home this point (Matthew 6:33).

God's love for us - His children cannot be overemphasized. In our worst state, when we deserve the worst, He sent His Only Begotten Son; His most precious to die so we can be saved, be entitled to our lost dominion mandates and eventually, enjoy eternity with Him. But all this is open to us, if only we seek first the Kingdom of God and all His righteousness. Nothing pleases God more than seeing His children doing His will worshipping and Him in spirit and in truth.

To spend eternity with God, we must place utmost value on doing the will of God, and living our lives to please Him rather than ourselves. God has left us with the power of choice; to take advantage of a life of redemption or remain in sin and despair, far from his glorious light and eternal happiness. Has the cares of life kept you away far from God? Has sin being an obstacle to your walking in the will of God? Come to Him through Jesus Christ just as you are today, and He sure will make all things new again.

PRAYER



My Father, fill me up with love for you and your kingdom, in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am a candidate of the kingdom. I love and seek after God.



THE BEAUTY OF HUMILITY

Scripture: Matthew 18:1-6



"By humility and fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life" Proverbs 22:4 (KJV)

One of the strongest traits of a child's character is humility. Every child tends to love and trust everyone. They hold no grudge and seek a cordial relationship with everyone. This is the same attitude and lifestyle God expects from every Christian. Infact, Jesus said if we do not become a children, we will not enter the Kingdom of heaven (v3)

What then does it mean to be humble? It means not seeking self glorification, esteeming others better than yourself, giving respect to all and obeying all authority (Phillipians 2:3-8). This does not mean you should belittle yourself or have an inferior complex. It simply means that no matter your position or status, you are willing to stoop low to the level of a child if need be.

God has promised to exalt the humble. He has also reserved riches and life for the humble. It is therefore more beneficial to stoop low and allow God to lift you up. Remember how God rewarded Mordecai for his humility and the tragedy that befell Heman as a result of his pride. God inded resists the proud and gives more grace to the humble (James 4:6). Do not let your achievement puff you up and give you a bloated sense of self. Allow the transforming power of God's word break down the walls of pride in you so you can experience the humbling power of grace Christ offers.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to live my life in humility in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

My life reflects the beauty and glory of God because I have the mind of Christ.



A SERVANT IN SERVICE

Scripture: Matthew 20:25-28

"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."
Philippians 2: 6-7 (NIV)

Leadership is about serving others. Many who seek positions of authority lack the basic requirements needed to function effectively in such positions. They seek to exercise power over their followers and demand loyalty but lack the depth and care to help others attain success and growth.

The disciples of Jesus misunderstood the kingdom concept of service. They erroneously thought that the highest positions of honour in God's kingdom was similar to what is obtained in the world. They believed that greatness was measured by the level of position attained or the degree of power wielded by an individual. Jesus clarified this and pointed out to them that to become great, you must first be humble and available in the place of service. Jesus exemplified this principle when he washed his disciples' feet (John. 13:4-5).

There are servants of God working quietly behind the scenes to propel the gospel. They are serving the Lord without recognition from men, yet are great in the eyes of God. In what capacity are you serving God? How do you show your love and service to God? Let your service be true with the purpose of glorifying God rather than eye service to men.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: Leadership/Communion Service tomorrow, 5:30PM

PRAYER



Lord, bring me to the humbling place of service where I can help others in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am a servant of Christ;
I delight in the place of service to God and mankind.



EVIDENCE OF FAITH

Scripture: Hebrews 11:30-40



*"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."
James 2:17 (KJV)*

Most Christians today claim to be "faith filled" when their lives and actions show otherwise. There is nothing to show practically that they have faith because their mouths say one thing, and their actions exhibit the opposite. It is not enough to profess faith just because you feel it is in fashion, what actions are you using to back up your faith?

The saints mentioned in today's scripture had evidence to show for the faith they displayed in line with God's word. This does not mean that they never had their trying moments but their trust in God strengthened their faith and they have a legacy that we can attest to. Today, we can also engage our faith like they did.

What evidence do you have to show that you truly have faith in God? You should always put your faith to work concerning the situations around you that you want to change. Act in accordance with your faith. You cannot ask God for a miracle concerning a situation in your life while your actions are feeding that situation and making it stronger. Focus your faith on that issue or challenge based on the word of God also making sure that you not only confess your faith but act like you are very sure God will and has already done it for you. That is the way to really exercise your faith and show that you trust in God and no one else.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to engage my faith practically so that I will have evidence to show as a believer in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

By faith I conquer every challenge that comes my way always.





FOCUS ON YOUR CALLING

Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16

"Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? To his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand." Romans 14:4 (KJV)

Every one of us is called to serve a unique purpose in the house of God – the church. It is expedient that you focus on your core duty in the house of God; not comparing yourself with anyone else, or trying to do what everyone else is doing rather than what you are called to do. It does not matter how huge or minute your contributions are; or how much value others place on your work. What matters is for you to stay focused and diligent in calling, not expecting rewards or recognition from man, but from God.

It is a common sight in the household of God to see believers looking up to or comparing themselves others. Some complain and grumble about how they are doing so much and others are doing so little or nothing. Some too, because of the their level of commitment and contributions to their local church, tend to place themselves above everyone else. Paul in his second epistle to the Corinthians, warns that we do not compare ourselves to those who commend themselves, or measure themselves by themsleves, for doing so is folly (2 Corinthians 10: 12).

You need to focus on your calling, bearing in mind that it is God who called you and that He has a purpose and plan for asking you to do that which you are doing. Never take your calling for granted or allow anyone make you make light of it. Remember, you will account for all your doings.

PRAYER



Lord, help me to focus on the purpose of your call on my life in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am focused on the work of God. I will not be distracted.



BE READY

Scripture: Matthew 22:1-14



"Jesus answered, Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:5 (KJV)

The gospel has been offered freely to everyone without discrimination and so is the kingdom of God accessible to everyone. But you have roles to play to make these possible for you. It is not enough to hear the gospel; you must also live it and share it to with those who have not yet recieved it. You must also diligently seek the Kingdom of God above everything else.

It doesn't matter how bad you think you are or what you have done in the past. There is a place for you at the King's table. He has invited all to dine with Him. Are you willing to accept his invitation? To be accepted into the kingdom of God, you must be adorned with the garment of righteousness or else you will be thrown out. It is not enough to follow the crowd, or to claim to be a Christian. God sees your heart and knows your intent so you must come to him with a pure heart.

Distinguish yourself through godliness. Prepare yourself to dine with the King of Kings when he comes back for his chosen. Your attitude and character must depict and reflect the righteousness at all times so that you will not just be a called but one of the chosen (Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10). Remember that the Second Coming is at hand. You must, therefore, stand ready so you will be among the those who will be found without stain or blemish when Jesus comes for is elect.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: MAP Meeting (Home Fellowship) tomorrow.

PRAYER

Lord, give me the grace to stay fit in my walk with you in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I strive to attain the nature of God.
I lead a righteous life.





TAKE HEED

Scripture: Matthew 24:3-14

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, take heed that no man deceive you." Matthew 24:4 (KJV)

Feedback: Consider all the things you are grateful for.

The 21st century church has largely yielded itself to the dictates and glamour of modernity. Many believers are increasingly being driven by their quest for wealth, pleasures, power and fame. To hunger for those things is to be carnal minded, which is totally opposed to the will and purpose of God for us.

This is not the time for us to be materialistic. We see from our key scripture that the end is near at hand, as all of the things Jesus foretold His disciples are palying out daily, even before our eyes! W must awake from our slumber. We can no longer afford to gloss over the important things of God, and of the kingdom to the detriment of our souls. Our quest for life's cares must not be such that will rubish our relationship with God, or jeopardize our eternity. We must also take heed that we are not decieved for many false teachers and prophets abound in the church.

Live everyday of your life as though it was your last. Be good to all men. Never repay evil for evil, but counter the evil with with good deeds. Always let the word of God guide your thoughts, words and actions. Spend quality time in the presence of God with one goal in mind – to commune and fellowship with God. Spread the gospel wherever you go and let the light of God shine through you. Above all, be wise to the ways and wiles of the enemy and equip yourself with the armour of God always lest you fall.

Reflection: How and on what do I spend my time?

PRAYER



Lord, please keep my feet from falling, and my heart from being deceived even as I await the Second Coming.

FAITH BYTE

I am focused on God and His Kingdom affairs. I can't be deceived.



This Week Walk of Faith:

Spend time this week asking God to use bring His Kingdom here on earth.

EXPRESS YOUR LOVE

Scripture: Matthew 26:6-13



“...what this woman has done will be told as a memorial to her” Matthew 26:13 (NKJV)

No gift or sacrifice should ever be considered too big for God. God is everything good, and more to you and He deserves nothing but your best. You must therefore never hesitate to give God your best, and the first place in your life's affairs. You may not be the wealthiest person around, or have all that you need, but even then, you must also be willing to give God your everything, when He demands it of you, just as Abraham did with Isaac.

The woman in our key scripture received the commendation of Jesus Christ, for expressing her love and reverence for Him with her box of alabaster oil. By sacrificing to Jesus Christ what probably was her most treasured earthly possession, she got not just Jesus' praises but was immortalized! Jesus says wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, her deed will also be told in memory of her (Matthew 26: 6 – 13).

You must always be willing to offer your all to God the same way He gave up His Only Son to die for our salvation. What are you doing with all that God has blessed you with? What kind of worship and ministry are you offering to God? How are you using your time, finance, talents and worship to Him? Do you give your best, or the rest to God? Your relationship with God should be based less on what you expect of Him, and more on how you can express your love for Him. God deserves your all so hold back nothing from Him.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to let go of anything that will hinder me from worshipping you with all I have in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I serve God with my all,
I will not withhold anything from Him.





DESIRE MORE OF JESUS

Scripture: Phillipians 3:1-11

*"That I may know him and the power of His resurrection,
and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death."
Phillipians 3:10 (NKJV)*

In one of Paul's most profound writings, he poured out his heart describing the significance of his life in Christ and his desire to discover more each day in his relationship with God. His goal was to persuade every believer to grasp the importance of knowing Jesus and the need to grow in their walk with Jesus if they are to fully enjoy the benefits and reap the rewards for which Christ came on earth.

Despite many years of walking with God, Paul's singular desire was still to know him and fully understand the power that brought man salvation and redemption. This need to know God moved Paul to depend solely on God in his ministry and the results he generated are evident even today. Paul's ministry was underlined with power, signs and miracles. He did not utter mere or empty words but was loaded with proof of God's power (1 Corinthians 2:4). His results are due to an unwavering love for and fellowship with the One who laid down his life for all of mankind.

Just like Apostle Paul, we need to count all that this world has to offer as nothing for the excellence of knowing Christ. Like the deer that pants for water, our heartbeat must constantly be for him. Let us desire and follow Christ so we will enjoy heaven on earth and life everlasting here after. The more of his word we read, study and appropriate in our lives daily, the more we discover him and become like him.

PRAYER



Lord, help me to know you more daily, so I will serve you joyfully all my life in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I pant after Jesus, the author and finisher of my faith. I increase in the knowledge of him God daily



BE A GOOD AMBASSADOR

Scripture: Matthew 23:1-15



*"Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness."
Matthew 23:28 (NLT)*

An ambassador is someone sent from his mother country to another as a representative. Ambassadors are put in place to enhance the image and reputation of their mother country with the ultimate purpose of positively furthering its course in the foreign land. In the same way, every believer is an ambassador representing Christ and heaven with a duty to further God's kingdom on earth.

When Jesus was on earth, he frowned at the manner in which the teachers of the law conducted themselves. He was not happy with their dispositions. Their doctrines and teachings were leading people astray instead of bringing them to God's Kingdom. As a matter of fact, Jesus told his disciples not to imitate them (Matthew 23:3).

As a citizen of heaven, your approach to life and actions should never influence men to turn their back on God. Your lifestyle should not bring disrepute to the name of the Lord. You must walk conscious of your calling and office. If you do not walk by the dictates of heaven, you are not a worthy ambassador. People should see you, hear you talk, see your actions and give Your actions must faithfully represent Christ. Like Paul, glorify your office so you can boldly tell others to imitate you. You are a light so shine and radiate God's love and glory so you can become a magnet that draw others to the saving knowledge of God. That is the worthy calling of a true ambassador of heaven.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: Leadership/Communion Service tomorrow, 5:30PM

PRAYER

Lord, my desire is to represent you, help me become a worthy ambassador in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am an ambassador of Christ, and I represent Jesus faithfully.





A PRESENT HELP

Scripture: Psalms 46:1-11

*"God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:2 (KJV)*

There are times in life when it may seem like our efforts hardly yield results. We may be limited by our finances, disappointed by people we respect or discouraged by the actions of people we trust. These painful experiences may come all at the same and we become weighed down and discouraged by our challenges. At such times, we may think of the phrase "when it rains, it pours". But the bible assures us that there is help and refuge in God when we feel alone and overwhelmed by our experience.

Paul, at some point in his ministry felt alone and deserted. He encountered a great deal of opposition from Alexander the coppersmith who fought against the spread of the gospel. Paul was left alone, with no help in sight. The Lord, however, stood with him and strengthened him. Though men deserted him, God did not. The bible calls him the one who sticks closer than a brother. He does not only walk through the storm with us, he holds our hands, encourages us and finds us refuge in the midst of the storm.

Are you in a similar situation? Are factors or circumstances negatively affecting your finance, health and family? Have you looked around and it seems there's no one willing to help you? Do not be dismayed, know that God is right there (Psalms 145:14). He is standing by you now ready to step in. Maintain a right standing with God. Call on him in the day of trouble and he will come to your aid.

PRAYER



Lord, give me the grace
to put my hope steadfastly
in you in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

The Lord of host is with me,
therefore I succeed
in all I do.



BE MINDFUL

Scripture: Matthew 26:47-56



“So be careful if you are thinking, “Oh, I would never behave like that” - let this be a warning to you. For you too may fall into sin.” 1 Corinthians 10:12 (TLB)

Judas was one of the disciples of Jesus. He walked with Jesus, saw the miracles that Jesus performed and deep down in Judas' heart, he must have known that Jesus is the son of the living God. But this knowledge did not deter him from carrying out his evil plans against Jesus with the religious leaders of his time. The leaders saw a weak link in Judas and collaborated with him to arrest Jesus.

Whatever the devil did to Judas to make him betray the Son of God must have been cunning, deceptive and convincing. Although, Judas realized the foolishness of his ways, it was too late to salvage his actions. Overcome with guilt and shame, he ended his life. This is an indication of how deceptive Satan can be. He is ready with lies to feed whoever decides to give him ear. Therefore, we must be mindful of his devices lest we become victims.

If Jesus was tempted, you too can and will be tempted. You must be able to discern when the enemy is at work and constantly bear in mind that the endpoint of the enemy's lies is to bring destruction your way (John 10:10). Paul sounded a warning that no one should think more highly of themselves than they ought to (Romans 12:3) as this can lead to costly regret. Never rejoice in the fall of others but constantly uphold them and yourself in prayers.

PRAYER

Lord, uphold me and help me to stand firm in you till eternity in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I stand on the grace of God, he upholds me and I will not be ensnared by the devices of the enemy.





FEAR NOT

Scripture: 2 Kings 6:8-18

"I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." Psalm 34:4 (KJV)

The world today is full of challenges ranging from joblessness, financial crunch, health and security issues. These challenges have plunged many into fear and moved believers to question God. They wonder why prophecies remain unfulfilled and prayers seem unanswered but God encourages you not to give in to fear because he has a plan for you.

Like the servant of the prophet, the first thing that occurs in the heart of any man in the midst of crisis is fear. Fear is a potent weapon in the hand of the devil to melt away faith and trust in God. That is why the first statement Elisha could tell his servant was not to be afraid because he knew God's plan for them. This fear could have eroded his servant's confidence in God. Fear weakens your ability to act in faith and when the devil nullifies your faith, then he has a room to wreck havoc in your life.

God has a better plan for everyone of his children, this is why He reminds us everytime "fear not". Open your eyes to God's word and he will open your eyes to the opportunities available to you and provide answer to your questions. God is never far from you. If you seek him diligently, he will show up and provide a way of escape from every storm. Overcome fear by building faith and trust in God's word.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: MAP Meeting (Home Fellowship) tomorrow.

PRAYER



Lord, help me to see the answers to every questions in my life and set me free from my fears in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I will fear no circumstances, because I know God has a better plan for me.



KEEP THE PLUG IN

Scripture: Daniel 10:2-6, 12



"Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you" Proverbs 4:25 (NIV)

Feedback: Consider the length of time it took you praying this week.

God answers prayers. This means that your need for deliverance, salvation and healing is not an issue where God is concerned (Jeremiah 32:27). The challenge lies in how a believer acts to access these benefits. The answer is to connect or plug in to God's omnipotent power. Just like the electrical appliances in your home need a power source to function, you also need to stay plugged into God's power to enjoy the reality of His promises in your life.

The key scripture today recounts how Daniel consistently prayed for three and received his answer. Daniel could have been discouraged by delay and given up but he did not. Despite the delay, he stayed plugged in and it paid off. Do not run around or away from God when trouble comes; remain with him like Daniel no matter the storm.

The key to getting and staying plugged into the power of God is to remain focused on him and his word. Do not waver (Proverbs 4:25). Do not entertain fear. Fear quenches your fire and drowns your faith and commitment. In the darkness of discouragement, the devil attacks. Resist and refuse to fall into this trap. Whenever a man is steady and stable, God is ready to work with him to victory. Remain plugged in.

Reflection: What am I doing to remain plugged into the power of God?

PRAYER

Lord, give me the grace to remain focused and connected to you. Strengthen and direct me in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am connected to God, my faith is continually renewed and all my prayers are answered.

**This Week Walk of Faith:**

Create time for personal devotion with God; at least 2hours daily, this week.



THE ENLIGHTENED HEART

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-19

"I pray that the eyes of your heart be enlightened in order that you may know the hope of which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints." Ephesians 1:18 (KJV)

A heart that is not in tune with the spirit of God cannot hear or receive from God. To tap from God, your heart must be illuminated. An illuminated heart is that which is enlightened with God's thoughts, visions and plans. An enlightened heart is also a heart that is not only transformed and renewed, but and is very much aware of God's will (Romans 12: 2).

The depth and quality of your relationship with God is directly dependent on the state of your heart. An untransformed and un-renewed heart is a heart that is not enlightened. A heart beclouded with bitterness, unforgiveness, faithlessness, doubt and fear is not renewed. A heart that is lustful is not enlightened. And a heart that is starved of the word of God is certainly not enlightened!

True transformation begins from the heart. Thus, to change your life, you must first change your heart. To stand firm with God, you must shift your attention from the affairs and cares of this world, and make constant, conscious and deliberate effort to keep your heart focused on the things of God. Daily study the Bible and chew on the word of God consistently. Be in regular communion with the Holy Spirit of God and yield your whole being to his leading always. Also, prayerfully ask God to enlighten your heart with His word as you make these efforts.

PRAYER



Lord, fill me with your Spirit,
and make my heart like yours
in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I have the mind of Christ.
The eyes of my heart are
enlightened.



PAY YOUR DEBTS

Scripture: Exodus 22:14-15

*"The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously." Psalm 37:21 (NIV)*

Valuable relationships have been broken and destroyed due to people's refusal to repay debts owed others. Some people find it hard to return or repay when they borrow from others. When they need help, they persuasively get others to lend to them promising to repay. They, however, comfortably forget or postpone repayment without considering the needs or feelings of the people who have lent to them. This is not an attitude God approves of.

Everybody borrows at one point or another. It is, however, important to ensure that the debt is repaid when it becomes due. There is no excuse for any believer to take undue advantage of other people's kindness whether they are friends or family. The bible considers those who delay to repay their debt when they actually can or those who refuse to pay altogether as evil (Psalm 37:21a).

When you borrow from others, you must ensure to keep your word to pay back. If for any unforeseen circumstance, you are unable to pay, get the acceptance of the other party for an extended time. Do not expect them to or assume they will understand your situation. If what you have borrowed becomes damaged replace it or seek restitution with the owner (Ex. 22:14). Delay or complete refusal to do so puts you at the mercy of the lender and earns you God's judgement. God wants you to live debt free (Romans 13:7).

PRAYER

Lord, give me the grace to always pay back on time whenever I borrow in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am richly blessed and free from all debt.





KEEP LEARNING

Scripture: Proverbs 4:1-7

*"My son, pay attention to my words and be willing to learn,"
Proverbs 4:20a (AMP)*

There is such fierce competition in the face of changing technology and trends in the world that people cannot afford to be left behind in ignorance. People are forced to update their skills to stay relevant in the marketplace. Every believer needs to do the same. You are expected to update yourself daily in your knowledge of God's word and direction for the current generation just as you need to update your skills to remain relevant in the marketplace (Proverbs. 4:5,7). For instance, in the past we could only evangelise face to face but today it can be done on social media and other modern platform.

A believer that is not aware of their environment or surrounding will become severely limited to influence the world around him. As modern technology breaks grounds and communication barriers, we must learn to use them to God's glory. The wide reach of these modern communication media gives every believer an opportunity to reach further with God's word.

Keep learning. Be deliberate about it. Research, ask questions, and update yourself on the current trends in your chosen field. Knowledge and creativity are not meant for business or career alone but can be deployed to serve God's body. There are always better ways of doing things in ministry. Be open minded, versatile and accommodating. When you do so, you can remain a relevant and potent influencer for Christ (1 Corinthians. 9:19-23).

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: Leadership/Communion Service tomorrow, 5:30PM

PRAYER



Lord, make me a willing learner so that I can always remain relevant in my ministry and walk with you in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I will keep on winning because I keep learning willingly.



THE BRAND CALLED YOU

Scripture: Genesis 5:1-2



*"Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex..."
Psalm 139:14 (NIV)*

A brand is a valuable asset for any organization. This is because organizations spend years developing how others perceive them. They spend even more resources deliberating crafting the image and impression they want left behind in the minds of people who engage and interact with them. Other companies can pay top dollar simply to buy into or become a part of the brand of another.

You are no different from the big brands of this world because God took time crafting you. You only need to look into you to see the unique masterpiece that God has designed you to be (Ephesians 2:10). You only need to look inside to discover the amazing and life transforming gifts, talents and abilities that God has deposited in you. Like the big brands, all you need to do is develop your brand by focusing on that which makes you unique and what makes you tick (Psalm 139:14).

What are you known for? Is it speaking, writing, hospitality or selling or any other? Create a platform for that gift so you can glorify God, your creator (Psalm 119:73-74). Find ways to frequently and consistently use and express your core area of service. Spend time and resources being you rather than a mere copy of another. Your announcing is in becoming the best version of yourself. With God on your side, you can deliberately and consciously create and develop the best version of the brand God has designed you to be. Start today and you will achieve feats you never thought possible.

PRAYER



Lord, empower me to be the best version of who you have created me to be in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am a brand that God has beautifully designed for his glory.



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

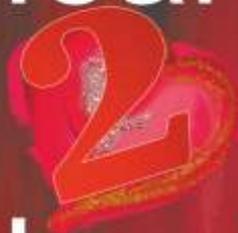
FEBRUARY

GÈÌ Ĝ	BIBLE CHAPTERS
FEBRUARY 1st	Leviticus 1-3
FEBRUARY 2nd	Leviticus 4-6
FEBRUARY 3rd	Leviticus 7-8
FEBRUARY 4th	Leviticus 9-10
FEBRUARY 5th	Leviticus 11-13
FEBRUARY 6th	Leviticus 14-15
FEBRUARY 7th	Leviticus 16-18
FEBRUARY 8th	Leviticus 19-21
FEBRUARY 9th	Leviticus 22-23
FEBRUARY 10th	Leviticus 24-25
FEBRUARY 11th	Leviticus 26-27
FEBRUARY 12th	Numbers 1-2
FEBRUARY 13th	Numbers 3-4
FEBRUARY 14th	Numbers 5-6
FEBRUARY 15th	Numbers 7
FEBRUARY 16th	Numbers 8-9
FEBRUARY 17th	Numbers 10-11
FEBRUARY 18th	Numbers 12-13
FEBRUARY 19th	Numbers 14-15
FEBRUARY 20th	Numbers 16-18
FEBRUARY 21st	Numbers 19-20
FEBRUARY 22nd	Numbers 21-22
FEBRUARY 23rd	Numbers 23-25
FEBRUARY 24th	Numbers 26-27
FEBRUARY 25th	Numbers 28-29
FEBRUARY 26th	Numbers 30-31
FEBRUARY 27th	Numbers 32-33
FEBRUARY 28th	Numbers 34-36



**Have real experience
with real people, as you watch**

Heart



Heart

With Dr. Stephanie

on

RSTV: Tuesday - 6:00pm
SilverBird: Saturday - 8:30am
ABN: Thurs. & Fri., - 7:00pm



ON A MISSION

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:1-6



*"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."
2 Timothy 2:4 (KJV)*

Every Christian is a member of God's army with a core mandate to evangelize. Unfortunately many have lost consciousness of this mandate due to identity crisis. We have so blended in with and conformed to the world that we are no longer on fire for God. Rather than take the ways of Christ to the world, we have imported its ways to the Church of God.

If we are to pass the truth of God's word to others, we cannot become entangled in the web of the world. We must not lose focus of Christ's purpose on earth, which was to save the lost (Luke 19:10). We cannot afford to be distracted by the issues of life or be dissuaded by shame or fear. We have been saved from the darkness of sin and we must be expedient in snatching others from its claws. We must be moved by the passion and love for souls that Jesus displayed. Today, Jesus encourages us with these words, "as the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

God does not stop the church from associating with the world. If he did we would not live on earth. But like Jesus exemplified when he visited Zacchaeus in his home, the purpose for this association should be to draw the lost to God (Luke 19:1-10). See every encounter with the world as an opportunity to shine the light of Jesus farther. Your commitment to save the lost should be unwavering. Like a soldier, you are on a mission and you cannot afford to fail.

PRAYER

Lord, empower me to take up my mission of saving the lost without distractions in Jesus name

FAITH BYTE

I am a faithful soldier in God's army. I win souls for God's Kingdom.





TAKE GOD'S WORK SERIOUSLY

Scripture: Haggai 1:1-10

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."
1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)*

It is common to see people give 100% to their careers but treat the work of God with carelessness and levity. They perform tasks at levels far below their potentials and capabilities, believing that their secular jobs are more important because they receive direct financial reward. They forget that God is the source of everything. They expect church leaders to understand and be compassionate.

Paul however warns against this attitude and admonishes believers who have been given the privilege to serve the body of Christ not to allow this negative disposition influence their service. They must instead give their best and render excellent service because those who benefit from their service are the beloved of the Lord, partakers in divine glory and therefore, deserve the very best.

As a Christian worker, let your service to God and man be guided by love. Be zealous, and loyal and committed to the vision of God's church. Your opportunity to serve God and his church is a privilege which should not be taken lightly. Serve with fear, reverence and understanding. Let your good work in God's house stand the test of time and speak in your favour.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: MAP Meeting (Home Fellowship) tomorrow.

PRAYER



Lord, give me the grace to be diligent in my service and work in your vineyard in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am blessed in my service to the body of Christ as my God is not unjust to forget my labour of love.



FAITH TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

Scripture: Matthew 17:14-21



“And Jesus said unto them, because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove, and nothing shall be impossible unto you.” Matthew 17:20 (KJV)

Feedback: How refreshing was your personal time with God?

Faith can be referred to as believing in God and what he can do, and acting on that belief. You cannot profess your faith when you do not act accordingly. It is important to recognize that the life of a Christian will amount to nothing without an unwavering belief in God's ability to do the impossible because without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews. 11:6).

The disciples of Jesus were not able to cast out the lunatic spirit from the little boy because they did not act in faith. They prayed and commanded the spirit but they did not believe that it would work. They were acting without faith. Jesus said if you believe and your corresponding action is in line with your belief, you will move mountains (Mark 11:23). Your action should be preceded by your faith.

Have you been faced with any form of mountain in your life just as the disciples faced the lunatic spirit? Are you passing through any challenges presently in your life? Jesus said if you believe without doubt and match your faith with action, nothing shall be impossible. You have the faith to do the impossible. You have the faith to break down every wall of limitation hindering your progress and upliftment. Act on your faith and bring it to pass.

Reflection: What propels my actions; unwavering belief in God or fear?

PRAYER

Lord, help me to believe and always act on my faith in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

My faith is producing results that are outstanding because I believe and act in line with my belief.

**This Week Walk of Faith:**

To eliminate doubt, study at least one chapter daily this week.



GIVE TO RECEIVE

Scripture: Proverbs 11:24-31

"I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35 (KJV)

Many believers suffer from lack due to their disobedience to the most basic principle of wealth creation - giving. Obedience to God's command to give is an act of submission to him. Giving is an affirmation of our love for God. It also symbolizes our acknowledgement that he is the provider of all we have (James 1:17).

The fear of lack and an uncertain future prevent many from keying into the blessings that come from giving. We withhold our resources believing that spending it on our own personal needs would ensure that it lasts longer and goes farther. This is far from the truth. God has given us abundantly and he wants us to give generously out of his blessings to us. When our giving is done with the purpose of pleasing God, we will not feel burdened, compelled or pressured to give.

Whenever we give, be it our time, talent or treasure, in the service of God and man, we must do so in faith. We need not be afraid of lack as God knows our needs and will meet us at the point we need it. There is never a best time to give. Everytime is the best time as long as we are led by the Spirit. We must glorify God with our giving. We must show him where our heart lies by giving to those in need and to the expansion of his Kingdom (Matthew 6:21). Our reward is in our giving (Luke 6:38). Remember God's promise to us that, "he that giveth...shall not lack." (Proverbs 28:27a).

PRAYER



Lord, enlarge my coast even as I give to expand your Kingdom in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am a giver,
therefore, I will not lack.



THE POWER OF AGREEMENT

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12



*“Again I say to you, that if two believers on earth agree [that is, are of one mind, in harmony] about anything that they ask [within the will of God], it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.
Matthew 18:19 (AMP)*

A tree cannot make a forest; it needs other trees to create one.. Similarly, your prayer alone is not enough to handle all the challenges that can confront you. You need to tap into the power of fellowship and agreement. You need to have believers who can join voice with you in prayer for an optimal and fruitful Christian experience (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).

There is power in community (Matthew 18:20). Our key scripture today emphasizes that there is a formidable force and strength in partnership and agreement (Ecclesiastes 4:12). This synergy with others gives you an advantage as it provides a ready and constant support structure that you can access to uphold and encourage you physically and spiritually when you need it. There is strength in numbers and when you come together with other believers in faith, you can put a thousand to flight.

Come out of isolation and partner with other believers in prayer, worship, seed-sowing and fasting to challenge and change every stubborn situation facing you. The “me, myself and I” approach is not the best approach to getting the best out of your walk with God (Ecclesiastes 4:10). Christians need each other. Apply this principle deliberately diligently and watch your story change.

PRAYER

Lord, give me the grace to exercise the power of agreement in my prayer life and walk with you in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am not alone; I fellowship and partner with other believers and I enjoy great victories.





BE TEACHABLE

Scripture: Proverbs 15:1-12

"There is severe discipline for him who turns from the way (of righteousness); And he who hates correction will die."
Proverbs 15:10 (AMP)

Many believers are practising Christianity at their convenience. Many choose to ignore instructions from the church leadership; some take their leaders for granted, while others customise instructions to suit their self-interest. The bible warns that the one that refuses to be trained or taught shall be destroyed (Proverbs 15:10).

Correction and direction are useful only to the listening ear and obedient heart. Believers must not despise but embrace instruction. Remember the plight of Miriam when she opposed Moses' leadership. She became plagued with leprosy. God dealt with her immediately because her opposition to Moses would have resulted in direct disobedience to any instruction from him. Moses had to plead to God on her behalf for forgiveness before God had mercy on her (Numbers 12:1-16)

Glorify God by making the job of your pastors and leaders easier. Be willing and obedient. They are sent by God to spiritually guide you to follow the right direction. If you cannot be faithful and obedient to man that you can see then you can never be truly faithful to God whom you cannot see (Luke 16:10). Where you are today in life is as a result of an instruction you received or rejected. Obedience to instruction builds lives but obstinacy destroys it. Listen to your leaders and follow their instructions. Cooperate with God's servants and his blessings surround you (2 Chronicles 20:20b).

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: Leadership/Communion Service tomorrow, 5:30PM

PRAYER



Lord, bless me with the grace of obedience so that I can truly serve you better and live in peace and success in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am a true disciple of Christ, faithful to God and receptive to the guidance of his shepherds



GODLY WISDOM

Scripture: Proverbs 8:1-13



"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." James 3:17 (KJV)

In seeking for wisdom, every believer must know that there are two types - the wisdom from God and the wisdom of the world. Without a clear picture of this, the believer that begins with godly wisdom may end up influenced, operating and entrapped by worldly wisdom.

This issue can play out in the marketplace where Christians who start out honest and fair in their dealings become swayed by the seemingly successful ways of unbelievers. In an attempt to imitate the "successful" ways of their peers, they discover and learn diverse ways to cut corners, cheat systems and manipulate the truth in order to appear productive and profitable. This often happens gradually and subtly with little or no realization that lines have been crossed. Godly wisdom models righteousness; it deals rightly, speaks truth and exhibits excellence. It does not operate in wickedness, does not speak perversely or deal deceitfully (Proverbs 8:6-8). Whenever we begin to think more about money or getting ahead more than our relationship with God, we have crossed a dangerous boundary.

As Children of God, we should remember that the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God (1 Corinthians 3:19) and the fear of the Lord is to the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10). If our wisdom does not translate goodness to others, shine God's light on situations or bring glory to God, it is not the wisdom that comes from God.

PRAYER

Lord, I refuse to choose the wisdom of this world over the wisdom that comes from you in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am a child of God and I operate by the wisdom of God.





INTERCEDE FOR THE CHURCH

Scripture: Daniel 9:1-19

*"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people.
Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf..."
1 Timothy 2:1 (NLT)*

The end time is near, and the Church, more than ever before, is experiencing many of the signs foretold in scriptures. Many false prophets abound in our midst. Innocent and naive Christians are deceived with false teachings and doctrines. Many other believers, who are mature and committed to the faith are intimidated, persecuted and even killed in various parts of the world.

The word of God has been completely watered down, distorted and philosophized. Teachings on holiness and righteousness have been relegated and abandoned in favour of teachings on prosperity. Some people hide under the guise of Christianity to deceive others. The love for God has waned in the hearts of many and rather than seek God for who he is, many seek him for miracles, signs and wonders. Personal gain and gratification have become the major motivations to many church goers.

As worrisome as the state of the church is, it is still believers that can bring the change that it needs? We must intercede for the church and her leaders. It is our responsibility to stand in the gap (Ezekiel 22:30; 2 Chronicles 7:14). As members of the church, we must acknowledge our faults, repent of them and seek for God's mercies. As we pray and act together, God will act in our midst to prepare a church that is ready to meet Jesus without blemish.

PRAYER



Lord, make me a part of the army that will always fight on my knees to prepare a church ready for your coming in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am a true Christian.
I intercede always for the church and her leaders.



THE GOOD FOUNDATION

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:11-21



*“Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”
Luke 12:21 (NLT)*

The world’s advice for people who wish for financial freedom and stability is to ensure a portfolio of savings and investments that enables them to take care of present and future needs. Sometimes, in the quest to secure this good life, you can compromise to the standards of the world and rob yourself of the opportunity for true riches that comes from doing what really counts to God.

Paul cautions everyone who has been blessed with wealth to focus on being rich in good work; being liberal and generous at heart as these are sure ways of laying a good foundation for the future. A heart that takes pleasure in these earthly riches soon forgets that they are fleeting and uncertain. Jesus gave an account of a rich fool who was rich toward himself and not in God (Luke 12:13-21). He failed to realize that his wealth was a privilege from God and he needed to use it to glorify God.

It is paramount that while you are in the business of making wealth in this world, you should not forget to lay your foundation on the only One that can guarantee you stability no matter the wave of uncertainty that blows your way. Your foundation and trust must be in God (Matthew 7:24). Constantly assess your life and priorities. You can never go wrong when you look to God for surety. Remember, they that put their trust in God shall not be put to shame.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: MAP Meeting (Home Fellowship) tomorrow.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to focus on you and on things that matter to you in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I do not trust in earthly riches; I put my trust in God always.



PRESENT YOUR CASE

Scripture: Numbers 27:1-11

"Let us review the situation together, and you can present your case..." Isaiah 43:26 (NLT)

Feedback: How refreshing was your study of the word of God?

God can play any role we desire him to in our lives. We can relate with him as Creator, King, Father, Lord, Provider, Healer and more. However, we sometimes forget that he can also be a righteous Judge (Psalm 97:2). It is this role that ensures that the upright receives justice and eternal blessing. As Christians, we miss out on a lot when we fail to relate to God as our righteous Judge.

The five daughters of Zelophehad, descendants of Joseph understood from the laws that God gave Moses, that God was interested in Justice, fairness and equity. As such when they believed that they were being treated unfairly, they presented their case before Moses – God's oracle. When Moses enquired of God, God immediately told Moses that the daughters were correct to ask for their father's inheritance. They presented their case to God and got judgment in their favour.

The beauty of our dispensation is that now we have a mediator and advocate that is greater than Moses. His name is Jesus and he is also God. What are you passing through? Who is mistreating you or depriving you of your rights? Present your case to God the righteous judge, with him on your side, any situation can surely turn in your favour.

Reflection: If I really believe that God is just, wouldn't I pray more?

PRAYER



Lord, help me to know you better as my righteous Judge and to treat others fairly and with equity in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

God is my righteous judge, I present my case to him through Jesus Christ my advocate and I receive judgment in my favour.



This Week Walk of Faith:

Seek out at least 2 people in need and ask the Just God to help them, this week.



HEART OF THE MATTER

Scripture: Proverbs 4:21-27

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it [are] the issues of life." Proverbs 4:23 (KJV)

There is something really special about the heart of man. The prophet Samuel revealed that God does not evaluate people by outward appearance, but he looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). The heart can also be blind thus apostle Paul prayed for the saints that "the eyes of your heart may be enlightened" (Ephesians 1:18). God wants us to trust in him with all our heart; and never our own understanding (Proverbs 3: 5) and to store his word in our heart (Psalm 119:11).

Jesus declared that we should love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30). When describing the kingdom of God, Jesus revealed the things that come out of the heart can defile a man (Matthew 15: 16-20). He also taught that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Luke 12:34). These scriptures show that the heart is the engine room of our lives and will determine how our lives turn out.

What is in your heart? Do you load it up with useful things or perverseness? Are there things you have stored up in your heart that require total removal? No matter the state of your heart, you can be fully restored if you ask for God's help. Begin a turnaround in your life today by following the guidelines in Philippians 4:8 to secure your heart.

PRAYER



Lord, guard my heart from every perverseness of the enemy in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I guard my heart with all diligence, I think on the things that are true and pure always



ENGAGE YOUR GIFT

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:6-16



*"Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."
1 Timothy 4:14 (KJV)*

There is absolutely no one in life that does not have a gift put in him by God. The challenge, however, lies in the fact that many do not realise that they have been given a gift. Others, on the other hand, neglect to put theirs to use. A gift that has not been discovered and put to use cannot benefit you or others.

It is important for us to know that our gifts are a blessing to others and this means that destinies are tied to our gifts when we put it to use to God's glory. These can only be achieved when you discover your gifts and then engage it meaningfully and not allowing it to remain dormant in you. This was the reason Paul admonishes Timothy not to neglect his gift. You cannot fulfil destiny if you neglect your gift. Others tied to that gift of God in you may not be their best except you engage yours to their advantage.

Realise that God has packaged you with a gift that will bless you, bless others and advance God's kingdom. The next thing to do is to put that gift to use. Starting from your family, ministry church and then to the society at large. Your gift may not be like others but that one that God has given you is what you need to be all that God wired you to be, therefore engage it diligently.

PRAYER

Lord, keep me conscious of the need to reach out with my gift so I can be a blessing to others in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I put my gift to use consciously and deliberately for my advancement and that of the body of Christ.





LIVE RIGHT

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

"But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness." 1 Timothy 6:11 (NLT)

We live in a society where nothing seems to be evil anymore. Perverse behaviours and actions that were unthinkable in the past are permitted and celebrated in the world. There is a high level of compromise even in the body of Christ. We must refuse to condone these or allow them corrupt and influence our thinking or perspective.

As children of light, we are to pursue righteousness at all cost. The darkness and pattern of this world will never converge with the values of God's kingdom of light. It is God's desire that we pursue perfection; that way we can be a true representation of God here on earth. We must promote his kingdom of righteousness and love. Let no one find fault in us or in our actions and words (v14). We must stand out in character, behaviour and lifestyle. The bible must be our unshakable standard. We must not be easily swayed by the permissive mindset of the world.

Stay right and remain connected to the salvation you received from God, do not let anything lead you astray, remain true to your confession of faith. Do not entangle yourself with the affairs of this world again. Do not let the commandments of God slip off your mind, rather hold tight to your belief in God. The world needs manifestation of the light of God in us. Impose your light on the world instead of the world influencing you negatively.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: Leadership/Communion Service tomorrow, 5:30PM

PRAYER



Lord, help me to live right for your glory in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I pursue righteousness so I can shine the light of Jesus on the darkness of this world



OBTAIN A GOOD REPORT

Scripture: 1 Timothy 3:1-16



"Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

1 Timothy 3:7 (KJV)

The bible recognizes that in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver but also of wood and earth, some to honour and others to dishonour (2 Timothy 2:20). This implies that, although many come to church and profess to love and serve God, their actions may not please God or bring glory to him. This is why it goes on to warn that everyone who names the name of the Lord should depart from iniquity (2 Timothy 2:19).

The Christian lifestyle demands that we develop and live exemplary lives. It is a lifestyle that demands discipline. We cannot afford to bring the name of the Lord to disrepute by our actions. We must walk our talk and live in a way that will encourage people around us to become curious about what makes the difference in our lives. This curiosity will either lead them to seek God or prepare their heart for the gospel.

As a believer, if you desire to lead others to pursue Christ, you must have a good report from those around you. Your life must be a testament to the good that comes from choosing God. You become a useful channel when you live your life in fearful acknowledgement that you serve a holy God who wants you to be a model of him on earth (2 Timothy 2:21). Aspire to be a vessel of honour for God's use. Avoid a lifestyle that ties your tongue and hampers your ability to share the good news with others.

PRAYER

Lord, put me in line with your word and teachings that will cause me to grow in you in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I study the word of God daily to show myself approved.





THE SECRET PLACE

Scripture: Psalm 91:1-6

*"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty"
Psalm 91:1 (KJV)*

The secret place of the Most High is the place of prayer. Prayer is an intimate conversation between you and your Father the living God of heaven and earth. It is a place of interaction and bonding with God. It is a sure way of spending time with God and a means to abide under the Shadow of his protection (v1).

Job proved to be a man of prayer who worshipped God through sacrifices every morning (Job 1:5). Abraham was a man of prayer who always built an altar to call on God as he journeyed from place to place (Genesis 12:8, 13:3-4). David was also a man of prayer who never failed to always ask God for direction as his kingdom expanded (1 Samuel 2:1, 5:19). Throughout the bible, there are many accounts of men and women who effectively dwelt in the secret place through a vibrant prayer life. Consequently, they activated the hedge of God over their lives as manifested by the divine protection and favour that they always experienced.

Enter God's secret place today and activate his protection through prayer. Create and maintain a healthy and regular prayer timetable for yourself and family and God will oversee every detail of your life (Psalm 91: 14-16, 11-12). It is a tested and proven way to resting under the canopy of his wings.

PRAYER



Lord, bring me into your secret place; release the gift of effective prayer upon me in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE



I abide under the shadow of the Almighty because I spend time in the secret place of prayer.

DIVINE ENABLEMENT

Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:12-17



*“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enable me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.”
1 Timothy 1:12 (KJV)*

Certain persons today enjoy benefits and favour in positions they seem not best suited or qualified for. There are others whose past were totally in desolation but have found complete fullness in their lives today. This is evidence of God’s divine enablement and favour. One thing becomes clear when divine enablement is at work – it goes beyond your asking and ability.

Paul enjoyed undeserved grace from God who counted him worthy and faithful to serve in ministry. Even he could not justify why God chose him. Despite his previous actions, God showered his grace on him abundantly and chose him to lead the crusade to the Gentiles. Countless people of God have enjoyed this benevolence of grace and love from God. Moses killed as a result of anger; Rahab was a harlot; David masterminded Uriah’s death and took his wife but God still showed all of them love and enabled them to accomplish his purpose.

It is better to realise that the position you function in or the great strides you have attained are a result of God’s divine enablement and strength. His love and mercy has justified and qualified you. Acknowledge and keep thanking God for where he has brought you thus far; he will turn things in your favour and enable you beyond your human strength and limitation.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: MAP Meeting (Home Fellowship) tomorrow.

PRAYER

Lord, I thank you for where I am today, for your grace will lift me high in life in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I can do all things through Christ who enables me.





USE THE RIGHT WORDS

Scripture: Proverbs 15:1-24

*"...And a word spoken in due season, how good is it!"
Proverbs 15:23b (KJV)*

Feedback: Consider what happen when you pray for others.

We communicate with people everyday as we go about our routine activities using words as our primary tool. Our choice of words in communicating is thus essential as it leaves specific impressions about us and trigger certain reactions from others.

The words we speak are powerful in that they can determine the outcome or experience we enjoy from our interaction with others. Although, in many places, cultures and tradition to a great extent determine what and how people speak and interact with others, one can never go wrong with ensuring that their words are always kind (Proverbs 15:23). Careless words spoken in anger or jest can hurt others and cause conflict. Our intention may not have been to hurt the other party but when we speak unguardedly, we risk causing avoidable tension.

Remember that a gentle answer turns away wrath and a good word at the right time brings joy (Proverbs 15:1, 23). Keep guard over what you say. No matter how harmless a statement may seem to you, consider its impact on the others before you use it. Because a believer is the salt of the earth, make every word you speak tasteful.

Reflection: What is it that provokes me to make careless statements?

PRAYER



Lord, help me to always say kind words. Holy Spirit take control of my tongue in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I have the grace of God upon my life, therefore, my words are guided by the Holy Spirit



This Week Walk of Faith:

This week, spend time daily in praying for God to guard your tongue.

GOD IS ORDERLY

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:6-16



*"For God is not a God of disorder but of peace -
as in all the congregations of the saints."
1 Corinthians 14:33 (NIV)*

Folklore and myths are traditional beliefs and customs of a community passed down through word of mouth across several generations. Some of these traditions can hinder our spiritual growth, therefore, God makes it clear that we must completely do away with these old and detrimental belief systems in our lives if we must live effectively as true Christians.

We are not only instructed to shun ungodly traditions but to constantly admonish others to do the same (v6). Some believers still attend ungodly traditional meetings and participate in some community practices that do not glorify God. Some world religions go to the extent of blending ungodly traditional practices into the Christian doctrines to form their versions of Christianity. The bible condemns such practices (1 Timothy 4:12).

We worship one true God who has redeemed us through his son Jesus (1 Corinthians 8:6). By our faith in him, we are free from every negative tradition and myth (Romans 8:1-2). God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33a). We ought therefore, not to bring ungodly traditions and customs in our walk with God, or let it influence our faith in Him. The Christian walk has no connection with worldly traditions so we must be mindful not to confuse them with God's instructions to us. Rather than succumb to what the world dictates, we must influence our community and environment and with God's way.

PRAYER

Lord, forgive me for knowingly or unknowingly allowing worldly traditions to influence my loyalty to you in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I serve God in truth and spirit. I am totally free from the influence of customs and beliefs in my walk with God.





CHRISTLIKE ATTITUDE

Scripture: Proverbs 22:1-18

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6 (KJV)

It is imperative to be a source of relief to the poor amongst us and to help them the best way we can. Unfortunately, many avoid this and shy away from obeying this God-given command. We often prefer to give to the rich, who themselves live in abundance, in the erroneous belief that giving to the rich will bring us favour and reward.

Taking advantage of the poor to enrich self is disastrous as it is a sure way of bringing God's punishment upon oneself. The same fate awaits those who further enrich the wealthy to the detriment or disadvantage of the poor. God does not expect us to withhold from the poor, or refuse to share with them. He demands unconditional kindness from those who are blessed, towards those who are less privileged or are in need amongst us. God has deep concern for the poor and expects us to do same. Remember, he who gives to the poor lends to God; and God does not owe.

We must forsake the selfish attitude of expecting rewards for every good deed we do to others. Give help and support to those in need with a cheerful attitude and do not make the mistake of looking down on them, or getting boastful because you are a giver. Practice giving today and you will begin to see the joy and rewards that it brings.

PRAYER



Lord, help me to be a source of help and succor to those in need in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

By the grace of God, I am merciful, kind and a source of help to the needy.



REMEMBER EVERY KINDNESS

Scripture: Judges 8:29-35

*"But then I recall all you have done..."
Psalm 77:11a (NIV)*

Not long after Gideon died, the children of Israel forgot God and also did not remember the kindness that Gideon had shown them. They returned to the worship of Baal. They allowed the killing of all but one of Gideon's sons and made the killer their king.

There are many people today who act like those Israelites who existed after Gideon's demise. They forget deeds of kindness shown them once they perceive that their situation has improved. They forget the sacrifices others made to get them to their current status in life. David is a good example to us on how to react to the kindness of others. He went to great lengths to seek out Mephibosheth because his father, Jonathan, had at one time been good to him (2 Samuel 9:7).

Never belittle any help you receive at any time no matter how insignificant it may seem. It is important to learn to value and acknowledge the help of others. Sometimes, a simple 'thank you' will do. People have been known to show kindness to the children of those who have helped them. As you open the door of blessing to others through whom God has blessed you, you leave open the door of blessing to yourself.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: Leadership/Communion Service tomorrow, 5:30PM**PRAYER**

Lord, teach me to always show appreciation for all that is done for me in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am appreciative of every kindness rendered to me. The door of blessing remains open to me.





CONTROL YOUR EMOTIONS

Scripture: Matthew 26:47-56

*"Better to be patient than powerful; better to have self-control than to conquer a city."
Proverbs 16:32 (NLT)*

Emotions are a very sensitive part of our lives. This is because, if not properly managed and controlled, it can have a detrimental impact on our lives. Not every situation deserves a reaction especially when aimed at belittling your faith.

As Jesus was to be arrested, Peter acted based on his emotions which beclouded his sense of reasoning at that point in time. Peter had no right to act the way he did because no matter the circumstance, there is always a non-violent way out. He did not master his emotions. Acting calm and composed in the midst of problems shows a high level of maturity and it is only then that you can make rational decisions.

As a Christian, you need to control your emotions. No matter the situations or your feelings about any issue, you should always remember that there is nothing God cannot fix. The most important thing is having a consciousness that God is always in control. Take a step back and assess the situation. Never try to act in the heat of the moment. You have the mind of Christ and therefore, let his peace guard your reaction. Do not let your emotions overwhelm you and make a mockery of your faith. Always ask God for grace to stay calm and rely on him for direction to tackle every situation.

PRAYER



Lord, help me to put a check on my emotions in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am filled with the Holy Spirit therefore I live a Spirit controlled life.



SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Scripture: Proverbs 20:1-12



*"Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who always does good and who never sins"
Ecclesiastes 7:20 (AMP)*

The overconfident and self-righteous Christian is a source of constant offense to God (Proverbs 8:13). He is also a discouragement to other believers because they will find it difficult to relate with him due to his claim of perfection. When Christians act self-righteous, they push others away because their lifestyle appears unattainable and unrealistic.

The scripture declares that self-righteousness is a sin (1 John 1:8) because such a believer will not depend on God but will rely on his ability and strength. Any believer who believes he can succeed by his own strength is at risk of eventual downfall (1 Corinthians 10:12). Every Christian has weaknesses which can only be overcome daily by the grace of God for the strength of God is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:8-9).

As a believer, you are a leader destined to lead many to God. So do not walk around ascribing holiness to yourself, laying down rules and instructions that neither you nor anyone else can live by; essentially rendering the Gospel ineffective (Mark 7:13; Matthew. 23:4). Have you fallen into this vice? If you ignorantly portrayed yourself as righteous-than-thou, repent of it now. Every believer is walking towards perfection by God's grace. Encourage them through your support and prayers that they would be led by the Spirit and walk in God's righteousness.

PRAYER

Lord, wash away every stain of self-righteousness from my life now in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am free from overconfidence in my walk with God and He blesses me as I serve Him in sincerity.





WISDOM'S TREASURE

Scripture: Proverbs 2:1-13

*"Search for them as you would for silver;
seek them like hidden treasures"*
Proverbs 2:4 (NLT)

Knowledge is gotten through learning and experience but wisdom is a unique gift from God that can be gotten by earnestly seeking for it from God for He alone gives wisdom (v6). If, for example, you realize that your house is sitting on an oil well, nothing else will be relevant until you have dug and discovered the oil. This should be the mindset of any one whose desire is to acquire wisdom.

King Solomon understood the value of wisdom which is why it was the first gift he requested from God once he became king (1 Kings. 3:5-14). This gift did not only make him the wealthiest king of his time, but also enabled him apply his knowledge intelligently to solving problems. Wisdom also manifested in his ability to live peaceable with other nations and his fondness for proverbs which he documented for our benefit and we enjoy even today.

Seek wisdom from God today and enjoy all the treasures that come with it. Apply it in your heart and you will not only understand what it means to fear God (v5a). Your steps will be ordered by the Lord as you will always make wise choices (v11) as you will be saved from any evil that comes your way (v12) and grow the ability to surmount every obstacle you come across. Clear insight and knowledge of God will be yours as things and events will be orchestrated in your favour (v5b). God's wisdom is available for you if you genuinely seek it from Him.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: MAP Meeting (Home Fellowship) tomorrow.

PRAYER



Lord, grant me wisdom so that I can enjoy all its treasures in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I apply myself to seek and acquire wisdom everyday.



LOYALTY PAYS

Scripture: Proverbs 3:1-12

*“Never let loyalty and kindness leave you!...”
Proverbs 3:3 (NLT)***Feedback:** Consider what it will take to always say the right words.

Many people stay committed to things or people simply because they believe and expect they will receive favours from them. They do not believe in going through the thick and thin in any matter or relationship. For these people, if there is nothing to gain, then there is no place for them. Our commitment to anything should go beyond benefits, it should be driven and motivated by love, it should stand the test of time and the wave of trials. This is the kind of loyalty God asks of us.

As a Christian, loyalty is a basic quality that you should have whether in your service to God, man or any righteous cause ((Proverbs 17:17: Romans 3:1-2). This does not mean that you should compromise your faith in order to remain loyal or committed. It means you should know when to draw the line while being respectful, faithful, dependable and trustworthy. Some people hang unto others as long as they are receiving favours but if the table turns on the fortunes of the people they are loyal to, they desert. Such loyalty is built on ulterior motives. God wants from us the loyalty that emanates from a sincere heart and without expectations.

Your relationship with God and man should be that which depicts loyalty on your own part (Titus 3:1-2). Learn to stay loyal and committed to people or causes you believe in. Let it be deeply rooted in your heart (v3) and as you do so, you will not only find favour before God and men, you will earn for yourself a good reputation (v4).

Reflection: Are there character traits in me that could affect my loyalty?**PRAYER**

Lord, may my loyal service to others be firmly rooted in you, in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am loyal to the people God has brought into my life and I am in favored with God and man.

**This Week Walk of Faith:**

Express your loyalty to God; share the goodnews to 2 people this week.



THE ANT'S LESSON

Scripture: Proverbs 6:1-11

*"Work brings profit, but mere talk leads to poverty!
Proverbs 14:23 (NLT)*

Ants are widely known as industrious, diligent and well organized animals. They are self-driven and can work without leadership or supervision. They work hard to gather for rainy days and so they are never in lack no matter the weather (v8). Humans are created with more developed and advanced abilities. We have the ability to do a lot better than the ants if we decide to flee the clutches of laziness and procrastination.

You do not have to wait until plagued with challenges to work hard. Your labour must start early else poverty will embarrass you and push you to engage in ungodly activities. Also save for the future. Do not fold your hands procrastinating over decisions you can take today. After God revealed the upcoming famine to Joseph, he devised a plan to store food and provisions for the season of drought.. His proactive action did not only benefit Egypt but saved other nations as well (Genesis 41:17-36). There is no better time to prepare for the future than now.

Take a cue from the ants today. Get busy with something rewarding no matter how little it is, for there is dignity in labour. Do not work blindly. Create a vision, devise a strategy for achieving your vision and then consciously put in motion the plans that will bring your vision to pass. If need be connect with people who can assist and partner with you to fulfill your dreams. God wants you to prosper; get moving today and he will surely multiply your efforts.

PRAYER



Lord, give me the strength
to work hard now so that
I can reap the future benefits
in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am industrious.
I work hard and plan
for the future.



WISDOM'S BEDROCK

Scripture: Proverbs 9:1-12



"Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom..."
Proverbs 9:10 (NLT)

If it was possible to purchase wisdom with money, inherit it from parents or receive it as a reward for something, then it will be within the reach of all; both believers and unbelievers. The scriptures remind us that the fear of the Lord is the bedrock of wisdom. How can you make it through life without wisdom and how can you have wisdom without the fear of God?

People love to be associated with the wise, hence, the Queen of Sheba travelled all the way to Israel to listen to Solomon (1 Kings. 10:1-10). King Solomon received wisdom because he feared the Lord greatly. You are in total darkness, irrespective of your wealth, education and experience, if you do not fear God. It is only through wisdom that you can really know who God is (Proverbs 2:5-6). Are you a beneficiary of this great privilege? Do you have an insight and knowledge of the God you serve? How then can you enjoy this great benefit?

You are eligible to receive God's wisdom if you have total reverence for him and you do what is right in his sight. Wisdom will come easily and naturally when fear for God is established. Remember that he who is not wise is foolish and live in darkness. Establish a relationship with God today; fear him and embrace wisdom.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to live in fear and submission to your will so that I can partake of your wisdom in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I have the wisdom of God in me because I fear and reverence him.





USE YOUR TONGUE WISELY

Scripture: Proverbs 15:1-4

"Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them." Ephesians 4:29 (NLT)

The tongue is a mighty weapon that has the power to build or destroy depending on how it is used. It can make the difference in a conflict or dispute. There are also times when silence may be as required as words once spoken to another cannot be withdrawn and like broken glass may be nearly impossible to put back together. This means that your words can create problems.

As a Christian, your tongue should build and heal. It should produce beautiful words of life and hope. You should not be branded as a person with loose and unbraided tongue that blurts out whatever comes to mind, not caring if it hurts the next person or not. Jesus in his teachings and interaction with the Pharisees sets a perfect example for us to emulate. He was always wise in his response to questions thrown at him by the Pharisees. His words were precise, kind and edifying; never angry or destructive.

Is your speech consistent with that of Jesus? Do you use offensive, abusive and destructive words out of anger? As a Christian, do you lie, gossip, backbite or bear tales about others? Order your words and your tongue will have the capacity to produce words that edify, encourage and minister life to the hearer.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: Leadership/Communion Service tomorrow, 5:30PM

PRAYER



Lord, give me the grace to choose my words carefully; help me to use words that encourage and edify in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

My words are a blessing unto the hearer, they minister life and love.



SEIZE THE MOMENT

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:1-8



*“Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favourable or not.”
2 Timothy 4:2 (NLT)*

The phrase “there is time for everything” can never be overemphasized especially when you bear in mind the fact that your days on earth are numbered and someday you will be no more (Psalms 103:15). Why keep till tomorrow what ought to be done today when you are not sure of tomorrow? Your mandate as a Christian is to fully carry out the ministry that God has given to you which is preaching the good news of Christ.

There is never a perfect time for propagating the gospel of Christ. Remember that while you wait and hesitate, many souls await the harvest. It does not matter how unwilling they are or how long it takes to convert them. Be patient while preaching, correcting and rebuking them. By so doing, they will gradually come to the knowledge of the truth. You may be in an environment where it is difficult or unfavourable for you to preach the gospel but draw courage from Apostle Paul’s advice. Do not be afraid of facing trials and tribulations as long as they are for a good cause (v5).

As a Christian, can you honestly say to yourself, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race?” Are you pushing till tomorrow what you ought to do today because of one challenge or the other? God wants you to spread the good news. Remember that this is not in vain because a great prize which is the crown of righteousness awaits you (v6).

PRAYER

Lord, help me to capitalize on opportunities to preach the word so that more souls can come to the knowledge of the truth in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I preach without ceasing.
A crown of glory awaits me.



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE
MARCH

GÊ Î Ĝ	BIBLE CHAPTERS
MARCH 1st	Deuteronomy 1-2
MARCH 2nd	Deuteronomy 3-4
MARCH 3rd	Deuteronomy 5-7
MARCH 4th	Deuteronomy 8-10
MARCH 5th	Deuteronomy 11-13
MARCH 6th	Deuteronomy 14-16
MARCH 7th	Deuteronomy 17-20
MARCH 8th	Deuteronomy 21-23
MARCH 9th	Deuteronomy 24-27
MARCH 10th	Deuteronomy 28
MARCH 11th	Deuteronomy 29-31
MARCH 12th	Deuteronomy 32-34
MARCH 13th	Joshua 1-3
MARCH 14th	Joshua 4-6
MARCH 15th	Joshua 7-8
MARCH 16th	Joshua 9-10
MARCH 17th	Joshua 11-13
MARCH 18th	Joshua 14-16
MARCH 19th	Joshua 17-19
MARCH 20th	Joshua 20-21
MARCH 21st	Judges 22-24
MARCH 22nd	Judges 1-2
MARCH 23rd	Judges 3-5
MARCH 24th	Judges 6-7
MARCH 25th	Judges 8-9
MARCH 26th	Judges 10-11
MARCH 27th	Judges 12-14
MARCH 28th	Judges 15-17
MARCH 29th	Judges 18-19
MARCH 30th	Judges 20-21
MARCH 31ST	Ruth 1-4

GUIDED BY COUNSEL

Scripture: 1 Samuel 30:1-8



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

In a world where many voices and influences exist, making life choices can sometimes be a difficult task and we often find ourselves seeking advice from others. But how can we tell if the counsel we receive is right or wrong? How do we ultimately decide what to accept? We must realize as believers that God's word is always available to us as the ultimate counsel (Psalms 119:24).

Certain situations may tempt us to act rashly or follow a particular course of action that appears logical to us but is totally against God's desire for us. We must, however, remember to seek God's counsel first. David and his men returned to Ziklag and found it razed down by the Amalekites. Their wives and children taken into captivity and his men agitating against him. Being a valiant leader, the natural and rational thing would have been to immediately chase after the Amalekites. After all God was on David's side. But David sought God's counsel first by enquiring if he should go after the Amalekites and God gave him victory over them.

Do you seek God's counsel in every situation or do you just assume your actions are logical and therefore, in line with His will? Remember the counsel of God is always available to us through His word and those who seek His face live long and prosper. You can know his will if you seek his counsel today.

PRAYER

Lord, grant me the grace to always seek your counsel in every decision I make in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I seek God's counsel at all times. I do not make assumptions concerning His will for me.





FINANCIAL PRUDENCE

Scripture: Proverbs 21:17,26

"Whoever loves pleasure will become poor..."
Proverbs 21:17 (NIV)

Managing finances is a struggle for a lot of people in general and even believers. The bible has provided a guide to mastering the art of financial discipline. It requires self-discipline and control of our desires.

Inability to manage one's finances due to the pursuit of life's luxuries leads to debt or poverty (Proverbs 21:17). Self-discipline is important when it comes to managing our finances. We must be able to identify our priorities and give them precedence when we allocate our finances. The application of wisdom in handling our finances results in surplus and abundance but it is folly to squander all we earn without provision for the future (Proverbs 21:20). We must develop and stick to a financial plan.

Have you been careless with your finances or made a habit of spending unwisely? Do you have difficulty saying no or holding back from buying every trinket you desire? Ask God for the grace to be prudent financially. Drawing up a budget and strictly adhering to it will help in your quest for self-discipline and financial prudence. Find a trusted person to hold you to account on your finances. You can also seek financial advice and guidance from experienced professionals. As you commit to being a good steward of your treasure, God will bless and expand your coast.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: MAP Meeting (Home Fellowship) tomorrow.

PRAYER



Lord, I receive grace to be disciplined and wise concerning my finances in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I do not squander my finances. I am prudent with all my resources.



THE HEDGE OF GOD

Scripture: Job 1:1-10



*"Have you not made a hedge around him,
around his household..."
Job 1:10a (NKJV)*

Feedback: Consider the divine benefits of sharing the goodnews.

A hedge is a barrier of protection; a common example is the fence around your house. However, there is a higher hedge more superior to any other. It is the hedge of God. The hedge of God is God's total and perpetual protective covering over a man's entire life. This hedge does not just protect your house and physical possessions but also surrounds you, your family and loved ones physically and spiritually. Every living soul on earth needs God's hedge because we live here with the devil (Revelations 12:12), and his sole purpose is to wreak havoc (John 10:10a).

Job was a righteous man who feared and revered God deeply every day of His life (Job 1:1, 8). It was for this reason that God blessed him and placed His hedge around him (Job 1:9b-10). The lesson is very clear; the hedge of God is a total package of protection and it requires the price of total submission and obedience to God. This was the reason why God covered Job.

Sin is the only thing that removes the hedge of God. If you shun sin and give God His rightful place in your life, it will automatically invoke the protection of His hedge over you. It will also ensure that you live above all the harassment of the enemy. Commit to consistent fellowship and service to God. Your safety and wellbeing actually depends on it (Proverbs 19:23)

Reflection: Is consistent fellowship with God, my number one priority?

PRAYER

Lord, give me the grace to live a godly life so that your hedge will surround me always, in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I enjoy peace on every side because God's Hedge surrounds me always.

**This Week Walk of Faith:**

This week, extend your personal devotion with God by at least 1 hour.



LOYAL TO YOUR FAITH

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:15-18

*"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."
2 Timothy 4:7 (KJV)*

Many Christians in our present day often give up on people and God during challenging and trying times which actually shows a weakness in their faith and consequently disloyalty to God. It will be folly to give up on your faith when the challenges of life hit and even more dangerous when you start questioning God.

Whenever you see your fellow brethren going through one challenge or another, you should always give them a shoulder to lean on and encourage them as much as possible. This goes a long way to give them a sense of belonging and encourages them that there are people who really care and are praying towards their wellbeing. Onesiphorus was indeed a worthy Christian who stood up for his faith and was never dissuaded by the risk and challenges ahead of him (2 Timothy 1:17). He fought a good fight by holding on to his faith, ignoring the risks he faced until he found Paul and ensured his welfare.

Be your brother's keeper and do not be in a haste to give up on others. Loyalty to your faith requires that you remain committed to God and to his church. This can only happen when you cultivate a genuine and intimate relationship with God who is your sure refuge in trying times.

PRAYER



Lord, grant me the grace to continually abide in your presence and never to give up on you and any challenged Christian.

FAITH BYTE

I commit to shaping my character and rendering help to the brethren in need.



FRIENDS OF WEALTH

Scripture: Proverbs 19:1-8



*"A friend loves at all times,
and a brother is born for a time of adversity."
Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)*

It is quite common to see sycophants flocking around the rich and powerful, pledging allegiance to them and displaying a high level of loyalty simply because of what they stand to gain. Take away the riches and power and watch them disappear like shadows. It would be dangerous for the recipient of such love and loyalty to be lured into thinking that these people will always be there.

The most important relationship man can have in his lifetime on earth is a relationship with God because that is the only one that can stand the test of time. When things are good and rosy, men will love you and do anything for you but the moment they stand to gain nothing, they will be gone as fast as they came. Do not be impressed by the number of people that claim to be your friends because their love is not guaranteed. Many will only be around for the good times.

Do not despise anyone because of their financial status because God requires us to show constant love to all. Real friends will love you and be there for you at all times. As a believer, cultivate relationship that will truly stand despite the situation in which you find yourself. Be a true friend yourself and God will bring friends that love you like Jonathan loved David.

PRAYER

Lord, do not let me be deceived and influenced by riches. Let my wealth and success bring good friends and things into my life in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am a true friend
and God blesses me with
genuine friends.





A GOOD NAME

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 7:1-12

*"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold."
Proverbs 22:1 (KJV)*

The needs and desires that are synonymous with living on earth can sometimes push people into doing things that will give them a bad name. Even Christians sometimes are caught in this web of deceit that they have to live up to the standards of the world so they sometimes compromise their values to meet up. They take bribes or falsify documents because of material gains, feeling that as long as they are not caught there is no problem.

No amount of riches can be compared to a good name. Men have had their good deeds and upright behavior speak for them decades later. Your good behavior and upright character can even lead someone to surrender their lives to Christ so as to emulate you. How can you preach to people and encourage them to be born again when they don't see much difference between you and them?

Riches and the desire for it should not make you compromise your faith by acting in ways that are in contravention to God's laws. You do not have to flow with the crowd. You are different so act different. If your whole office subscribes to taking bribes you should be the one to stand out. Even if it may look like they are all richer than you, the legacy you are creating for yourself will last even to the end of time and will ultimately speak for you in heaven.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: Leadership/Communion Service tomorrow, 5:30PM

PRAYER



Lord, help me to live up to a good name by your grace in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I will not compromise my stand as a Christian by.



A HARD TARGET

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20



"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9 (AMP)

Many people are so "modernized" that they feel the devil does not exist and this is their greatest undoing. The devil will always provoke you with temptations and trials but you must not let him succeed. The day you gave your life to Christ and decided to serve God is the same day you became a prime target of the enemy.

God has given you the grace and means to overcome every persecution of the devil against your life, business and family. You must equip yourself by putting on the full armour of God so you can stand against the devil. The key scripture points out the various weapons that we need in the fight against the devil. Note that they are not physical. As believers, you are part of His Kingdom enforcers, a general in God's holy army; therefore, you cannot afford to be cheap targets. You must at every time be ready by putting on the whole armour of God.

When you are alive and vibrant for Christ in prayers, service and sacrifice, you do not only become an impossibly tough target, you also become a kingdom enforcer for God and a reference point of His awesomeness in your time and generation. Always be prepared by furnishing yourself with the necessary equipment and you will successfully resist and overpower the enemy on all fronts (Ephesians 6:11)

PRAYER

Lord, increase my faith and strengthen me - in prayer and all spiritual exercises and service in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am untouchable;
a hard target for every
power of darkness.





APPLY DISCRETION

Scripture: Proverbs 2:10-15

*"Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you;"
Proverbs 4:6 (NIV)*

A Christian that lacks the wisdom and understanding to survive in the world today will constantly be pulled down. We should strive to possess the quality of having good judgment and this can only be possible by the help of the Holy Spirit.

Do not be entrapped by the attractions the world offers such that you can no longer differentiate between right and wrong. God wants us to live a good and comfortable lives but we must be careful who we relate with, what we listen to and what we say. Do not let your godly character be dampened by conforming to every doctrine that comes your way. Slowly and subtly, giving in to the ways of the world will ultimately corrupt the godly character in you. You cannot be friends with everyone, you cannot be part of every discussion and you cannot be seen at all places. You should endeavor to be careful, avoid bad company and flee from evil practices. Mind the invitations you honour with your presence.

The word of God can make you wise and discreet in your conduct but the key to achieving this is through studying the word, meditation, and prayer. Being in tune with God will open your eyes to discerning between good and evil, giving you understanding that will put you on your guard to watch against any vice that can lead you astray.

PRAYER



Lord, help me to conduct all my affairs with wisdom, understanding and discretion in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

The Spirit of God dwells in me therefore, I apply discretion in all my dealings with people.



GOD'S ELECT

Scripture: Romans 8:12-17



"Who will bring any charge against God's elect (His chosen ones)? It is God who justifies us (declaring us blameless and putting us in a right relationship with Himself)." Romans 8:33 (AMP)

It is quite unfortunate when a child grows up without a father or worse as an orphan, without parental love. Such a child is vulnerable, unguided and most critically "unprotected". A person is spiritually unprotected until they become God's own and this is done by simply accepting His Son Jesus Christ in principle and practice. The sooner you accept Him as your Father, the sooner you can possess and activate your inheritance of divine protection.

Only the true sons and daughters of God who in obedience have truly accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour and are led by the Spirit of God can enjoy the covering that comes with being children of God. They are not slaves and do not live in fear but are heirs of God's kingdom. This is a precious heritage that only genuine members of God's family can have.

Are you a member of God's family, a true son or daughter? If not then give your life over to Him right now and you will see that when you become a member of God's family, his hedge of protection will be activated over you. Remain in faith as you walk with God and He will continually shield you from every onslaught on the enemy.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: MAP Meeting (Home Fellowship) tomorrow.

PRAYER

Lord, bless me with the grace to live like a true child of God so that I will always be within your protective hedge in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am God's child; therefore, his protective hedge is activated over my life.





A FATHER'S INSTRUCTION

Scripture: Proverbs 4:1-11

*"A wise son heareth his father's instruction:
but a scorner heareth not rebuke."
Proverbs 13:1 (KJV)*

Feedback: How refreshing was your personal devotion with God?

Fathers are placed over children to guide, protect and provide for them. In order to nurture them in the path of success, fathers always instruct their children from their wealth of experience and wisdom. Some instructions may seem harsh or very difficult but are usually given with the best intentions at heart and the wellbeing of the child as the ultimate focus.

When God instructs us, he expects us to obey. He expects us to walk in the path that he has created for us. We can never go wrong when we hearken to God's instructions because his thoughts for us are always good to keep us on the path of light. Even when he rebukes us, it is solely for our benefit. It should be the same with our earthly fathers. Their instructions could come in the form of rebuke; it could also come as a reward to recognize good behavior. No matter what form it comes in, the purpose is to groom and train the child to fulfill their God given purpose on earth. This does not rule out the fact that there are father figures who may lead you astray.

Therefore, it is our responsibility to test every instruction received, from those we regard as father figures, with the word of God. If an instruction you receive is not in line with God's word, it is not what God, your heavenly father wants for you. When you know and obey God's instruction you will not be led astray by ungodly fathers.

Reflection: Do I easily identify the instruction that comes from God?

PRAYER



Lord, let your words prepare my inner man to be able to follow every instruction that you have laid down for me in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I will study the word of God daily and meditate on it, because it will instruct my path.



This Week Walk of Faith:

Study God's word, at least 2 chapter daily to show yourself approve.

ENSLAVE THE MAMMON

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:17-21



“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.”
1 Timothy 6:17 (NIV)

Money is good and answereth all things. The Church needs money to expand, the Christian needs money to survive on earth, therefore, money itself is not the problem. The problem is the attitude of man towards it. People are ready to go to any length and even sell their souls to be rich. For many people today, lying and cheating is the natural thing to do to become rich. People have been so enslaved by the facade of rich living that they have forsaken God.

If you were dead, of what use would money be to you? Without air to breathe, how would you enjoy the riches you strive so hard to acquire? Who provides the air you breathe today? Whose power has kept you alive till now? Definitely not money! Money should never take the place of God in your life. Do not become so consumed by the luxury and comfort money provides that you forget who made it possible for you to get that money in the first place. If you put money before God, you will pay a hefty price (Proverbs 11:28).

The glory and honour that belongs to God should never be shared with anyone or anything. Seek first the kingdom of God and other things shall be added to your life. God alone is worthy of worship, not any man nor any idol and definitely not money. Money should work for you, and not the other way round.

PRAYER

Lord, help me not to be imprisoned by the love of money but to give all glory and worship to you alone in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am a lover of God alone; I cannot be a slave to money.





GODLY ACQUISITION

Scripture: Proverbs 8:17-30

"My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver."

Proverbs 8:19 (KJV)

Everyone aspires to live the good life, including Christians. We all want to be rich, live in fine homes, drive good cars, marry and have beautiful children. These are legitimate and godly aspirations. What is critical is how you get the good things of life. To God, the end does not justify the means at all.

God wants you to become rich the right way. To make godly wealth, you have to realise that God is in possession of riches in abundance and also understand that riches acquired in a godly way will endure. (Proverbs 8v19) Don't dip your hands into evil doings because of a thirst for earthly acquisition, as any ill-gotten wealth is unacceptable to God. When God blesses you with wealth, it will not cause you to sorrow or have any repercussions (Proverbs 10:22) but ill-gotten wealth has no lasting value. (Proverbs 10v2)

Abhor the ungodly wealth creation strategies of the wicked. Believe that God can enrich you and then commit to getting riches the right way. Also remember that when you use your riches to glorify God, you are indeed a worthy carrier of the gift of God.

PRAYER



Lord, I trust you for righteous wealth and riches. I desire riches from you alone. Bless me beyond my desires in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am ready for riches and wealth and I receive from God the power to make wealth.



PRIORITIZED GIVING

Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1-11



"Honour the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;"
Proverbs 3:9 (NKJV)

The general attitude of many when it comes to giving is to bring to God leftovers, after every other need has been met. This is wrong. Every other need, no matter how urgent and important in our consideration and circumstance should take second place after honouring God the giver of all things. Nothing should take God's place in your giving order. This is exactly what the principle of first fruits is all about, God should be given the first place before anything else.

The first fruit principle refers to the practice of giving to God the first and the best portion of your harvest. Many people give God the leftovers. No matter how sincere and willing you may be, the attitude of not prioritizing your giving to God first puts you backward. It is better to give God the first part of your income, because it demonstrates that God takes priority in your life and that your resources belong to Him. Giving God first also secures and sanctifies the rest and opens you up to receive God's special blessings.

Learn to put God first in everything you do including your finances. When you do so, the rest is sanctified and secured for your sufficient use. There will be a ceaseless flow of God's resources towards you that will guarantee abundance in your life. Use the principle of first fruits to set up a system of continuous flow of heavenly resources in your life.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: Leadership/Communion Service tomorrow, 5:30PM

PRAYER

Lord, help me to place you first in my giving life all my days on earth in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

As I prioritize God in my giving, I experience unusual promotion in my financial life in Jesus name.





TRUST GOD

Scripture: Proverbs 3:1-12

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,..." Romans 15:13a (NIV)

There are a lot of smart people everywhere in the world today but just how far can intelligence take anyone? Without total trust in God and surrender to Him, you can only get as far as your brain can comprehend but when you are backed up by the all-knowing God, there is no limit to what you can achieve. (Isaiah 46:10). You cannot claim to have trust in God when you still rely on your physical knowledge to handle your situations. Why can't you trust Him to cure your diseases, bless your finances, cause a breakthrough, bring promotion and change every troubling situation in your life?

God seeks men with hearts that totally believe and rely on him to meet their every need. When he finds such an individual, he directs that person in the paths he or she should go. A heart that trusts God waits on him and does not doubt that he is able to save, deliver and prosper. Don't rely on your understanding, let God have His way in your life and direct you in all of your affairs.

Paul completely trusted God when he said he was ready not only to be jailed at Jerusalem but even to die for the name of Jesus. (Acts 21:13-14). A heart that trusts in God is a surrendered heart. Completely surrender your heart to God with full trust in Him and you will become fulfilled on every side.

PRAYER



Lord, as I continually trust in you, continue to direct me and heal me of every affliction in all areas of my life in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I surrender to God,
and I will never lose
trust in Him.



GOD'S WORD

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:8-18



"For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:21 (NIV)

The Bible is the word of God. It is his voice to help and direct us daily. The Bible is an absolute necessity for every believer because it contains everything he needs to be successful in every area of life. This book of wisdom is a detailed manual that contains lessons and instructions for living.

Do not be deceived by the argument that the bible was written by men and therefore, subject to debate. Paul reminds us that all scripture is written by the inspiration of God. The Bible is a very reliable book and needs to be studied and burned into our hearts so that we can reap the full benefits of the knowledge therein.

The bible is not an ordinary textbook. It requires a deep understanding that can only come when we depend on God. Therefore, it is important that we always read it prayerfully, trusting the Holy Spirit for understanding. He will teach us gradually, line upon line and precept upon precept. We must also go beyond simply reading to meditating so we can deduce the message God intends to pass to us concerning any matter. The word of God has been given to us to teach, rebuke, correct and train with the ultimate purpose of keeping us in line with God. When we rely on and open our minds to the life-transforming word of God, it becomes a constant source of strength and encouragement. It also enables us to live a victorious and fulfilling life on earth even as we become a source of blessing to others.

PRAYER

Lord, teach me your ways
through your word
in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I trust and believe in the
word of God always





KEEP GOD'S INSTRUCTION

Scripture: Proverbs 3:1-12

"But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it." Luke 11: 28 (KJV)

God's words and principles are timeless truths that do not require any addition or subtraction. Be that as it may, some people are still unreceptive and hard hearted towards the Word of God thereby making themselves impossible candidates for the blessings that lie within.

When you receive God's commands into your heart and put them to practice, the profit is a satisfying longevity and peace. You can never hear too much of the Word because your heart can and will accommodate as much as you permit it to. Always pay attention to the Word of God, study it, internalize it, and live according to it. This is the secret to lasting peace and prosperity.

Continuous hearing and studying of the Word of God is the sure way to restock your heart while receiving divine instructions. Keeping God's instructions is a sure way to be blessed (Luke 11:28). Do not take God's word for granted and treat it as words you need to hear only on Sundays in church and dump right after. Put God's word on the front line of your life. Make it a guiding principle for your daily existence and for your life.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: MAP Meeting (Home Fellowship) tomorrow.

PRAYER



Lord, as I follow your instructions and put them to practice, let my path be straightened in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am always on the right path because God is leading me all the way.



BEWARE OF MAN'S PHILOSOPHY

Scripture: Colossians 2:1-8



"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." 1 Timothy 4:1 (KJV)

Feedback: Consider the benefits of studying God's word.

God's word can help shape our mindset and build up our faith in him but philosophy based on the wisdom of men contrary to the knowledge of God can ruin our faith. These principles are built after the tradition of men and the rudiments of the world rather than the word of God. Any philosophy contrary to the word of God is from the devil.

Paul warned the Colossians to beware of enticing but deceitful words of men. The bible notes that by good words and fair speeches many are deceived (Romans 16:18). You must stand guard against enticing words, and be careful lest you go with what appears to be the popular or accepted opinion rather than God's word. Do not accept a saying because it sounds reasonable or is popular. If it is not in line with the word of God, discard it. Be rooted and built up in Christ, very firmly established in faith as this is the only way to escape the enticing words of evil deceivers. It is within your power to resist man's wisdom over God's wisdom (Proverbs. 1:10).

The closer your walk with God, the stronger you will become established in the faith. Ensure your words and actions are in agreement with the teachings of the Bible. Ask God today for the grace to be rooted in faith and diligently follow his teachings.

Reflection: Where do I put my trust; God's word OR popular beliefs?

PRAYER

Lord, give me the wisdom to be firmly rooted in your word, and not to be swayed by every wind of doctrines in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

My faith is built on the incorruptible word of God which lives and abides forever

This Week Walk of Faith:

This week, thoroughly study one biblical character and share with others.



CONFIDENCE IN WISDOM

Scripture: Proverbs 3:21-26

*"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom:
and with all thy getting get understanding."
Proverbs 4:7 (KJV)*

Everyone has, at some point in time, succumbed to fear and many still currently live in constant fear. In an attempt to deal with the fear, some resort to substance abuse while some enter into destructive relationships. They usually end up in a bigger mess than where they started. Confidence cannot be faked, purchased or acquired through short-cuts. It grows when people apply deliberate effort to grow in knowledge, wisdom and understanding.

The word of God is the surest guarantee to succeeding in any situation including coming out of a fearful life. It is the greatest source of knowledge and wisdom. Many Christians even with the knowledge of His word still wallow in fear and shame. The secret to having peace of mind and expelling fear from your life is living in God's wisdom. How can you obtain this wisdom?

Christ is the ultimate repository of wisdom and knowledge. When you meditate and practice his word through faith, obstacles are reduced to nothing. Only Christ can give you rest in the midst of all your troubles. He can restore your confidence without the assistance of any man or thing. Are you willing to let the wisdom of God in all its manifestations guide you henceforth? Call upon the Holy Spirit to take charge right now.

PRAYER



Lord, cancel every spirit of fear, recreate confidence in me and give me the boldness to go about your business in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.



THE DANGER OF INDECISION

Scripture: James 1:2-15



*"But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold,
I will spit you out of my mouth!"
Revelation 3:16 (NLT)*

Hesitation, procrastination and distractions are the outcomes of indecision. The Greek word for double-mindedness "dipsuchos", literally translates as two-minded; that is someone being pulled in two different directions, constantly shifting between decisions. For this person it is impossible to ever steadily commit to anything. Such a man or woman is unstable emotionally, financially and spiritually.

You put your life on slow-motion when you are indecisive. You will hardly make or sustain meaningful progress with God and even with men as long as you are indecisive (James 1:7). It will reflect in your relationship, your work or business and most importantly in your faith. The bible describes anyone who remains in the valley of indecision as a fool (Proverbs 17:24).

Repent from every form of indecision in your life by declaring God's spoken word concerning you. Finally, ask God for wisdom and direction daily and he will give you willingly (James 1:5). Make this necessary change in your life today and start enjoying a fresh dimension of favour and progress with men and ultimately with God.

PRAYER

Lord, give me the wisdom and direction to always take the right decisions and actions and to remain resolute in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am free from the spirit of indecision; I make the right decisions at the right time, and I take the right actions every time.





THE PAINS OF INACTION

Scripture: Proverbs 3:27-28

*"Boast not thyself of tomorrow;
for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."
Proverbs 27:1 (KJV)*

No one feels happy when what is due them is intentionally delayed; yet we often find ourselves doing so to others. Postponement or procrastination of any event that will lead to loss for the next person, with no tangible reason is not a character any Christian should exhibit.

Do not indulge in acts that are abominable to God simply because you want to teach certain people a lesson. When you hold back from helping those around you even when it is in your power to do so, you incur the anger of God (Proverbs 3:33). It could be you on the receiving end tomorrow. The less privileged in our communities are not there as a yardstick for us to measure our betterment, rather it is to stir up an acknowledgement of the Lord's mercy and grace upon our lives.

Settle what can be settled today and do not wait until tomorrow. Someone's life may depend on your actions. Do not make your inactions a prayer point for someone else. It is through deep rooted loyalty to God and kindness to man, that you can find favour with God and man, and of course, earn a good reputation (Proverbs 3:4).

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: Leadership/Communion Service tomorrow, 5:30PM

PRAYER



Lord, help me to be considerate to those in need around me and to not withhold my help from them in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I will be a source of succour to those in need and not turn them back.



THE ROD OF CORRECTION

Scripture: Proverbs 23:7-14



*"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child;
but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."
Proverbs 22:15 (KJV)*

Children are by default, prone to foolish deeds because they have little or no knowledge of the consequences of their actions. It takes the extra effort of good and godly parents to grow young children, especially in this modern era, into responsible and wise adults. One of the ways parents raise good children is through prompt and continuous correction. The Bible instructs that the rod be used for correcting children. The rod must be used to instill discipline in erring children, and not to vent our frustration, show disapproval, or punish them for their misdeeds. In other words, the rod must be used to correct, and not to punish.

Some parents avoid the use of the rod in correcting their children, because they do not want to hurt their children. They forget that it is better to make a child bear the little pain of correction now, than to endure the heavy devastation that comes from lack of godly parental discipline in the future.

We must not shy away from using the rod of discipline to correct those under us. We must live up to the responsibility of training everyone that God has put in our care. God corrects those He loves (Proverbs 3:12). As God's children, we must emulate Him by lovingly using the rod to correct our children and everyone in our care.

PRAYER

Lord, I ask for the grace to be able to raise children that will bring glory to your name in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I will use the rod of discipline to raise godly children.





THE POTENCY OF PRAYER

Scripture: James 5:13-18

*"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)*

Prayer is a strong weapon that can be used to overcome every problem. This simple yet potent tool can make or break a man, heal nations, and transform the world. It is unfortunate that most believers don't exercise the power that has been provided by God to beat hard circumstances. This power can be accessed through prayer offered in faith.

We are encouraged by the Word to pray when in trouble, when sick, when we have sinned, etc. and there will be restitution. We also see how Elijah through prayer was able to stop rain in Israel to emphasize the power of God. Prayer is the way to get solutions. Whining and complaining cannot achieve anything, but prayer is the effective way to hand over your problems to God and watch Him fight on your behalf. We must recognize that by our power we cannot achieve much but by prayer we can present our problems to God with confidence knowing that He has got our back.

The powerful prayers of the righteous can bring down any stronghold. Exercise your right as a child of God and use the power of prayer that God has given to you. If you are not born again, then surrender your life to God right now so that you too can make use of this powerful tool because God takes delight in the prayers of the righteous (Proverbs 15:8).

PRAYER



Lord, help me to pray without ceasing at all times and never to rely on my own strengths in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I will pray at all times and in all seasons because I know that God has got my back.



STRENGTH TO OVERCOME

Scripture: John 16:25-33



*"If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small."
Proverbs 24:10 (KJV)*

No one likes to face adversity, but it is a part of life. Accepting Christ into our hearts does not exempt us from the trials of life but there is the hope and assurance of victory because Jesus Christ said so. There will be tribulations, but we must not lose faith because He has overcome the world. God has enabled us to overcome and have peace in the midst of trials by sending His son Jesus to die for us.

We must draw strength to stand in the days of adversity from the words of Jesus. He has triumphed in victory over the world through His death and resurrection and as a result of that, He has overcome the world. What this means is that Christ's victory has also given us victory and the power to overcome whatever might come our way. In Him we have peace and an uncommon calm in the midst of trials.

Affliction, adversity, trials and tribulation may come against you, but you need not be overcome by them. You have been given God's Word and the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome anything that Satan may bring your way. In Christ, you are more than a conqueror, you are an overcomer!

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: MAP Meeting (Home Fellowship) tomorrow.

PRAYER

Father, I ask for grace that will sustain me through trials and afflictions in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am filled with the Holy Spirit daily. I overcome whatever that comes my way.





A GLORIOUS END

Scripture: Proverbs 23:17-26

"Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

Psalm 37:4 (NIV)

Feedback: Share the revelations you had studying God's word.

Many Christians are troubled by the fact that they struggle from day to day, while many unbelievers have an abundance of possessions and are seemingly trouble-free. The Word of God instructs us to avoid envying the achievement of those who do not fear God, since the Lord will abundantly reward those who revere him in due time.

Our Father in Heaven is a God of miracles and He never forsakes His own. It may seem like your efforts are not effective or yielding your desired results but God assures you that the end will be glorious. You might compare yourself to people who are unsaved but doing better than you according to your assessment, but do you realize that their end is not guaranteed? (Psalm 37:1-2) God has promised you a future and a hope that is sure.

When undergoing trials and it seems there is no light at the end of the tunnel, be assured that your sufferings will end, and you will be rewarded for your obedience and faithfulness to God. Whatever obstacles that are in your way now will definitely come to an end in due time. Instead of envying the life of the unsaved, make an effort to bring them to Christ so that they can also have a secured hope for the future.

Reflection: Who and what is my standard of success?

PRAYER



Lord, help me to develop the fruit of faith and patience so that I will not be discouraged in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am assured of a glorious end; my expectation shall not be cut off.



This Week Walk of Faith:

Share the certainty of your glorious future with at least 2 person, this week.

SELF DISCIPLINE

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27



*"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 3:14 (KJV)*

Every good athlete aims to win and obtain the prize. For that reason, they must pay the price of intense training and self-control to be able to achieve their aim. They have to cultivate a suitable lifestyle which sometimes involves diets and workout routines so as to keep fit and withstand the pressures of their profession. Lack of consistency and the required routines on their part may mean failure for them.

It is pertinent to exercise discipline in everything you do. If those that are competing for earthly prizes can discipline themselves and their bodies so as to achieve their goal, then your Christian race for a heavenly prize deserves even more commitment. You have to carry out the work God had assigned to you with all diligence. Winning souls to Christ should be your priority and you should not relent in pursuing that goal. Keep under control any fleshly impulse that might stand in the way of your goal.

Success is inevitable when you clothe yourself with self-determination. With God you can never fail. Your mark may seem long in coming but in God's time, if you faint not, you will hold up the prize and reap the fruits of your labour. In due season, your consistency, commitment and determination will speak for you and manifest your victory.

PRAYER

Lord, I need your strength to finish strong and to be consistent in your vineyard in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I am destined to finishing strong; even when I fall I shall rise again.





CURB YOUR DESIRES

Scripture: James 1:13-18

*"Temptation comes from our own desires,
which entice us and drag us away."
James 1:14 (NLT)*

When you fail to master your desires, you become a slave to them and move in whatever direction they push you. An improper desire that is not controlled can cause you to take actions that lead to regret.

It is a natural human tendency to desire the good things of life but when the need to achieve your desires influences you to steal, cheat or deceive to obtain them or get results, then temptation has won the battle. The consequences of failing to put a check on your desires can lead to physical, emotional and spiritual pain. You must therefore be on guard because you have no one but yourself to blame for falling into temptation.

Remember that your mind feeds your desires; therefore, if you are to win the battle of temptation, you must take control of your mind. You must speedily quench every improper thought or desire that can cause you to go astray. The regenerated mind of every believer must work in accordance with the command of Philippians 4:8. This scripture is a guide on how to put the mind in check. You must not become overwhelmed by the need to impress or match up with your peers, follow trends or protect your status. Let your constant desire be to always please God who has called you by name. Your lifestyle must manifest only this desire to please Him. When God's pleasure is your focus, every other need or desire will lose its appeal.

PRAYER



Lord, keep my heart from the tempting desires of the flesh that prevent me from pleasing you in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

Like a deer pants for streams of water so my heart's desire is to please God alone.



PLANT THE RIGHT SEED

Scripture: Galatians 6:710



*"My experience shows that those who plant trouble and cultivate evil harvest the same."
Job 4:8 (NLT)*

For those who sow good deeds, the phrase "you reap what you sow" is great news but a scary one for those who engage in evil deeds. Some people sow in the flesh while some sow in the spirit. You sow in the flesh when you indulge and feed your fantasies through giving in to your anger, bitterness and lust (Galatians 5:19-21). However, when you feed your spirit man, you sow in the spirit.

The choices and decisions you make today are seeds you sow hoping to receive a harvest and, by extension, your harvest will directly prove if you sowed in the right field. Do not complain or get frustrated when you sow in the flesh constantly and then reap a harvest of corruption and evil. Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity and the rod of his fury will fail (Proverbs 22:8).

Start sowing correctly today. Sow in the field of the Spirit by doing good to people (Galatians 6:9), thinking godly and positive thoughts and speaking only edifying words. Keep in mind that every detail counts including your time, decisions, actions, inactions, thoughts or words. They create your future. Invest in the fruits of the spirit and let them be a guide in your life. Remember that everything you do in life, even the least important will yield a harvest in the future so choose the harvest you desire today.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: Leadership/Communion Service tomorrow, 5:30PM

PRAYER

Lord, help me to invest and sow in the field of the spirit so that I will reap only good harvests in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I sow in the spirit all day long and my harvest gives me joy.





REACH OUT

Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:1-6

*"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world,
and preach the gospel to every creature."
Mark 16:15 (KJV)*

Some believers have never shared their faith with others. This may be due to fear or the erroneous belief that there are many other believers whose job it is to reach out to unbelievers. These believers are playing right into the hands of the enemy whose utmost desire is to frustrate and stop the expansion of God's kingdom. We are labourers in God's vineyard and he needs every believer out in the field for the harvest is plenty (Matthew 9:37-38).

Paul reminded the church about reaching out to everyone whether rich or poor. The will of God is for all men to be saved (Matthew 28:19) and believers are the drivers of God's mandate here on earth. It is therefore our responsibility to pray and intercede for all men to come to the saving knowledge of Christ whilst we reach out to them. We do not have any excuse not to fulfil this mandate. God needs labourers out in the field to bring in the harvest of souls

Are you ashamed of preaching the gospel? If you are a believer and you have not won a soul, ask God for His mercy now and take action today. Soul winning should be a routine task for every believer. It is a wise and profitable thing to do because you are working in God's will when you do so. Share Jesus with someone today. Share the love and grace you enjoy so it can also become their experience.

PRAYER



Lord, strengthen my faith and commitment to share the good news with the unsaved according to your will in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

I obey Gods' instruction,
by winning souls for
God's Kingdom.



GOD'S SAVING GRACE

Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:12-20



"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me"
2 Corinthians 12:9 (KJV)

Have you ever wondered how someone can go from being a notorious criminal in one day to being a true believer the next day? For man, this may be difficult to understand especially when you think of the gravity of sin committed. For God, however, it comes with his nature. He is merciful and gracious. Once you genuinely accept Christ as Lord, he wipes the slate clean and gives you a chance to live and enjoy the goodness that comes from being a new creation.

Many people would have branded Paul a lost cause when they consider how zealous he was in persecuting the church and may not have bothered reaching out to him with God's word. But God eventually used this quality everyone saw as negative in him to bring others to the saving knowledge of the word of God. Even Paul was amazed at the mercy and love of God towards him. He lived in constant awe of God's grace because he knew it was his only reason of existence. If God could arrest the heart of a man such as Paul then there is no obstacle his grace and mercy cannot penetrate or a heart he cannot reach.

God's grace is available and sufficient to save you from sin, erase your mistakes and translate you to being a replica of his marvelous image. It does not matter how terrible you think your sin or crime is, turn to God and talk to him and his mercy and grace will envelope you.

PRAYER

Lord, I receive mercy as I come boldly to your throne of grace in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

The mercy and grace of God will continually be with me now and forevermore.





PRESERVE TO WIN

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:10-17

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance" James 1:2-3 (NIV)

The devil is out to fight the gospel. Every believer should, therefore, be ready to face persecution for their faith, especially when it has to do with propagating the gospel. When faced with opposition or persecution, we must be firm in our determination not give up or slip up. We should endure the pain and shame knowing that there is greater joy set ahead of us. We must always be resolute in spreading the gospel, even in the face of danger.

Paul narrates to Timothy, the obstacles he faced in the course of his ministry, and how the Lord saw him through and sustained him even in the most difficult situations. He goes on to encourage Timothy to persevere and continue to emulate the qualities he exhibited in order to overcome and more importantly, to remain faithful to the things he had been taught (v11-14). Paul's words are as relevant to every believer today as they were to Timothy. We must emulate the apostles before us, and remain steadfast to the end, no matter the odds against us.

Count it all joy when you are opposed or persecuted on account of your faith in God, because he will definitely see you through and greatly reward your faithfulness. He has promised never to leave or forsake you so do not be discouraged. Stay true to your purpose. Keep your faith alive, be patient and live in love knowing that God will never disappoint you.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND: MAP Meeting (Home Fellowship) tomorrow.

PRAYER



Lord, help me to remain steadfast in the face of opposition in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

My faith is alive no matter the obstacles I face.



THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST

Scripture: Colossians 1:15-23



*“Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”
John 14:9 (NIV)*

Feedback: Consider your joy in sharing your faith with another.

Many go to great lengths to argue that Jesus is not God. This is far from the truth as the bible mentions that the Word became flesh (John 1:14). This was after stating that in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God (John 1:1-4). When Jesus came to earth, he became the living, breathing God that we can see and touch.

The Pharisees made several attempts to capture Jesus because he equated himself to God. They thought it blasphemous. The fact that Jesus came to dwell on earth in the form of a man does not make him any less than God. At his name every knee must bow and every tongue confess that he is Lord. He shares this honour with no one not even the angels. We cannot say we love God and take Jesus for granted. When Phillip doubted, Jesus reminded him that anyone who has seen him had seen the father. He is an embodiment of who and everything God is.

When you accept Jesus as Lord over your life, you receive God into your heart. Do not undermine the supremacy and power of who you carry on your inside based on the cunning ploy of the enemy to deceive many. Focus on connecting to the great benefits that a life in Christ gives you access to. Jesus purchased your salvation at a great price, continuously express your unwavering love for him. Let Christ reign supreme in your heart.

Reflection: Is there any doubt in my heart that Jesus is God allmight?

PRAYER

Lord, keep me focused on your work on the cross that purchased life for me in Jesus name.

FAITH BYTE

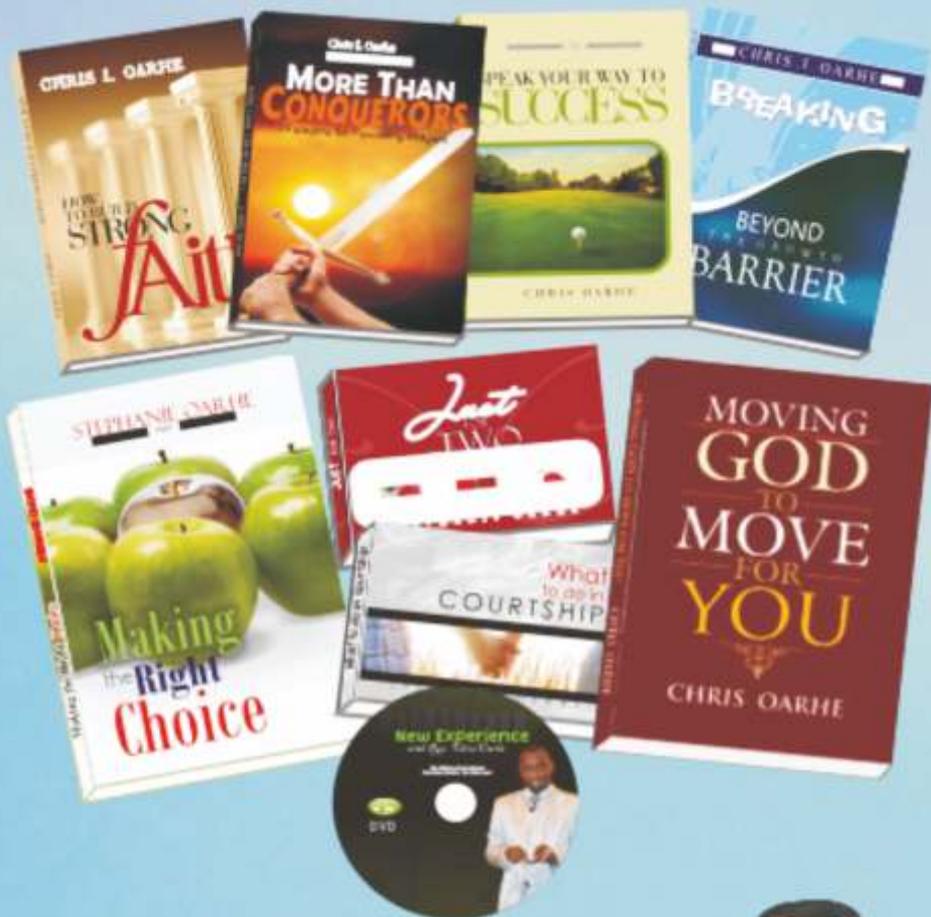
I acknowledge that Jesus is God and Lord over my life He reigns supreme forevermore.

**This Week Walk of Faith:**

Share with at least 2 person the supremacy of Jesus Christ, this week.

BOOKS, Cds, DVDs & More

Rev. Chris & Dr. Stephanie Oarhe's Books



For information on how to get copies of Rev. Chris and Dr. Stephanie's products, please call;

084-485350, 084779290



www.hilltopinternational.org

TODAY IN HIS PRESENCE PARTNERSHIP FORM



Today

IN HIS

P R E S E N C E

Partner Today

Hilltop International Christian Centre
7, Hilltop Drive, Off Waterlines/Elekahia Link Rd,
Port Harcourt, Rivers State.
Info@hilltopinternational.org
Tel: +234 84 779 290

Make your payment (cash or cheque)
in honour of HILLTOP-TIHP
Acc. No.: 503 591350 113
Bank: Guaranty Trust Bank

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW IN BLOCK LETTERS

Monthly Partnership (tick as appropriate)

Amount: N2,000 N5,000 N10,000 N20,000 N30,000 N50,000 Others:

Quarterly Partnership (tick as appropriate)

Amount: N5,000 N10,000 N20,000 N30,000 N50,000 N100,000 Others:

Monthly Partnership (tick as appropriate)

Amount: N2,000 N5,000 N10,000 N20,000 N30,000 N50,000 Others:

Quarterly Partnership (tick as appropriate)

Amount: N5,000 N10,000 N20,000 N30,000 N50,000 N100,000 Others:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE:

PHONE NO:

EMAIL:

MODE OF PAYMENT:

SIGNATURE:



Today
in *His*
PRESENCE

This daily devotional is designed to guide you into a robust devotional experience with God with relevant daily bible texts for all day meditation to build your faith and everyday confession (faith byte) that will release your faith.

A vital part of the believer's devotion is to maintain a sound biblical and positive confession. Confession results in concentration; your concentration or focus creates penetration evidenced by visible results. Your promotion with God draws from your devotion to Him.

With your continual daily devotion with Today In His Presence, you are guaranteed a year that cannot be limited by any power.

