



365

DAYS
DEVOTIONAL

STREAMGLOBE
Daily Companion for Overcomers

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January 1

OUR CONFIDENCE AND HOPE

Hebrews 3:6 (NET)

But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. We are of his house, if in fact we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope we take pride in.

When Jide accepted Christ and became a Christian, because of the sound teachings he was exposed to through the books he read, he had great confidence in the Lord and in the word of God. Some of the older Christians in Jide's church were complaining that 'Jide is too confident', but Jide insisted that he was only standing on God's word. That was why he had more results than them in ministry. The first time they went for evangelism together, Jide prayed for a very sick man, and he prayed with confidence that the man was going to instantly recover, and that was what happened.

Because we have received the [Holy] Spirit of sonship, every normal Christian should have the confidence that whenever he asks anything according to God's will, God hears him (see 1 John 5:14). We know God's will through the written word. For example, it is the will of God for you not to be sick (see 1 Pet 2:24), it is the will of God for you not to be in poverty (1 Cor 8:9). But it is not the will of God for you to marry an unbeliever, no matter how nice the person may be (see 1 Cor 6:14).

Go into today remembering that one very important attribute every Christian must have is confidence. We appropriate our power as members of God's household when we are confident.

Christians who have lost their confidence shrink in fear and can suffer the fate of mere men. What many Christians need is more confidence and boldness, not necessarily more faith. For "if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20 (NET))

Ask the Lord to fill your heart with confidence.

- Pst SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Romans 1-2

January 2

THE GATE OF THE MOUTH 1

Job 26:4 [NET]

To whom did you utter these words? And whose spirit has come forth from your mouth?

Words and spirit are as inseparable as speech and breath, just as it is impossible to talk without releasing air from your mouth. The beginning as recorded in Genesis started with the partnership of Spirit and word.

The quality of life we live on earth is dependent on the quality of [physical or spiritual] food we take; it is upon this reality that the LORD allowed the Israelites pass through physical hardship and hunger on their journey through the wilderness. They came to understand that man does not live by bread alone but by every word from the mouth of the Lord (see Duet 8:3).

Word is to the spirit, what bread is to the body. Jesus says ‘the words that I speak to you are spirit and life’ (see John 6:63). In words, there is life and good, or death and evil. [Deut. 30:14-15, Proverb 18:21]

The Big QUESTION I WANT YOU TO CONSIDER TODAY IS, WHAT KIND OF SPIRIT DO YOUR WORDS EMPOWER? IS IT SPIRIT THAT BREATHES LIFE OR DEATH?

James 3:2 says (BBE) For we all go wrong in a number of things. If a man never makes a slip in his talk, then he is a complete man and able to keep all his body in control.

Go into today knowing that your mouth is a seat of authority, and the words you speak come with spirit.

Speak and pray the word of God over your life today and the Holy Spirit will bring you and your world the performance of the word of Life that you have spoken. - Titus Ojima A.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Genesis 1-3

January 3

AVOID DISTRACTIONS

Matthew 15:23-24(KJV)

23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. 24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Before Jesus resurrected from the dead and gave His disciples the commission to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, He only sent them to the lost sheep of Israel (see Matthew 10:5-6). Everyone Jesus healed then was of Jewish origin except for very few who had great faith with which they received their miracles. The point here is that Jesus' anointing was at that time to the people of Israel because he had not yet been glorified.

One of the ways to stay filled with the spirit is to avoid distractions. Distractions for good people are not usually bad things but other good things that are not within their mission for that time. The reason why distractions are so dangerous is because the anointing that God gives you is sufficient for the assignment He has given you and not for distractions.

In order to avoid distractions, you need to constantly walk in the light of your purpose and vision per time, and identify involvements that are not enhancing them.

Go into today determined to stay filled with the spirit and avoid distractions.

PRAYER: Thank God for giving you a vision and a mission in the kingdom. Ask the Lord to help you stay away from all distractions. Amen. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Joshua 1-5

January 4

THE EXAMPLE CHURCH 1

Acts 2:42 [KJV]

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Daniel's boss asked him to write some letters for their company. These letters were very important and highly technical. Daniel did not want to make any mistakes, so as a wise officer he asked for all the other previous successful similar letters and used them as a guide. Daniel ended up writing excellent letters that gained him more respect in the organization.

One effective way to do something that has successfully been done before is to follow the example of successful ones. This is not cluelessness but wisdom. If you are to lead any congregation of God's people, it is best to follow the example of the first successful congregation led by the apostles of Christ. This church had four major things that they regularly did.

Today's Bible text shows that the first church congregation continued STEADFASTLY in: 1) The Apostles' doctrine 2) Fellowship 3) Breaking of bread 4) Prayers.

Jesus gave His Apostles the awesome responsibility of leading His church. They received their template directly from the Lord Himself, and it would be wise to follow their example in leading any local church assembly. Subsequently, we shall examine the doctrine of the apostles.

As you go into today, remember that God has given you examples in His word for all kinds of experiences you will face in life. God's word contains the precepts that will guide you in every area of life.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for giving me examples to follow in my path to the fullness of your will. I pray you help me always walk in this wisdom. Amen. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalm 1-2

January 5

THE EXAMPLE CHURCH 2

Acts 2:42 [KJV]

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

I was watching a pile of woods burn. The fire was great and effectual. I observed that when one wood was pulled out of the pile, the fire on that wood would quench after a while, and the wood would eventually run out of heat altogether.

When Christians fellowship together, they bring their individual fires together and help each other stay on fire for Christ. Many Christians have fallen because they isolated themselves from true brethren. We can see from today's Bible text that one of the pillars of the first church was fellowship. There is no Christian church without Christian fellowship and such fellowship does not exist without brotherly love (true affection for each other and concern for the welfare of each other).

The church is not a place for anonymity; it is a place for fellowship. There are things church leadership could consciously do to develop friendship among church members. Sharing what you have with those that do not have and doing so in a manner that does not diminish the dignity of the person receiving is part of Christian fellowship.

Go into today knowing that as a member of God's church, you are to do everything within your power to keep the bond of peace and avoid all forms of misunderstandings and quarrels with your brethren because such is not pleasing to the Lord (see Ephesians 4:3). Prayer: thank the Lord for making you a Christian. Ask the Lord to bless you so that you can help brethren in need. Ask the Lord to empower you to cultivate and maintain true fellowship and friendship with your brethren. Amen. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 1-2

January 6

THAT WE MIGHT KNOW THE THINGS OF GOD

Corinthians 2:12 (NKJV)

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

When Dorcas was first baptized in the Holy Spirit, she thought the only reason the Holy was given to her was for her to speak in tongues, and because of this, she was only conscious of the Holy Spirit whenever she felt she needed to speak in tongues. She had a very limited Spiritual life.

Unfortunately, many Christians have unconsciously become like Dorcas. They think that all the Holy Spirit was given for was for us to walk in spiritual gifts. But we see in today's Bible text that the Holy Spirit was given that we might know the things free given to us. What we know influences what we believe, and what we believe influences our eternal destinies. The Holy spirit is our teacher, he guides us into all truth (see John 16:13).

One reason why it appears that many Christians do not hear the Holy Spirit teaching and leading them is because they do not have enough of the word of God in their hearts. The Holy spirit leads to us by activating truths of God's word that we have previously received in our hearts. The written word is the vocabulary of the Spirit.

For a person who only knows very few words in English, communicating with him in English will be very difficult because you will be constrained to very few words that may not be able to express what you want to say. Many Christians do not hear much from the Spirit because they have a very limited Spiritual vocabulary. The more of God's truth you know, the more spiritual vocabulary you have, and the more easily you will be led by the Spirit. Go into today determining to build your spiritual vocabulary by feasting on God's word. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth. - Pst SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Isaiah 1-6

January 7

TAKE WORDS WITH YOU

Hosea 14:2 (KJV)

Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.

Words are powerful. Stick and stones may break your bones but words can break your spirit. With words, you can create and shape emotions. Right words can strengthen a weary man; hurtful words can break a man's spirit. Many ladies have been led astray by cunningly devised deceitful words. In fact, the Bible tells us that death and life are in the power of the tongue (Prov 18:21), so we must pay attention to words.

There is the story of a young boy who was faced with a gigantic opposition. Yes, he did pick up five stones but that wasn't all he took along. When threatened and derided by the giant opposition, David replied first with words and not stones. He had first said to Saul "the Lord who delivered me from the bear and lion will likewise deliver me out of the giant's hand" he also went ahead to say to the Philistine, 'the Lord will deliver you into my hand'.

We are soldiers, part of our armor is the sword of the spirit which is the word of God (Eph 6:17). Just as in Hebrews 13 verses 5c and 6a(NLT) it is written "for God has said, ... So we can say with confidence". Take words with you. God's words; confidently spoken. Let this sword-word be on your lips.

Take words with you. Take it to work, take it to school, and take it up at home. Speak it witnessing, speak it praying, speak it declaring; **SPEAK IT. Boldly, consistently, continually.**

—Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Matthew 1-2

January 8

DIVINE LIFE

Ephesians 4:17 (NKJV)

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind.

Nkechi was accused of stealing the cooperative's money because she was also involved in the embezzlement, but she didn't care that people noticed. She had forgotten that unlike the rest, everyone had higher expectations from her because they believed she was a Christian; that was why they made her a treasurer in the first place. Nkechi failed to represent Christ.

Christianity is about manifesting the life of God; it is about allowing the life of Christ that you have now received by God's grace (because no mortal deserves this life) to be seen. We all have a past, no one was born-again from the womb, we were all once unbelievers (gentiles) before Christ saved us. It is possible for us to still continue to walk after the old nature. But you need to agree that walking this way profits nothing; it produces death, but walking in the new nature of the Spirit-life produces life and peace (see Romans 8:6).

Go into today knowing that you have received the new life of Christ within you and you have the ability from God to walk in His divine nature. Resist the urge to walk as an unbeliever by going around with a God consciousness; know that God is always with you and is on your side; do not grieve Him by disobeying Him or disregarding Him in your heart. Also remember that because you now have a higher life within you; even the world has higher expectations from you.

Prayer: Thank God for giving you His divine life

· Ask that God will empower you to always walk according to His life within you. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Romans 3-4

January 9

GROWING INTO CHRIST

Ephesians 4:15(NET)

But practicing the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head.

When a baby boy is born, he potentially has the capacity of a man, but he will not become a man until he has grown up. As a man, he would be able to easily do many useful things he couldn't do as a child, and take care of things. He would also be able to be trained to secure himself from danger. But as a child, he cannot do these things.

We are not to remain babes but to become sons of God. The fullness of our image is Christ glorified. We cannot walk in the fullness of Christ's glory until we grow into His image. The more we grow spiritually, the more Christ is formed in us and the fleshly nature is shed away.

We see from today's text that the way to grow up into Christ is by practicing the truth in love. There are so many benefits of growing up into Christ that cannot be attained by a Christian who has refused to grow. If for some reason, a child does not grow up to become an adult; maybe because of a disease or a hormonal disorder, that child would never be able to do the things of an adult. There are many reasons people don't grow up into the fullness of Christ. We shall study some of these reasons subsequently.

Go into today knowing that God's plan for you is for you to be as Christ is (see 1 John 4:17). Let the knowledge of this reality guide your desire for spiritual growth.

Prayer: Thank you father for giving me an opportunity to partake in your divine nature. I pray you help me always walk in the consciousness of who I am becoming, in Jesus name I pray. Amen -
Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Genesis 4-7

January 10

GROWING INTO CHRIST 2

Ephesians 4:14 (NET)

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

One thing that makes Christians remain spiritual children is what I call spiritual malnutrition. In science today, it is a known fact that people are more vulnerable to diseases when they have bad nutrition. Bad spiritual nutrition is a product of bad doctrines and wrong teachings that Christians feed their spirits with. It is worthy of note that the way you feed your spirit is by the word of God that your spirit hears. If the word you hear is wrongly divided or adulterated by worldly traditions, you will not reach the fullness of your potential in God.

The solution to this problem is to first be open minded as a Christian; do not restrict and constrain yourself to one teacher no matter how gifted he is, because one teacher does not have all it takes to make you grow into the fullness of Christ (read Ephesians 4:11-14). Secondly, let the written word be your standard for judging doctrines, and try to be objective in your study of the word.

Go into today knowing that the spiritual bread of God's word is always available if you look in the right places. God is too good to let your spirit be starved of its required food and water.

Prayer: Thank God for giving you the grace to hear His word.

Pray that God will renew your mind so that His word will be fruitful to your spirit.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Joshua 6-10

January 11

GROWING INTO CHRIST 3

Psalms 107:20 (NET)

He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

Jesse had accepted Christ for three years now, but he still couldn't break free from his smoking habit and other dirty habits. He had sometimes stopped for up to three weeks but would smell the 'scent' of cigarettes or marijuana and fall back into smoking. He was now frustrated because he knew he was not where he should be spiritually.

We can see from today's Bible text that the Lord sent His word and healed them and delivered them from THEIR DESTRUCTIONS. The presence of destructive habits is a sign of spiritual disease and they are a product of fleshly excesses. These habits inhibit spiritual fullness and hinder people from being filled with the Spirit and attaining their destinies in God.

God has a remedy for spiritual sickness and disease, the remedy is His word that he sends to you. If you are reading today's meditation and you are under any form of bondage that is hindering you from actualizing your potential in God, there is deliverance for you. Jesus is able to save to the uttermost they that come to Him. Begin by acknowledging your sin; accepting that that thing you do that you enjoy is a sin and it is hindering you from reaching your spiritual potential. Ask the Lord to deliver you. Ask God to cleanse you and give you power not to fall again. Henceforth, depend on His grace to empower you and know that you have been forgiven this moment and made totally clean in God's sight because you have confessed (acknowledged) and forsaken your sins.

Confession: I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. I am pleasing the Lord in all things and I am increasing in the Knowledge of His will. Amen. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 3-5

January 12

AND THE ROOSTER CROWED

Matthew 26:33 (TLB)

Peter declared, "If everyone else deserts you, I won't."

Many who came to Christ after the powerful sermon were kneeling at the altar. Joe was one of them. He took a vow that day "If everyone else deserts you, I won't." But as time passed, the fire went out and the zeal faded. He broke his vow; Joe was now living a life devoid of Christ.

"And immediately the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said ". Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went away, crying bitterly"(Matthew 26:74b, 75 TLB)

God will always send signals; the cock will crow; someone will notice, or a message will warn you. Will you listen? Will you return like peter? God will always welcome you; He will not despise your plea.

Go into today knowing that God is waiting for you. When you return, the fire will burn again, the passion and zeal will return; your past sins will be forgotten, and God will give you a new life.

Prayer: thank you Jesus for loving me, help me to return to you whenever I stray. I love to abide in your love always, help me so to do. Amen. - James Emmanuel

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 3-4

January 13

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

Romans 8:26 (KJV)

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Segun got an email from the multinational company that had given him the job. The email basically said he should wait for about two more weeks before coming to Shanghai for the contract signing; that they wanted to complete an investigation on him. Segun could not understand why a company that was putting pressure on him to quickly come and resume work would begin to sound as if they did not want to engage him anymore.

Segun began to pray in tongues; that was the only thing he could find himself doing. His spirit stirred him to pray this way for up to two hours. He prayed until he started to get answers in his heart. He suddenly had a knowing that this was the handy work of Paschal Shu; that Paschal had written to accuse him of being a fraud and unable to execute the job. Immediately, Segun received wisdom; he knew what to do.

Many times, we face situations we think we understand but do not, and our prayers are not addressing the real issues. The Holy Spirit helps us in such situations. Let's learn to let Him do this by leaning on Him in the place of prayer.

Go into today encouraged to pray in the Spirit more than ever before.

Prayer: · Thank God for the Holy Spirit.

· Ask Him to empower you to pray.

· Begin to Pray in the Spirit as God leads you. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Isaiah 7-11

January 14

ABIDE IN CHRIST

Ephesians 4:2-4 (NLT)

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. 3 Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Segun: Ever since I got this job, bro Emeka has been acting strange because of envy, and I think he is also interested in sis Stacy.

Pst. Felix: the grudge you have against him is what is hindering your sweet fellowship with the Holy Spirit. And you know that you cannot afford that disconnection from grace, not at a precarious time like this...

Everyone who has received the Holy Spirit shares in the same spirit with other Christians who also have the Holy Spirit. This is how God creates unity in the Body of Christ. The solution to disunity in any local congregation is to lead the people to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and teach them to stay filled with the Spirit at all times.

If Christians allow disunity because they don't make allowance for each other's faults, they will be allowing a disconnection from the Holy Spirit. So it is safe to say that one of the ways to stay filled with the Spirit is to avoid disunity among brethren. If you are married to a believer, one of the ways to stay filled with the Spirit is to avoid disunity with your spouse.

Go into today knowing that God expects you to make allowance for other people's faults because you love them; don't do this any less than you would do for your own self. If it is true you have no fault; that thought is a fault.

Prayer: · Thank our heavenly Father for making you a Christian.
· Ask for the grace to continue in genuine love for the brethren and neighbors. Amen. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Matthew 3-4

January 15

FAMILY MATTERS – THE CULTURE

Amos 3:2 (KJV)

“You only have I known from all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”

Family, they say, is the smallest unit of society. The family is an important part of society; it is tasked with the responsibility of providing care, support, nourishment, and nurture for its members. Our text today reveals that of old, God chose to adopt the people of Israel as his family of choice. As such, they became special people separate from all others.

Because of them being God’s family, they enjoyed God’s divine providence in ways no other nation around them did. They were preserved and kept and later on enjoyed the great privilege of having God become flesh through their lineage. However, also because of this connection to God, they were not permitted to live their lives like other nations around them. They were not to imitate or imbibe the customs of their neighbors but were to imbibe and follow the custom of God’s family. Time and time again, they underwent discipline when they went against God’s instructions.

Today, all who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ are now members of God’s family (Eph 2:19). Therefore, you must understand that your culture and custom differs from that of the world, which is why Romans 12 verse 2 (NLT) reads “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect”. As members of God’s family, you must learn to allow the word of God shape your thoughts, desires, and worldview; you must learn to resist the allure and enticement of the world’s way, and tenaciously hold on to the righteous way of God.

If you belong to God’s family, then let your light shine.

—Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Romans 5-6

January 16

GREATER RICHES – THE CONSECRATION

Hebrews 11:26 (KJV)

Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward

The word esteem speaks to your value system. Our text speaks of the choices Moses made and the question you must ask is, what could have motivated Moses to make the choices he made? Think about it, what would you choose between slavery and royalty? Between suffering and great riches? The rational choices here are clear, but Moses chose the exact opposite, why?

The kind of choices Moses made can only be made from a place of deep, total and complete commitment and consecration to a person or a cause. Commitment makes what would have seemed like an irrational choice very rational. Why will a soldier run off to battle knowing full well he could die there? He has consecrated (separated) himself to a cause. Secondly, an understanding and a looking forward to the reward made Moses make the choices he did. As a believer, you can never truly serve God the way he demands unless you are fully committed in consecration to him.

This kind of consecration is seen in all who fulfilled God's will over their lives, because only total consecration can make a man choose to take the difficult, hard and inconvenient steps it takes to serve the Lord fully; to bear the ridicule, shame, contempt and abuse that comes with standing for Christ in a perverse and ungodly world.

Hear Jesus before Pilate: "To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world" (John 18:37c). Hear Paul in threat of bonds and affliction: "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).

What say you? Have you separated yourself to the cause of God? Decide. —Ikechukwu Mpama
YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Genesis 8-11

January 17

GREATER RICHES – CHOICES

Hebrews 11:24-26 (MSG)

“By faith, Moses, when grown, refused the privileges of the Egyptian royal house. He chose a hard life with God’s people rather than an opportunistic soft life with the oppressors. He valued suffering in the Messiah’s camp far greater than Egyptian wealth because he was looking ahead, anticipating the payoff”

A complete consecration to God (and His divine cause) will spur the believer to do some things which a non-consecrated believer will not do. We will observe them in the life of Moses (and even other servants of God).

Moses did three things:

He refused: The bible says when Moses came of age, he refused the privileges of the Egyptian royal house (Heb 11:24 MSG). When you are totally committed to God (and his cause), it will show in the things you refuse. The things you refuse might not necessarily be unlawful, but for the sake of Christ, you are willing to let go of them

He chose: Moses chose a hard life as opposed to a soft life. Choosing between two good things is an easy choice compared to choosing between suffering and enjoyment. The world has pleasures to offer, even sin has its pleasures, but the consecrated believer has turned his back on all that. By choosing God, he has chosen whatever comes with his commitment to God. So be it pleasure, comfort, hardship, shame, or ridicule, it makes no difference to him. He has made his choice, God.

He valued: Moses valued suffering FAR GREATER than Egyptian wealth, why? Christ. He didn’t just value suffering, no, he valued suffering in God’s camp FAR GREATER than the best the world had to offer. This is how to value in consecration; make up your mind to do God’s will, and that whatever comes as a result of obeying God and doing his will is FAR GREATER than whatever pleasure or good that can come from not obeying His will.

Remember that there’s no middle ground, you cannot serve two masters at the same time. Serve the Lord. —Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Joshua 11-15

January 18

GREATER RICHES – THE REWARD

Hebrews 11:26 (AMP)

“He considered the contempt and abuse and shame (borne for) the Christ (the Messiah Who was to come) to be greater wealth than all the treasures of Egypt, for he looked forward and away to the reward (recompence)”

The consecrated believer must have the reward in his consciousness always. Now, understand that your consecration must be to the Lord and for the Lord, but it is good to keep the reward (God’s reward) in our remembrance. That reward is so great that it puts this world’s pleasure in its place. So, when we juxtapose God’s reward and what this world has to offer, the allure of this world’s enticement will lose its power.

The reward comes with a glory that the world cannot boast of nor can it fathom, in fact, we cannot fully grasp the fullness of the glory or the entire details of Christ’s reward, but we know from scriptures that it is glorious. Keeping the reward in mind fills us with joy, even in the midst of suffering for Christ in our consecration to Him. It keeps us from being like pitiable unfortunate keepers of a law, but the rather, it ignites real joy in us. Think of Stephen when being stoned, he saw heaven opened, and the last thing that comes to mind when thinking of Stephen at his death is pity.

Keep the reward in mind. Bible speaking about Jesus said “He, for the joy (of obtaining the prize) that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb 12:2b AMP). Paul speaking in 2nd Cor 4:17, 18 about our reward tells us that we have an eternal weight of glory which is far greater than any present affliction suffered for Christ, and that that is what we look at.

Go into today remembering to boldly stand for Christ, keep your gaze on him, and also keep the reward in mind. It is great, it is eternal, let it fill you with joy (1st Peter 4:13), it is worth it.

—Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 6-8

January 19

GO FOR THE WORD

1 John 4:4 [NLT]

But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

David did not understand why his uncle was such an angry man; his father had the same problem. David's uncle once sent the entire household out of the house at night just because they wouldn't be quiet enough to let him hear the evening news on television. David he might have the same problem because even his grandfather was rumored to have angrily beaten his wife to her death. He had read in the Bible that anger lies in the bosom of fools so he had decided he didn't want to be foolish in life, he wanted a break from this family iniquity.

David decided to pray about this problem because it has begun to really bother him. One evening on television, he heard a preacher saying these words 'You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world'. It was like he had never heard this Bible verse before; he now knew and believed that He was from God and this made Him an overcomer over every family or ancestral limitation- He had received his deliverance.

The surest way to receive lasting deliverance is by the truth of God's word; when a word becomes true and real to you. Jesus says "you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (see John 8:32).

As you go into today, go for the word. Whatever situation you are facing, remember that the answer is in God's word.

Prayer: Thank the Lord for this day and this new week. Ask the Lord to fill you with His presence today and cause His words to become real to you. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 5-6

January 20

LIVING SENSIBLY

Luke 15:17-18 (NIV)

"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

The story here is about a son who took his inheritance to a far country and squandered it. Then the Bible recorded that he 'came back to his senses' and said "I will go back to my father".

A question I'd like you to consider is 'when did he lose his senses?' It wasn't when he squandered his inheritance; it wasn't when he came to a far country; it was the very moment he thought he could live his life outside the guidance and supervision of his father, that was the moment he got it all mixed up. We don't judge right and wrong by outcome; we judge right and wrong by the revealed word of God. So even if this son had gone into a far country and invested his inheritance in a profitable business and grew wealthy, it still would not justify his leaving his father.

The specie of humans called the Christian, (or the believer, or the New Creation), only exists in Christ [2nd Cor 5:17] (also seen in the epistles as 'in Him' [Eph 1:4] or 'in Whom' [Col 1:14]). Outside His saving grace we are damned; outside His Lordship, we are lost. Regardless of the physical outcome, life lived outside the revealed word and will of God is a life lived senselessly. Some decisions taken outside God's will might look rational and sensible to the world, but that is understandable, "The unbeliever does not receive the things of the spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him..." [1 Cor 2:14]. Bible says in Luke 15:17, 18 'when he came to himself, he said ... I will arise and go to my Father' for when we desert our Father's wisdom, we lose ourselves.

Go into today resolved to make bible sense by constantly, continuously and consistently walking in the will of God.

—Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Isaiah 12-17

January 21

LIFE DIRECTION

Jer 10:23 (TLB)

O Lord, I know it is not within the power of man to map his life and plan his course-

Joe was once scheduled to have a meeting with Daniel in Abuja. The meeting was to take place in a hotel and Daniel had sent the address to Joe. Now Joe didn't live in Abuja and the address Daniel sent was not so comprehensive. Joe followed the address to a point but couldn't go any further so he employed the use of the Google Maps app on his phone. Before long, with the aid of the app, he arrived at the hotel in time for the meeting. This was made possible because of GPS (Global Positioning System) technology.

In the matters of life and destiny, no such app exists to give man direction. There exists only the Divine Positioning System. The Bible reveals to us that man is not designed with the ability to map his own life and plan his course. That ability is in the exclusive preserve of God, for man was never designed to live (meaningfully) without God.

That every road leads somewhere doesn't at all imply that every road can lead to our destination. Regardless of the 'I am the captain of my soul' philosophy which reigns in the world, the Bible teaches otherwise. It reveals that our days have been written in God's book even before we were born (See Psalms 139:16), that He ordains our life-purpose even before we were born (See Jeremiah 1:5). God has the big picture of life; our life and that of the whole world, He has the full picture. Past, present, and future are spread out before Him like a curtain.

God alone has the full picture, He only has infinite wisdom. A man can go his own and arrive somewhere, but remember, 'there is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death' (Prov 14:12).

Make up your mind today to trust only in God's wisdom.

—Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Matthew 5-7

January 22

EVERY TEACHER LEARNS

II Timothy 2:2 (NLT)

You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.

There was a man who was a great preacher of God's word. He was well versed in the scriptures, was eloquent and bold and spoke with great fervency. One day, he spoke with such power and accuracy in a meeting. In the audience was a couple who listened to him as he expounded the truth of God's word accurately. However, they noticed that he was lacking in a certain understanding and so, after the meeting was over, they took him aside and explained to him more accurately the way of God. Apollos was the man's name and Priscilla and Aquila the couple's names (Acts 18:18-28).

That Apollos could be taught pre-supposes that he had a teachable spirit. Apollos must have had a reputation for being one of the most anointed men of God, as we would say, yet, he was able to receive from this couple in his audience. Understand that it is pride laced in error that says that you can only be taught by those 'above' you. It is wisdom and healthy to always maintain a teachable spirit. A teachable spirit is a posture of heart that accepts that it doesn't know it all and can be taught something by someone who knows it regardless of the person's standing.

You could be a pastor, a fellowship president, an overseer, or a husband and father. These are offices and not a declaration that you have attained the pinnacle of knowledge especially in relation to those under you. Be ready to learn, be willing to be taught. Obstinance is not a virtue and pride is not of God.

Declaration: I have a teachable spirit. I am open to teaching. I am willing to learn; I am ready to be taught.

—Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Romans 7-8

January 23

DWELLING IN CHRIST 1

John 15:5 (NKJV)

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Three years after Segun had accepted Christ as Lord and Savior, he still was not baptized in the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, this did not bother him because the only difference he believed it made was that it caused people to speak in tongues; something he didn't particularly look forward to. But Segun couldn't be more wrong. He was lacking the fullness of His new life because he was never filled with the Holy Spirit.

Many times, Segun would wonder what people who prayed for up to an hour were saying for so long, he would get bored and even sleep off if he tried to pray for more than ten minutes. Segun never enjoyed fellowship with the Lord because he was not yet filled with His spirit. This was the primary reason why Segun experienced so many demonic attacks.

The reason why many Christians do not enjoy the full benefits of their salvation is because they are not dwelling in Christ. The thing about dwelling Christ is that He will also dwell in you, and He dwells in you through His Holy Spirit; He lives in you that you may live in Him. Anyone who is baptized in the Holy Spirit and stays filled with the Holy Spirit will experience this.

Go into today determining to be filled with the Holy Spirit at all times. If you are a Christian and you are not yet baptized in the Holy Spirit, it is time for you to make this your top priority.

Prayer: thank you Lord because you are my baptizer. Heavenly father, I ask for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit, in Jesus name I pray. Amen

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Genesis 12-15

January 24

DWELLING IN CHRIST 2

John 15:5(NKJV)

"...for without Me you can do nothing"

After Segun suffered some affliction because of demonic attacks, he sought help from place to place. Pastor Felix had taught him the importance of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. Segun was now properly enlightened and could see the need for the Holy Spirit's baptism. He saw that the presence of the Holy Spirit in His life was the solution to His problems.

One Wednesday evening after communion service, Segun received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Pastor Felix had laid hands on Him earlier and he began to speak in tongues uncontrollably for several hours. At that moment, Segun knew he received total deliverance; the word of God became alive in him. He now felt closeness to God that he had never felt in His life. He felt lighter in his spirit.

As some days went by, Segun discovered that his fire appeared to diminish; he was no longer feeling the presence of God like he felt that Wednesday; he was now beginning to feel ordinary again. He went to Pastor Felix and explained to Him. Pastor Felix immediately understood what Segun was talking about and began to teach Him some truths: "you need to learn how to stay filled with the Spirit at all times, it begins with an acknowledgement that your life is empty without the presence of the Holy Spirit; that without Him, you can do nothing" Pastor Felix opened Ephesians 5 and began to explain from verse 18 how to stay filled with the Spirit.

Go into today knowing that God's presence is the air that your spirit breathes. Without Him, you can do nothing. The more you thirst and seek His presence, the more you receive.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, please teach me to stay filled with your presence always, in Jesus name. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Joshua 16-20

January 25

DWELLING IN CHRIST 3

Ephesians 5:18 KJV

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Pastor Felix began to explain to Segun that one of the greatest hindrances to being filled with the Spirit is fleshly indulgences and excesses; "anything that you over-do that is not spiritually edifying can hinder your being filled with the Spirit". He explained that getting drunk with wine was a typical example, other examples included over eating, over sleeping, talking too much, lusts, etc.

Segun told Pastor Felix that he had been watching too many movies recently and the movies were not spiritually edifying.

Pastor Felix also went on to explain to Segun that being filled by the Spirit was something the Holy Spirit always wanted for us, but we are the ones who decide whether or not we will continue to be filled by the Spirit. We decide by the things we avoid and the things we do. That that was why the Bible says 'be filled with the Spirit'; it is something you can consciously control. He went ahead to teach Segun certain things he should do to stay filled with the Holy Spirit.

Go into today determining to cut out fleshly excesses and indulgences from your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you by supplying the grace to do this.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, please help me to be filled with your Spirit at all times. Amen

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 9-11

January 26

STRENGTH COMES FROM GOD'S GRACE

Hebrews 13:8-9(NLT)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. 9 So do not be attracted by strange, new ideas. Your strength comes from God's grace, not from rules about food, which don't help those who follow them.

Remember today that your strength as a child of God comes from God's grace and not from keeping any rules. People limit the work of God in their lives when they neglect the grace of God and think they can be made perfect (sanctified) by laws; bringing yourself under laws only gives Satan(the accuser) an opportunity to afflict you(see Galatians 3:10).

Rules and regulations cannot help a man with an unregenerate heart; all they will do is to produce a hypocrite. Only God's grace has the ability to change our minds and hearts into the image of Christ. This Grace works by faith and total submission to the lordship of Christ administered by the Holy Spirit within us.

Go into today knowing that you are not under laws but under the grace of God that produces genuine righteousness, peace and joy.

Prayer:

Sing a song of praise and worship to the Lord

Thank the Lord for saving you by His grace

Ask Lord to strengthen you in grace and deliver you from deception, evil and all your fears.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 7-8

January 27

DWELLING IN CHRIST 4

Ephesians 5:18-21 (KJV)

...but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Pastor Felix enumerated to Segun some things he could do to stay filled with the spirit. He said Segun was to:

- 1) Always maintain a joyful countenance; singing songs to God
- 2) Always maintain a mood of thankfulness to God at all times.
- 3) Strictly watch the words he said and avoid uttering words that were not seasoned with grace.
- 4) He was to watch the company he kept, and
- 5) He was to maintain a meek character before God and before his brethren.

Pastor Felix went on to explain these points one by one.

Go into this day knowing that the flame of the Holy Ghost's fire in your heart must always be burning. Ask the Lord to teach you how to do this.

Prayer:

- Pick and song to sing; and then thank the Lord for bringing you to this day.
- Ask the Lord to help you control your tongue today; that the words you say will be edifying to the hearers.
- Thank the Lord because he will make this day a successful one.

Amen

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Isaiah 18-22

January 28

DWELLING IN CHRIST 5

Ephesians 4:29-30 (NET)

You must let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but only what is beneficial for the building up of the one in need, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Pastor Felix explained to Segun why anyone who constantly grieves the Holy Spirit cannot be filled with His presence; one very common way people grieve the Holy Spirit is by what they say. "did you notice that Ephesians 4 verse 29 talks about grieving the Holy Spirit just after admonishing us not to let unwholesome talk come out of our mouths? You see, God has given us the privilege of choice and because you are a Christian, you have more power of choice because nothing can have excessive dominion over you, not even sin that currently dominates the entire human race. Choose at all times to speak right and do right, choose to say things that edify and encourage. Do not be negative in your speech". Pastor Felix went on to explain to Segun that when we constantly talk anyhow, or say words that do not edify, we are grieving the Holy Spirit.

As you go into today, determine to please God with the words you say. Let God's praise fill your mouth always.

Prayer:

- Sing a praise song to the Lord.
- Thank the Lord for waking you up this morning.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to always remind you to choose to say the right words. Amen.
- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Matthew 8-10

January 29

DWELLING IN CHRIST 6

Ephesians 4:29-30 (NET)

You must let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but only what is beneficial for the building up of the one in need, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

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- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Romans 9-10

January 30

THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

Luke 1:6-7 (NET)

They were both righteous in the sight of God, following all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. 7. But they did not have a child because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both very old.

A believer's way of handling situations must always reflect the mind of Christ. It is common in our times to think that people experiencing certain difficulties must have attracted it somehow, attributing people's misfortunes to unknown secret sins. "Maybe she aborted a lot that's why she's having difficulty with having babies". Even people experiencing the difficulty sometimes display this attitude. "Who have I offended?" they wonder, "Is God punishing me for a past sin?"

This was what the friends of Job tried to do to Job, they kept insisting that Job accepts that he is being punished for a sin he had committed (Job 22:25). This is a wrong attitude. Our text today clearly shows a couple who were both righteous in the sight of God and blameless, and yet they were without children because the wife was barren. People who often believe that every evil that happens is a result of their sin will also believe that every good that happens is a result of their righteousness. Both attitudes are wrong. There is a better attitude.

We live in a fallen world and also have an adversary, the devil, whose aim is to kill, steal and destroy. Though Zacharias and Elizabeth were barren they didn't remain so; God's power made the difference (Luke 1:36-37). Job was afflicted but didn't stay so; God's mercy turned it around (Job 42:10). So your attitude in affliction should be "...but there is a God in heaven". Be like Jesus, when asked about the blind man in John 9:1-7, "who sinned...?" He affirmed not who sinned but the power of God.

Bible says, "Is any afflicted? Let him pray" (James 5:13). Pray in affliction; affirm God's power in troubles. He will turn it around for good.—Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Genesis 16-19

January 31

SPIRITUAL WARFARE 1

Ephesians 6:11(NET)

Clothe yourselves with the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Segun began to notice he had constant memory loss after reading for exams. He was so worried that he went from place to place seeking deliverance. He could trace this occurrence to "when that old woman touched my head". He did not know that the demons who oppressed him were not causing him memory loss (they didn't have that kind of power over him because he was a child of God), they simply sent constant thoughts to his mind; suggesting that his brain was being downgraded. And he believed those thoughts, to the extent that he now began to have actual memory loss. Segun received his deliverance, but not from the prophets or deliverance ministers (the best they could offer him was two weeks break); he received his deliverance from the word of God; by an understanding of the word of God; that his life was hid in Christ, that he was an overcomer because Christ lived in him.

Go into today knowing that the devil is mostly a schemer. He does not have as much power over Christians as many believe. Notice from today's text that we are to put on the whole armor of God so we may be able to stand against the SCHEMES of the devil, his darts and arrows usually come in form of thoughts and imaginations that are designed to seduce us from God's will; they are words in our minds that tell us lies and empower fears; if we believe these lies, they could become our reality. The spirit realm is so structured that a man receives what he constantly believes.

Prayer Confession: I am walking in the knowledge of God's will. I am growing each day in God's grace. I am walking in constant victory. Amen

-- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Joshua 21-24

February 1

THE BLESSING

Galatians 3:7 (NET)

Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

Many spiritually learned people understand the power of being a child of Abraham. Many people in this world try to establish some kind of relationship or link with Abraham. Why? Because everyone wants the blessing.

The blessing is the divine enablement that makes a man prosper in this cursed earth. The Bible says the blessing of the Lord makes rich and He adds no sorrow (see Proverbs 10:22). The blessing is what makes a man excel above his enemies, it makes a man the head and not the tail, and it makes a nation rule over other nations. When God made man, he blessed mankind and gave us dominion over other living creatures on the earth. That is why even though many of them are physically stronger than us; we ultimately have control over their destinies on the earth. We can tame them and put them in zoos but they cannot tame us. The blessing makes a physically or apparently mentally weaker man rule over people who are stronger than him.

Anyone who believes in Christ and continues to walk by faith in Him is the spiritual descendant of Abraham. He is the real person that has the most legal right to exert all of God's blessings. He can walk in both the spiritual and physical manifestation of the blessing because he is the one God designed the blessing for; the spiritual blessings in heavenly places; where the moth cannot destroy nor can the thief steal.

Go into today knowing that you have received ALL spiritual blessings in heavenly places (see Ephesians 1:3).

Prayer: Thank you Lord for selecting me to be a partaker of your blessing. I pray you help me walk in a manner that causes the blessing to physically manifest in my life. Amen

-- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalm 12-14

February 2

RIGHT FOCUS; GREAT FAITH

Luke 7:4-5 (NET)

And when they came to Jesus, they urged him earnestly, “He is worthy to have you do this for him, because he loves our nation and even built our synagogue.” (Read Luke 7:1-10)

What is your attitude when you come to the Lord with a request? Some come with an entitlement mentality, believing that they deserve every good that can ever come to them as a result of their good works. In our text today, the centurion was seeking healing for his servant. The elders of the Jews came asking Jesus to intervene sighting the good works of this man. However, when the centurion sent words to Jesus through his friends, they had a completely different emphasis, they said,

“Lord, do not trouble yourself, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not presume to come to you. Instead, say the word and my servant must be healed...” (Luke 7:6, 7) He focused not on his goodness but on the power and authority of Jesus.

Good works are good and have their place. Bible says every believer must be careful to maintain good works (Titus 3:8). We are created unto good works (Ephesians 2:10). Our good works give glory to our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16). However, when you come before the Lord, lay your good works aside and stand only on the good work of Jesus Christ. Focus on his goodness, power, and might. Come boldly because of Him, not because of you.

Go into today with a full assurance of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He is able, He is willing, He will do it.

—Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 9-10

February 3

GOD WILL PERFECT IT

Philippians 1:6 (NET)

For I am sure of this very thing, that the one who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

"I don't really know if I will last long as a Christian. Many times I am afraid of what I could become; I fear I might fall away someday and miss heaven. This is my greatest fear in life pastor" Sharon said these words to pastor Ron because she knew in her spirit that something was wrong with the feeling. Even though her fears sounded "holy" and I have seen Christians justify such fears by quoting verses as Hebrews 1:4. They are right if they keep their fear in check and make sure they are not propelled and controlled by such fears but by faith. Fear is usually a sign of faithlessness, and anything that is not of faith is sin (see Romans 14:23).

Today's meditation is for that Christian who has been living under constant fear of missing it or going to hell. I want to remind you of what today's Bible text says; God who has begun a good work in your life is not asleep, He cannot be tricked by the devil, and all power belongs to Him. He wants you to make it more than you want to make it; He loves you more than you can ever know, and He will perfect what He has begun in you until the day Jesus physically appears on this earth.

Go into today having assurance of salvation. This assurance cannot be based on your strength or anything from you. It can only be based on your decision to continue to totally depend on God's grace.

Prayer: Thank you father for saving me. Thank you for choosing me before I was born. I ask that you help me always trust in you as I look forward to reigning with Christ on His day. Thank you Lord. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Isaiah 23-28

February 4

WHY THIS WASTE?

Mark 14:4 (NET)

But some who were present indignantly said to one another. 'Why this waste of expensive ointment?' (Read Mark 14-1-9)

'Waste' as a verb points to something being squandered, something being spent carelessly. In Mark 14:1-9, we see a woman being scolded by people around for spending a year's wage worth of perfume on Jesus in the manner she did. You see, what they were saying was not that having that kind of expensive perfume was wrong, but that there was a better use, than spending it on Jesus, the perfume could have been put to. Jesus began to put them right from verse six saying; "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for me" (WEB).

Do you realize that those voices and influences are still very active today? Telling you that you are putting in more than is necessary into your faith and service to God.

'You are wasting your youth' they will cry. 'Why are you hiding your nice figure under those hideous dresses, let people see and appreciate what you have' they'll say. 'You are taking this Christian thing too far o, are you the first to serve God'

They will present you other alternatives that also look noble, for example, they'll say 'instead of wasting all these talents that God has given you by going into a mission field, why don't you just use this talents and make wealth and then you can support the gospel with money' as though money can answer the call of God.

They will trouble you.

Today, we are to re-echo the words of Jesus, just as Jesus rebuked them saying 'leave her alone' (Mark 14:6), say also to those influences 'leave me alone'. This 'waste' is one which the Lord commends saying "She has done a good work for me". Refuse to settle for less. Give Him your all. 'Waste' it all on Him and let the fragrance of your service fill the room (John 12:3).

-Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Matthew 11-13

February 5

REDEMPTION

1 Peter 1:3(NIV)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God in His infinite mercies has prepared for us a way of salvation from the power of Satan. Even though we are now flesh and were spiritually dead because of our trespasses, God arranged for our salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus. He died that we may not again die for our sins because the wages of sin is death. He was bruised and wounded that we may no longer suffer afflictions on the earth because of our sins. (Read Isaiah 53:5).

Someone asked “How can the death of one single man atone for the sins of the entire human race?” We are all sinners because of the sin of one single man called Adam. He is the father of mankind and because he sinned, we all inherited a sinful nature from Him. If sin could come into the world through one man’s sin, redemption can also come into the world through one man’s righteousness. Jesus Christ came from God and paid the price for our redemption by shedding his blood for our sins. Anyone who believes in Him will no longer have to suffer the consequences of his sins.

What it means to be born again is to be born of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a spiritual birth that happens because of your faith, and you continue to abide in Him because of continued faith in Him.

Go into today knowing that you have received a new life from Christ that always conquers the world and the devil.

Prayer confession: I am walking in the fullness of my new life in Christ Jesus. Amen.

-- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Romans 11-12

February 6

SINGING

Matthew 26:30

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives [ESV]

Singing is one of the things God wants us to always do as Christians. After they had eaten and talked, Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn before leaving for their next destination. When we come together as believers, such singing should not be lacking. Ephesians 5:18-19 makes us understand that being filled with the spirit entails not only singing and making joyful melody in our hearts to the Lord with thanks giving, but excitedly talking to one another in psalms and hymns too. O What Joy!

Singing is an outflow of our spirit. With the inner source of joy resident in our spirit, singing would naturally flow out. This joy is a function of our fellowship with the Holy Spirit. We should never let ourselves get to the point where we are no more excited about the Holy Spirit's presence within us.

Paul said, I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also (1Corinthians 14:15). And David said, 'my heart is ready, God, my heart is ready; I will sing, and make music for you' (Psalms 57:7). Make every circumstance a singing opportunity. Remember Paul and Silas in prison.

Go into today bearing in mind that the Lord has said in Isa 65:14 "Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart". Do not let your heart be ever void of thanksgiving, worship and singing to the Lord. This is a secret of being filled with the Spirit at all times.

Prayer: Lord, fill me afresh with your Spirit, that my joy may awake and cause me to sing always in Jesus Name. Make a joyful noise!

-CE Toviam & - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Genesis 20-23

February 7

THE RESURRECTION

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 (NLT)

So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man.

Jesus rose up from the dead after the third day, but His resurrection was the first of its kind to ever happen to any man. He didn't resurrect with the same old body of flesh that is prone to corruption; He resurrected with the glorified body that can function in heaven and on the earth. Even though Jesus Christ is currently having a body that his disciples could physically see and touch, He ascended into heaven and is now seated on the right hand of the throne of God. His new body has the capacity to operate in both the earth and heaven.

In the beginning, God made man with a body that could naturally interact with the spirit realm (heavenly places); we were not given eyes and ears that couldn't naturally see and hear angels or God Himself (see Genesis 3:10). The body Adam had was superior to the ones we have now. That was what we lost when Adam fell, as God told Him, he died that day (see Genesis 2:17); his body stopped existing in the heavenly realm where God operates. Death is separation from a realm of existence.

Jesus is the first to have the redeemed body. God's will is that all who believe in Him will have this same body at the fullness of time. This body cannot grow tired, get sick or be killed; it operates in intelligence that cannot be fathomed.

Go into today remembering that even though death came through one man (Adam), the resurrection of the dead; the redemption of your body comes through Christ Jesus.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, I thank you for what you've done for me. I ask that you help me never miss out of your plan for me. Amen

-- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Judges 1-6

February 8

NOT BY SIGHT

Genesis 50:24-25 (KJV)

And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you and bring you out of this land into the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, surely God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.

Here was Joseph the Prime minister of Egypt, having the complete trust of Pharaoh, and access to all the privileges and trappings of power, and the people of Israel were living in the ‘best of the land’ in Egypt (Gen 47:11), and in peace and tranquility. Yet hearing Joseph speak in our text above, one is tempted to think they were living in bondage and under oppression. Though that was to come later, but as at the time Joseph spoke these words, there was no physical evidence whatsoever pointing to that. All he had to go on was the word of God to Abraham (Gen 15:13-14), and then to Isaac (Gen 26:3; 28:13) and Jacob (Gen 35:12; 48:21).

The bible has no record of God speaking to Joseph directly on this matter, however, it does record Jacob speaking to Joseph about it (Gen 48:21), and on the strength of that, he, Joseph, spoke, giving instructions concerning his bones. His actions declare his faith. (See how the Holy Spirit described it in the book of Hebrews 11:22).

Doctors have a tool they put in your armpit to check for your body temperature, but to check for your faith we will look at your words and check out your actions. For a true test of faith is in what a man says and what he does. A girl who truly believes God’s word will not wait for a ‘personal revelation’ before she refuses the marital proposition of an unbeliever; she will say NO. She won’t wait till a believing brother comes knocking before she says NO to the unbeliever. She won’t look at his character today and try to base her decision on it. WHY? Because we regulate our lives by faith and not by sight (2 Cor 5:7 AMP). Are you ready to walk the talk? Walk it in total reliance on and in obedience to God’s word; that’s faith. — Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 15-17

February 9

WANTED, FAITH

Luke 8:24-25a (NET)

They came to him saying, "Master, Master, we are about to die!" So he got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they died down and it was calm. Then he said to them, "Where is your faith?"
(Read also Luke 8:22-25)

Moses wondered what to do. They were hedged in by the sea in front and the army of their enemies behind. What's more, he could hear the sound of his people behind him, the sound of about 2 million disgruntled people. Their murmurs rose till it became a din. He spoke to them "Do not be afraid ... the Lord shall fight for you", almost immediately, the Lord spoke as though in response, He said: "Why do you cry to me? Tell the Israelites to move forward. And as for you, lift up your staff and extend your hand toward the sea and divide it, so that the Israelites may go through the middle of the sea on dry ground" (Exodus 14:10-16 paraphrased)

Did you notice the similarity between this account and our text today? It was as though while Moses was saying 'do something Lord', the Lord was saying 'do something son'. That was the same thing with the disciples.

Understand this; you have a responsibility cum a role to play in bringing to bear the intervention of God to a situation. Part of your responsibility is to exercise your faith. Exercise it in prayer; exercise it in speaking. Through the exercise of our faith, we put the power of God to work for us. Don't just lie there crying 'why me Lord', rather fall to your knees and pray 'hear me Lord' and then rise to your feet and say 'hear me wind'.

Go into today with a resolve to exercise your faith often. Start with the little things and then when the storms come, quench it.

—Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 11-12

February 10

THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS

Hebrews 1:14(NIV)

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

After fasting all day and was really tired, a man was driving between two towns in the northern part of Nigeria when he had a flat tire. He was in the middle of the wilderness with no human settlement in sight. Two young men approached him and offered to change his tire; he was so glad and gave them some money when they finished changing his tire. While he was driving away from them, he looked into his rear mirror to observe them as many thoughts flooded his mind about these very nice men in the middle of the wilderness “where did they come from and how come they speak such fluent English?” he thought as he looked in his rear mirror, but couldn’t find them anymore; they had literally disappeared. He also found the money he gave them back in the place where he took it from. This is a true story.

Angels minister to those who will inherit salvation, whether they are born again at the time or not. How much more so when you are now born again. The Bible tells us that the angel of the Lord encamps around them that fear Him (see Psalms 34:7). These angels could also physically manifest themselves if the need arises.

Go into today knowing that you are not alone in this world and you can never ever be forsaken in this life because God who controls angels and the entire universe is on your side.

Prayer: thank you Lord for this day. Thank you for your great love for me. I pray you help me walk always in your will for me. Amen.

-- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Isaiah 29-33

February 11

PERFECTING HOLINESS 1

2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1 (KJV)

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Uche: Why do you think Kemi is more holy than the other sisters in fellowship?

David: Don't you see the way she dresses? She doesn't even use jewelry, and she is more serious looking.

Uche: I don't believe someone is holy because of those reasons. I am Holy because Christ lives in me and I have forsaken all my sins.

Uche was right but David (like many Christians today) had the wrong perception of holiness.

Holiness is not a form or a code of conduct that you take upon yourself, holiness is a nature that you inherit because you are a child of God. It is the real nature of God and we walk in holiness by walking in the spirit. What today's Bible text shows us is that when we perfect holiness, we will now truly be able to walk in God's promise of sonship. We also see from today's Bible text that the way to perfect holiness is to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit. What does filthiness of flesh and spirit mean? What are the things that defile the flesh and the spirit? We shall study these subsequently.

Go into today knowing that when you start truly walking as a son of God on the earth, you are walking in a realm of no limitations and this is God's will for you.

Prayer: Thank you lord for your grace to empower me do your will. I pray you help me know and do your will in my life. Amen.

-- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Matthew 14-16

February 12

PERFECTING HOLINESS 2

2 Corinthians 7:1 (KJV)

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Stella said “I knew I was not to be watching that kind of movie, but I just sat there and watched it to the end. After watching it, I felt so dirty. The next morning; I couldn’t even pray because I felt so guilty and dirty”. Remi reminded Stella that the blood of Jesus cleanses her, and Christ suffered for her sins and shed his blood to atone for her. She also encouraged Stella to always follow the Holy Spirit’s leading and never bring herself into such situation in which a guilty conscience would hinder her from the presence of God; “That is the most dangerous thing that can happen to a child of God. You are vulnerable at that point and the devil likes to take advantage of such moments. This is why Christians cannot afford to play with sin”.

What makes a man walk in the fullness of his new nature as a child of God is when he perfects Holiness. Our Bible text reveals that the way to perfect holiness is to cleanse yourself from all defilement of flesh and spirit.

Many times, defilement of spirit is usually caused by defilement of flesh. What defiles the flesh is anything that enters the mind, through the (fleshly) senses, that defiles it. What defiles the spirit is anything that enters the heart and spirit, through the mind, that defiles it.

Go into today determined to guard your heart with all diligence. Don’t let anything that is unclean enter your mind. Meditate on God’s word as you go into today- this is how to cleanse yourself (see Psalms 119:9, 11)

Prayer: Dear Lord, please help me cleanse my ways by your word. Amen. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Romans 13-14

February 13

PERFECTING HOLINESS 3

2 Corinthians 7:1 (KJV)

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

An evil conscience is a defiled conscience. It is also known as a guilty conscience. It is one of the greatest hindrances to having fellowship with God because a guilty conscience hinders a man from entering God's presence (see Hebrews 10:22). Guilty conscience comes because of sin and it cannot be wished away. The blood of Jesus is our only remedy for an evil conscience.

Fear defiles the spirit. Fear is the opposite of faith and it is a faith killer. Fear works as an opposing force to faith and it hinders an entrance of God into any life.

Another thing that defiles the spirit is pride and stubbornness. God should have a throne in every heart but that throne is occupied by the man who is proud. Pride defiles the spirit and hinders an entrance of God's presence. Hatred and unforgiveness defiles the spirit. The character of God's nature you now have is love; God is love (see 1 John 4:7). When a man walks in hatred and unforgiveness, he is walking in a nature contrary to his new nature. Hatred is not the nature of God but that of the devil.

Go into today knowing that you have been saved and given an entrance into God's great and precious nature. Always let the words of your mouth and the meditations of your heart be acceptable in the Lord's sight. Live your life with a constant consciousness of the Lord's presence within you. This is the way to live a victorious life as God's child.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for saving me. I ask that you help me be cleansed from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, through your word and blood. Amen. -- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Genesis 24-27

February 14

A WEAPON OF WAR

Jeremiah 51:20 (KJV)

Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms.

Do you know you are a powerful weapon made by God himself?

A weapon is made to be used but when it falls into the wrong hand, it is used for wrong purposes.

God made you and He knows how to use you best, but you cannot boast of power.

Isaiah 10:15 (NLT) reads: "But can the ax boast greater power than the person who uses it? Is the saw greater than the person who saws? Can a rod strike unless a hand moves it? Can a wooden cane walk by itself?"

God wants to use everyone but how many will avail themselves. Will you?

Don't be like a lost weapon in the hands of a rebel (devil). The only way to stay out of the devil's hand is to be in God's hands. Many Christians don't want to be used by the devil, but they are not actively working for God.

Go into today knowing that God created you to be a weapon and He wants to use you. He said "with you I will break in pieces nations" - He will use you to conquer nations for righteousness. Will you avail yourself?

Prayer: heavenly father, I surrender to you. Use me as you wish, I pray, in Jesus name. Amen

- James Emmanuel

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Judges 7-11

February 15

FATHERED BY GOD

1 John 5:19(NET)

We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Ugo couldn't understand why Ada acted so wickedly towards her stepchildren. These children were harmless and helpless, yet Ada treated them with such meanness, so much that one day, one of them went to school and refused to come back home with the school bus. He preferred to sleep in school and skip dinner than to go back home to the hatred from his stepmother. Ugo couldn't understand the reason for Ada's behavior because Ugo was now fathered by God; with a regenerated heart while Ada was still of the world.

Anyone who is not born of God is of the world. As long as anyone is of the world, he is under the control of the prince of this world-Satan the evil one, and when a person is under the control of the evil one, he does evil things; when a person is now born of God, he does good things because God is good. Anyone who is under the control of the evil one is also at his mercy.

You are not under Satan's control because you are now fathered by God and God has given you authority over all the powers of Satan (see Luke 10:19).

Go into today with a renewed consciousness that God is your father, and nothing can happen to you by accident. You are not to fear Satan and his agents, they are the ones to fear you. Also remember that being God's child means you are to obey Him.

Prayer: Thank you heavenly father for saving me. I thank you for the grace to come before you as your child. I pray you help me always walk in this knowledge and never forget who I am, in Jesus name. Amen

-- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalm 18-20

February 16

PREPARING FOR THE BLESSING

Psalms 105:19 (NLT)

Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the Lord tested Joseph's character.

Joseph as a young man saw into his future and it was a great one. But this knowledge about his future also brought trials; his own brothers hated him and sold him as a slave; he suffered set-back; was imprisoned, forgotten and abandoned. Through it all Joseph was a faithful brother, servant and even a faithful and righteous prison inmate. Joseph's dream eventually came true because he was always faithful to God.

The period between a dream and its fulfillment is a time to test one's character. Character is needed to sustain God's blessing, hence He teaches character first, before the blessing that comes from Him.

How is your character? Are you failing the character test? Have you turned those used to test you to your enemies?

Pass the test and be ready for a blessing; for I hear the sound of abundance.

1 Peter 5:6: Humble yourself therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time (KJV).

There is a time to be humbled, tried and tested, but there is another time to be exalted.

Go into today trusting the Holy Spirit to help you pass all tests. This is no time to water down your integrity; it is a time to build it up.

Prayer: help me father not to fail when I am tested, in Jesus' name.
Amen

-James Emmanuel

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 13-14

February 17

HEIRS OF GOD

Romans 8:17 (NLT)

And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

We see in our text that if we must share in Christ's glory we must also share in his suffering. The reason why it is suffering is because we are in a body of flesh. This flesh cannot please God, it cannot carry this glory we are to inherit and it indeed tries to drag us away from our father. Taking up your cross; crucifying the flesh is the suffering of Christ.

We must deny ourselves, take us our cross and follow Christ. We must change the way we think. We must let the mind of Christ dominate us- we must choose to walk in the spirit and not in the flesh if we must share in this glory of Christ. If we pass this exam, persecutions and the likes are but a small matter.

Go into today knowing that God has given you the grace to live above the flesh. This grace is manifested when you walk in the spirit. Walking in the spirit is activated when you are filled with the spirit and submitted to His leading.

Prayer: thank you heavenly father for saving me. I pray you help me crucify the flesh by walking daily in the Spirit. Deliver me from doing evil lord, in Jesus name I pray

-- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Isaiah 34-39

February 18

CATEGORIES OF PERSONS IN THE CHURCH

2 Timothy 2:20-21(KJV)

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

Four categories were mentioned here: clay (earth), wood, silver and gold. All four categories may be found in the Church. Let us examine one of them.

THE CLAY

This set of 'Christians' are natural; they have not met God and are not yet converted. They are only interested in things that amount to physical gain even though sinful. Sinning is an everyday routine, when they cheat they consider themselves smart, yet they go to Church. Going to Church is just another routine; they are unstable just like clay (clay easily breaks).

Note that nothing made of clay was found in the Old Testament tabernacle; likewise, persons in this category will have no part in the new tabernacle (the New Jerusalem) unless they repent and are converted.

To be a part of God's kingdom you cannot remain clay. Jesus has this to tell us "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. Mark 1:15 (KJV).

Go into today knowing that nothing unclean will inherit the kingdom of God (see Ephesians 5:5). I therefore say, repent of your sins and God will accept you.

Prayer: Lord God, make me a vessel unto honor; sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. Amen. -James Emmanuel.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Matthew 17-19

February 19

CATEGORIES OF PERSONS IN THE CHURCH 2

2 Timothy 2:20-21(KJV)

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

Let us now examine category silver.

THE SILVER

Silver, although earthen has undergone purification which makes it precious, silver is therefore valued as an asset.

This group of Christians are particularly precious to God; they are His asset. They have gone through processes of purification and have been made pure (see John 13:10). They do not struggle with sin because it is no more part of them. They are exemplary; others learn from them. 1 Timothy 4:12.

Note that articles of silver were found in the inner court of the old tabernacle. This group belong to the inner court; they know God experientially and doing His will is now their utmost desire. Their works and even their lives are sacrifices pleasing to the Lord (see Romans 12:1, Philippians 2:17,2 Timothy 4:6). Heaven is their reality and home. This is God's word for this category "let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9 (KJV)

Go into today knowing that to be a vessel unto honor, you must be washed in the Lamb's blood, filled with the Spirit and determined to live a life characterized by constant submission to the authority of the Holy Spirit; He is the Holy Ghost and fire whose presence purifies us. That is the real function of Holy Ghost fire (see Matthew 3:11, Luke 3:16). It is fire that purifies silver.

Prayers: Father, make me a vessel unto honor; sanctified and meet for the master's use and prepared unto every good work. Amen

-James Emmanuel & - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Romans 15-16

February 20

SPEAKING THE TRUTH

Ephesians 4:25(KJV)

Therefore, having laid aside falsehood, each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor...

Uche: ...but bro victor, you just told that person on the phone a lie. You are in Lagos but you said you were in Kano.

Victor: What is a lie? What is truth? A lie is anything that is not God's word. Truth is God's word. I didn't tell a lie and I didn't do anything wrong. You are too religious.

Victor was right when he defined a lie a being anything that is not God's word because God's word is the absolute truth. But he was absolutely wrong about not being wrong. Falsehood and deceit are fruits of unrighteousness and are not to be found in those who follow Christ.

There are tight situations in life that it appears that the only logical way out is to tell a lie or create a false impression. But remember that Christians operate in a realm that is above the logical; we operate from a realm that controls all things to God's will. We enter this realm by allowing ourselves to be channels that transmit God's kingdom; by representing Christ. One way to do this is by being a person of integrity.

Go into today knowing that speaking the truth does not make you vulnerable, rather, it establishes your strength in the Lord because it is a product of faith. Remember that your most treasured possession is your faith (see 1 Peters 1:7); do not let a lying habit tamper with it. Lying is a symptom of faithlessness.

Confession: I am growing in the knowledge of His will. I am growing in faith; I speak the truth always, in Jesus name.

-- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Genesis 28-31

February 21

THE EXAMPLE CHURCH

Ephesians 6:12 (KJV)

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

After staying in Shanghai for six weeks, Segun was still unable to find a church that he could be committed to. Segun discovered that the spiritual atmosphere there was saturated by demonic activities; the people were open idol worshipers. Segun didn't worry much about this because he was sure that the Lord was the one who planted him in that city, what really worried him was that he was not yet connected to brethren in the city.

He'd learnt that Ephesians 6:12 says "we wrestle not against flesh and blood" not "you wrestle not against flesh and blood", he understood the power of cooperate warfare and how that with other brethren, he could successfully bring down the demonic dark cloud in the city and usher in God's glorious kingdom. One evening while discussing on the phone, Pastor Felix said "if you can't find a church, create a church", and that was exactly what Segun did. He had some young men who practically waited on him because of their extreme admiration of his profound ICT skills, he went ahead to preach to them. Three of them accepted Christ and he began to schedule Bible studies and prayer sessions with them. This helped them grow in the knowledge of the Lord and also helped him too. Together, they began advancing the agenda of God's kingdom in that territory.

Go into today knowing that Christian fellowship is very important for your spiritual growth.

Prayer: Father, please help me to be united with the saints and help us to successfully do your will always. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Judges 12-16

February 22

WAIT

1 Samuel 13:11-12 (NET)

But Samuel said, "What have you done?" Saul replied, "When I saw that the army had started to abandon me and that you didn't come at the appointed time and that the Philistines had assembled at Micmash, I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down on me at Gilgal...' So I felt obligated to offer the burnt offering" (Read 1 Samuel 13:1)

Have you ever had to wait for something? A medical test result? A phone call? An interview outcome? We all have had to wait for something at one time or the other. Waiting tends to come with some sense of apprehension which usually arises from fearing the worst, and the bible says that fear has torment (1 John 4:18).

In our text above, we see how Saul yielded to pressure and transgressed the office of a priest. Samuel delayed and for fear of being deserted by the army and of failure, Saul sinned. This was a flaw in Saul as he exhibited it again in 1 Samuel 15 verse 24 which reads "And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice".

Friends, to successfully wait out times of trial and pressure to compromise, you must first be a person who exalts the [Word of the] Lord above all else. Again, you must fear only the Lord. The fear of the Lord will lead you aright, but the fear of man or the desire to please man will lead you astray. Again, you must be a person who is led by the Holy Spirit by faith and not by sight. The rudder that steers your ship cannot be external, it has to be internal otherwise, you will, like Saul, feel obligated/pressured by circumstances to act/compromise.

Keep your eyes on the Lord, be a person of prayer, wait; don't give up, don't give in.

—Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 21-23

February 23

WISDOM FOR ALL

Proverbs 8:4 (NET)

To you, O people, I call out, and my voice calls to all mankind.

Our text for today says wisdom cries out to all mankind. There is no one that cannot be wise. Wisdom is a choice and not a natural heritage (read the entire chapter).

Anyone who chooses wisdom wants to make the best of his time in fulfilling his purpose in life.

One of the greatest signs that a man is wise is the way he uses his time; does he use his time in doing things that will help him actualize his goal in life, or does he spend his time without a plan? This means he has to have a goal or vision in life, and smaller goal and visions per time.

It is believed that only a handful of people are truly wise, could it be because only a handful of people actually have goals and visions for their lives?

As you go into today, determined to make the most of every time in fulfilling your God given vision. Ask the Lord to show you what he wants you to do in His kingdom.

Prayer: thank the Lord for bringing you to this new week.

Ask that He will supply you with great wisdom as you depend on Him for the fulfillment of the visions of your life.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

-- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 15-16

February 24

ABOUT GIVING

Acts 20:35 (ESV)

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Giving is a spiritual exercise. It is part of the reasonable service we render unto God. It is as spiritual and important as our prayers, fasting, worship and every other spiritual exercise. Just as the Bible tells us to pray, it also tells us to give. (See 1Thessalonians 5:17 and Luke 6:38). Our obedience to give is a sign that we trust God. It should be done out of love and not because we want the blessing of giving. Yes, the Bible assured us that when we give we will receive in good measure, but that should not become what drives us to give. Giving should be driven by love; that is only when we can be assured of receiving God's blessings. (See 1 Corinthians 16:14).

Some persons would say I need to be led before I give but this is how it should be; you need to be led not to give. God has commanded us already through His word to give, why do we need to be led again before we obey? Giving should be our lifestyle.

Who should we mostly give to?

1. To God; spend our money for the advancement of God's kingdom on the earth; give offerings, tithes, etc.
2. To those in need, irrespective of whether we are familiar with them or not, even to those who hate us. (See Proverbs 19:17, 21:13)
3. We give to honor our parents.

Go into today remembering that there is always a blessing when we give. This is God's word and He never breaks His word.

Prayer : My heavenly Father, I thank you for your word today. Give me the grace to become a giver from hence forth, in Jesus name. Amen. -Bishop Karo

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Isaiah 40-44

February 25

YOUR SPIRITUAL ARMOR

Ephesians 6:11,17-18(NET)

*Clothe yourselves with the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil... And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
18 With every prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit...*

Diana was sick and had lost all appetite. She discovered that she started getting weaker and weaker by the hour. Diana now found it difficult to stand or even sit up straight. Her phone battery had run out two days ago and her power plan had run out too. She couldn't even get up to pick her phone in the next room...all her strength was gone. 'Lord, is this how I'm going to die?' she kept thinking, as life was fast leaving her body. Because Diana never missed Bible study in church, when she missed the last one and her phone wasn't going through, Lucy decided to check up on her. This was how the Lord used Lucy to save Diana's life.

In today's text, It is important to note that prayer (every kind of prayer) is mentioned after the elements of 'the whole armor' are mentioned. Prayer is what provides the power with which you put on the whole armor. Just like physically, you need a certain amount of strength to stand up and dress up, in the spirit realm, you need the power of prayer to put on the whole armor of God and to stand.

When the devil wants to attack a Christian, he tries to distract him from the word of God and from prayer; these are his sources of spiritual nutrition, respiration and strength.

Go into today knowing that no devil can stop you as long as you choose not to subscribe to the ignorance the devil capitalizes on. Determine to make the study of God's word and prayer your impulsive habit.

Pray: Heavenly Father, please help me sustain a living prayer altar, in Jesus name. Amen. -- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Matthew 20-22

February 26

ETERNITY

2 Corinthians 4:18 (KJV)

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

I have noticed that the nine months spent in the womb by babies are not counted as part of life. Maybe, because it is just the formative stage or because the days spent in the womb are considered nothing when compared with the many years the person has to spend outside the womb. Yet it is those things that happened at this time considered trivial, that will determine whether the baby will live to be a day old or not.

Life on earth is the trivial, formative stage that determines what happens in the never ending, everlasting eternity. Unlike the baby in the womb who has no choices, we have the power to choose. Everyone is responsible for his choices.

Therefore, these are my conclusions:

1. Christians should live happily on earth despite certain difficulties, looking forward to the joy eternity brings.
2. Man should be able to endure hardship, hatred, trials, persecutions, and the likes for 70 years in order to enjoy unending abundance in eternity.
3. Nothing on earth; whether fun, wealth, power or fame should be a hindrance to the unending joy, wealth, power and greatness that eternal life brings.

Go into today knowing that you will live forever, and that death is not the end, it is only a transition to eternity

Prayer: Father, open my heart to see the glory eternity holds and live my life according to your will. Amen.

-Dr James Emmanuel.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: 1 Corinthians 1-2

February 27

NUMBER YOUR DAYS

Psalms 90:12(KJV)

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

The due date of delivery (although not always accurate) suggests when a pregnant woman should expect her baby. She therefore prepares towards that day bearing in mind that it could be before, on or after the due date.

How old are you? Twenty? The psalmist said that, “seventy years (25,550 days) are given to us! Some even live to eighty (29,200 days).” Psalms 90:10a (NLT)

If you are twenty years old now, 7,300 days are spent already. How many of the spent days did you give to God? Not to border about the past, we will focus on the present and the future but more importantly the present. How is your present relationship with God? How many more days will you still give to sin?. You have today to make things right with God, tomorrow is uncertain and yesterday is forever past.

“indeed the right time is now. Today is the day of salvation” 2 Corinthians 6:2b (NLT).

Do not say to yourself, “I’ll do that wrong thing and later ask for forgiveness.” Remember that, like the due date of delivery is uncertain, seventy years or eighty years are also uncertain.

Go into today knowing that, If tomorrow is not sure, “it ought to be the business of everyday to prepare for our final day” -Matthew Henry.

Prayer: teach me Father to number my days that I may apply my heart unto wisdom and help me not to live carelessly.

-Dr. James Emmanuel

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Genesis 32-35

February 28

HUNTED BY YOUR PAST?

Psalms 32:1-2 (NLT)

Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of site. Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty.

Deborah aborted her first pregnancy when she was 18, three other abortions followed in succession. She gave her life to Jesus Christ when she was 21. She was now 28 but her bitter past still hunted her; she couldn't let go of the old memories, in fact they hunted her dreams. Although Deborah was born again, she lived a depressed life; her heart pounded whenever a preacher or anyone spoke about abortion.

Like Deborah, many Christian are bound by their evil past, their past is their greatest enemy. Read today's text again and you will see that God did not only forgive us, He also cleared the records of our guilt; 2 Corinthians 2:11 reads "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." KJV

It is the devil's deception that makes you unable to forgive yourself even when God has forgiven you.

Now that God did not pronounce you guilty, all you have to do is live in God's freedom. Whenever your past returns to hunt you, say this to yourself "God cleared the record".

Go into today knowing that God has cancelled the records of the charges against you; He has taken it away by nailing it to the cross (see Colossians 2:14). Note also that God's purpose is not limited by your past.

Prayer: thank you Jesus for clearing the records of my evil past, help me to live in the reality of this truth. Amen

-Dr. James Emmanuel

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Judges 17-21

February 29

KEEP A FIRM GRIP

Thessalonians 2:15 (NLT)

With all these things in mind, dear brothers and sisters, stand firm and keep a strong grip on the teaching we passed on to you both in person and by letter.

The realities of this ‘social media’ age is the heightened need for acceptance. People want to be liked and fear being different. The world is becoming more and more intolerant of anyone holding an unpopular view, and anyone who doesn’t agree with the general view is labeled intolerant, phobic and narrow-minded. In light of this, believers are under pressure to shift grounds and compromise the truth in order to conform to the demands of an ever-changing world.

However, the word of God warns, keep a firm grip on the truth. It is a command. Christian values remain the same as has ever been. Jude 1:3 describes our faith as one that has been handed once and for all times to us. Keep a firm grip on the truth, understand that the Christian/godly stance on sexual purity has not been modified, its stance on integrity remains the same, and its stance on love is still as was given...Hold fast to these truths as revealed in God’s word. Because as Hebrews chapter 2 verse 1 succinctly puts it,

“So we must be more careful to follow what we were taught. We must be careful so that we will not be pulled away from the true way” (Easy-to-Read Version).

Prayer: Heavenly Father, please help me build my life according to the culture of your kingdom. Fill me with your Spirit and help me never to cave to the pressures of this world. Amen.

-Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 24-26

March 1

MARRIAGE: IT IS GOD'S IDEA

Genesis 2:18 (GNB):

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for man to live alone. I will make him a suitable companion to help him"

One of the dictionary definitions of abuse is the improper use of a thing. This is why even good things can become harmful when they are misused or abused. We live in a time where there is an increasing attempt to take God out of the picture and grope in the dark trying to use the candle of human intellect to navigate through life; that is a mistake. Marriage is one of the places where this mistake is made.

A picture is being painted of marriage that involves just the emotions and decisions of the two persons involved, and unfortunately, some Christians are buying it. But this is an aberration. You don't go into an institution and decide what the rules and regulations are depending on your whims, rather you subscribe to the laid down regulations of the institution or not enter at all. Marriage is an institution created by God. It was His idea, not man's. He who created it has also decided how it must be done.

We must realize that marriage is not just about [the emotions and decisions of] the two persons going into it (otherwise if you take that to its logical conclusion then even homosexuality becomes an option). It is an institution that whoever must go into must meet with the entry requirements, and when in it, must run it according to the rules. So, it is not just about Chemistry and Biology, it is about God's will. That is the right outlook to marriage.

Malachi 2:15a "And did not he make one? ... And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed..."

God has clear instructions on who a husband is and how he ought to behave, likewise for the wife. Go into today determined to approach (your) marriage with God's will in mind, for God's will is both perfect, good and acceptable. —Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 17-18

March 2

FAITH AND A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

1 Timothy 1:19

To do this you must hold firmly to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck in regard to the faith. [NET]

We see from today's Bible text that those who have a shipwreck of their faith are those who reject these: faith and a good conscience.

In Hebrews 10:22, we see that the blood of Jesus delivers us from an evil conscience; some Bible translations render this (evil conscience) as 'guilty conscience'. The opposite of an evil conscience is a good conscience.

A good conscience is therefore defined as one that is free of all guilt. A man with a good conscience does not have any guilty feeling towards God in His heart.

The way faith works, it may appear that one can have faith at the expense of a good conscience because a man with a weak conscience may see someone who has more faith than him doing things that would violate his conscience(see 1 Corinthians 8:7-13). But the truth is, faith and a good conscience work together. You cannot have solid faith when your conscience is messed up. Your conscience is the voice of your spirit and faith is a result of spiritual realities (even though these realities cannot be physically seen). A man that has faith simply perceives spiritual realities, and this is done by his spirit. You need a sound spirit to have faith in God. An evil or guilty conscience hinders this soundness.

Go into today determined to avoid things that tamper with your conscience. Plea the blood of Jesus against every guilt. Guilt is a great hindrance to fellowship with the Holy Spirit, and could ultimately lead to a shipwreck of faith.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to help you guard your heart with all diligence so you don't keep tampering with your conscience. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Isaiah 45-50

March 3

SELF DISCIPLINE

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us the spirit of fear but of love and self-discipline. [NLT]

Earnest was 15 years when he started smoking marijuana, by the time he was 22, he was already addicted to cocaine. When Earnest became born again, one remarkable thing he experienced was the power of God empowering him to overcome his addictions. He has now been clean (from drug addiction) for over ten years and is now a pastor helping other addicts to the Lord (based on a true story).

When we give our lives to Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit who is our helper and also our teacher. This means we have the role to learn. One of the things the Holy Spirit teaches us is self-discipline. The Holy Spirit does not overcome our temptations for us, but He gives us what we need to win the battle.

Joseph and Samson were both anointed men of God and both were tempted by women, but their lives and destinies went differently because of how much self-discipline they exercised. Same applies to us; we all have the tools we need to succeed, but we must also take responsibly and allow the Holy Spirit to produce in us His nature of discipline.

As you go into today, remember that you also have a responsibly to exercise self-discipline in the face of temptations.

Prayer: Dear lord, please help me to exercise self-discipline in the face of temptations. Amen

-Pst. Esiri Amurun

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Matthew 23-25

March 4

THE ARMOR OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Ephesians 6:14

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness [KJV]

Mr. Agu had prayed about this issue with all his heart, but his boy was still getting worse on the hospital bed. It appeared that his faith was failing as he saw the life leaving his son. He ran out of the hospital and went to a quiet place. He was going to have a talk with his Father in Heaven. The reason he had this confidence was because he knew he was a child of God; his life of righteousness and integrity that his faith had produced was proof. By the time he got back to the hospital, his son had 'miraculously started to recover' the doctor said. Mr. Agu had been making prophetic declaration all the while, but this time, he went to the Father, and had the confidence to do so.

Many times, Satan uses accusations against our consciences to hinder us from approaching God in confidence. Sin is not just disobedience to God; it is a toxic force in the realm of the spirit that causes even our consciences to condemn us. A man can only walk in true righteousness because he has received the righteousness of Christ; Christ now lives in him. But when a man refuses to walk in integrity and righteousness even after receiving the gift of righteousness from Christ, such a man will only be giving the accuser grounds to send accusations to his conscience and this ultimately hinders him in accessing God's presence.

Go into today knowing that Jesus has given us unhindered access to God's presence by his blood. This is where we receive all we need for life and for Godliness.

Prayer: Thank God for his presence that you have access to and ask Him to empower and teach you to walk in true Godliness. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: 1 Corinthians 3-4

March 5

MARRIAGE: THE ALTAR AND YOU

Genesis 2:24 (NET)

That is why a man leaves his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

It was a little cloudy and a gentle breeze was blowing as the choir gave their number. Vincent and Chidinma stood before the pastor reciting their vows, and in a few minutes the pastor said, “I hereby proclaim you man and wife, and you may now kiss the bride”

You see, (almost) everybody loves a wedding ceremony. Some look at it with expectations and others with nostalgia mixed with a tincture of sadness, wondering where all the love bubbles went. Here is what you must know. Marriage requires maturity and this comes with character development. When an intending couple goes to the altar and the pastor makes the attendant declarations of joining, a miracle happens; two singles become a married couple. In the words of the scriptures, two flesh becomes one, and this is a great mystery (Ephesians 5:32). However, their character does not change with that declaration.

A believer seeking to enter this great institution of marriage must be armed with this knowledge that wedding will not change your character, but the rather, marriage will amplify your flaws. A believer’s preparation for marriage must include spiritual growth and maturity. A good checklist will be the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and love as described in 1 Corinthians chapter 13. You won’t automatically get more patience because you got married to the love of your life, actually, you can beat the love of your life to the inch of her life given the right circumstances when patience and self-control is not developed in you.

Noting that spiritual growth comes by the diligent application of yourself to God’s word, let your preparations for marriage transcend rehashing sweet little words and choosing fancy restaurants. Take heed to yourself and be deliberate about your spiritual growth. -
Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Genesis 36-39

March 6

I SOUGHT THE LORD

Psalms 34:4

I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. [KJV]

Daniel dreamt that his brother died in a plane crash. He also had another dream that his brother died in a car crash. His brother was scheduled to fly into the country the next week and this dream was similar to the one he had before his mother died. He was worried, but this time he knew better; he now knew how to seek the Lord. Daniel sought the Lord through prayers and meditation on God's word until his fears were gone. After this, he knew that his brother was going to arrive and return safely. And this was exactly what happened.

You cannot have faith in God over a particular issue and still have dominating fears. And we know that our shield from the devil's fairy darts is the shield of faith (see Ephesians 6:16). If there is a fear that has somehow penetrated your heart, the solution is to seek the Lord. Seeking the Lord also means to spend time in God's presence presenting an issue that bothers you. You do this effectively by praying and sometimes fasting; doing all these in the atmosphere of God's word.

As you go into today, know that faith actually deals with your fears and takes them away. If the fear is still there, it means you have to seek God's face to conquer it (see Psalms 34:4).

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I thank you for your word today. I pray you help me seek you and conquer every fear in my heart. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: The book of Ruth

March 7

JOSEPH'S BONES

Genesis 50:24-25 (NET)

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will surely come to you and lead you up from this land to the land he swore on oath to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath. He said, "God will surely come to you. Then you must carry my bones up from this place."

There is an assurance that God's word must birth in you. Such assurance that makes the reality of what it says so real that everything else in comparison pales. This is God's desire for every believer.

Joseph had attained royalty in Egypt but yet, he never lost sight of the promise of God. He said to his brethren, SURELY God will come, God will lead you out of this land, and God will lead you into the land He promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Anyone can follow when physical evidences abound - The Israelites who perished in the wilderness are proof of that. They ate manna, ate quails, saw the Red sea part, walked on dry land in the middle of the sea, yet, they never truly believed God. Not so Joseph. He basically said to them, "God will do what he said he will do, to show how much I believe that, take my body with you when you leave here"

Make the meditation of God's word of utmost importance. Have a posture of mind that receives God's word as an immutable revelation and not some divine opinion. Build yourself on your most holy faith. Then you will take God's word as truth. A man who sees God's word as truth will order his life according to God's word. The voice of God, as spoken by the word, will be sharp and clear in his heart even in the midst of the deafening din of this world's counsel.

Are you ordering your life according to God's word or are your cowering to this world's counsel? Abide in God and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Prayer: Heavenly Father, Help me order my life according to your truth and be fruitful in all things. Amen.
—Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 27-29

March 8

YOUR SPIRITUAL ARMOR

Ephesians 6:11, 17-18

Clothe yourselves with the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil... And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 With every prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit. (NET)

Diana was sick and had lost all appetite. She discovered that she started getting weaker and weaker by the hour. Diana now found it difficult to stand or even sit up straight. Her phone battery had run out two days ago and her power plan had run out too. She couldn't even get up to pick her phone in the next room...all her strength was gone. 'Lord is this how I'm going to die?' she kept thinking, as life was fast leaving her body. Because Diana never missed Bible study in church, when she missed the last one and her phone wasn't going through, Lucy decided to check up on her. This was how the Lord used Lucy to save Diana's life.

In today's text, it is important to note that prayer (every kind of prayer) is mentioned after the elements of 'the whole armor' are mentioned. Prayer is what provides the power with which you put on the whole armor. Just like physically, you need a certain amount of strength to stand up and dress up, in the spirit realm, you need the power of prayer to put on the whole armor of God and to stand.

When the devil wants to attack a Christian, he tries to distract him from the word of God and from prayer; these are his sources of spiritual nutrition, respiration and strength.

Go into today knowing that no devil can stop you as long as you choose not to subscribe to the ignorance the devil capitalizes on. Determine to make the study of God's word and prayer your impulsive habit.

Pray: Heavenly Father, please help me sustain a living prayer altar, in Jesus name. Amen. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 19-20

March 9

LESSONS FROM SHUNEM: HONOR

Matthew 10:41a (NET)

Whoever receives a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward. (Read also 2 Kings 4:8-17).

Honour is a key virtue in God's kingdom. It comes from discerning the grace of God and placing the right value on it. Jesus spoke often about it and the apostles did too in the epistles. Honour, as the Bible teaches it, is not just about the person, it is about the authority and grace of God on that person. Again, Bible honor is not just respect; it also manifests in acts of service. In Matthew 15 verses 4 to 6, Jesus referencing honor for parents illustrated it with giving. Apostle Paul did the same in 1 Timothy 5:17&18.

The woman in Shunem (2 Kings 4:8-10) provides us a great lesson in honor. Firstly, she insisted and persuaded Elisha to have a meal in her house every time he passed by. Secondly, she made renovations in her house and bought extra furniture so as to accommodate Elisha. She said: Why don't we add on a small room upstairs and furnish it with a bed and desk, chair and lamp, so that when he comes by he can stay with us (vs 10 MSG). Note that she didn't do this because Elisha was a hungry homeless man. Rather read verse 9: "I'm certain," said the woman to her husband, "that this man who stops with us all the time is a holy man of God" (MSG). She did it simply because he was a man of God. Not as charity, not for a blessing, not for her needs or selfish ends but for honor sake.

Honour allows for the power of God to flow effectively in our lives. In Mark 6:1-6, you see Jesus could do no mighty works in his own hometown. They failed to discern him as the Son of God but as the son of the carpenter. Their lack of honor festered and fostered unbelief. In contrast, in the story of the centurion (Matt 8:1-13), he rightly discerned the authority and the grace of Jesus and Jesus commended his great faith and his servant was healed. Go into today determined to make honor your lifestyle. —Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Isaiah 51-55

March 10

HUNTED BY YOUR PAST?

Psalms 32:1-2

Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of site. Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty. NLT

Deborah aborted her first pregnancy when she was 18, three other abortions followed in succession. She gave her life to Jesus Christ when she was 21. She was now 28 but her bitter past still hunted her; she couldn't let go of the old memories, in fact they hunted her dreams. Although Deborah was born again, she lived a depressed life; her heart pounded whenever a preacher or anyone spoke about abortion.

Like Deborah, many Christian are bound by their evil past, their past is their greatest enemy. Read today's text again and you will see that God did not only forgive us, He also cleared the records of our guilt.

2 Corinthians 2:11 reads "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." KJV

It is the devil's deception that makes you unable to forgive yourself even when God has forgiven you.

Now that God did not pronounce you guilty, all you have to do is live in God's freedom. Whenever your past returns to hunt you, say this to yourself "God cleared the record".

Go into today knowing that God has cancelled the records of the charges against you; He has taken it away by nailing it to the cross (see Colossians 2:14). Note also that God's purpose is not limited by your past.

Prayer: thank you Jesus for clearing the records of my evil past, help me to live in the reality of this truth. Amen.

-Dr. James Emmanuel

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Matthew 26-28

March 11

THE WILL OF GOD

Ephesians 5:17 (KJV)

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

The will of God is made known through His Word and our daily walk with the Holy Spirit.

All of existence takes bearing from God's will because the world was formed and continues to exist according to God's word and will (see Hebrews 1:3).

It is therefore wisdom to understand and do the will of God, as you would be propelled by the greatest force in the universe; for all things were fashioned to move in the direction of God's will.

Go into today, seeking to know God's purpose and counsel for your life; relationships, career and eternal destination, and walk in it.

PRAYER:

- Sing a song of thanksgiving to the Lord for His faithfulness all these years. It is because of His mercies that we are not consumed.
- Thank the Lord for bring you to this week.
- Pray that the Lord will establish you in His will and ask for His mercy and grace as you go into this week.
- Amen.

- CE Toviam

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: 1 Corinthians 5-6

March 12

STANDING IN THE EVIL DAY 1

Ephesians 6:13

For this reason, take up the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand your ground on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand. [NET]

Segun's lucrative employment in Shanghai was abruptly terminated. His employers got wind of what they called his 'Little distraction'. The Lord had used Segun to raise a number of disciples in that city. About seventy people had started to attend his Bible Study, miracles and healings were recorded. Two days after Segun's job was wrongfully terminated, he was arrested by the government for 'assembling unauthorized gatherings'. Segun didn't understand why all this was happening at the same time, it was a battle for his faith- it was the evil day... (To be continued).

There are times that God's people may pass through experiences that they cannot understand, it may seem as if God is so far away and their faith is hanging by a thread. Many Christians have fallen out of faith during such times, but we see that the way to survive such seasons and remain standing is to "take up the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand your ground on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand".

Go into today determined to take up God's full armor by Living your life according to His will. Remember that God has Said "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5)

Prayer: Thank the Lord for your faith. Ask that the Holy Spirit will teach you to take up the full armor of God. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Genesis 40-43

March 13

STANDING IN THE EVIL DAY 2

Ephesians 6:13

For this reason, take up the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand your ground on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand. [NET]

While Segun was in prison, he prayed and kept believing that the Lord will help him. It was insinuated that he should give the police officers a bride to release him, but Segun kept his faith in the Lord. He knew that offering a bride simply meant he was forsaking his faith in the Lord.

Segun was released on day 3 and he received an apology from the local police chief. Segun then learnt that the government really wasn't responsible for his arrest; that one powerful religious leader who felt threatened by Segun actually facilitated the arrest. The day Segun was released, he got a call from a western multinational company operating in Shanghai. The owners of this company were Christians and they'd heard about how Segun was treated. They offered him a similar portfolio to the one he had in the company that wrongfully terminated his contract, but with a much better remuneration and less work hours per week. This meant Segun now had more time and resources to serve the Lord in Shanghai.

How to know that you are still standing is by your faith in God; do you still take your decisions from a standpoint of faith in God or from a standpoint of sights and circumstances? (See 2 Corinthians 5:7).

Go into today knowing that God brings light from every darkness in your life (see 2 Corinthians 4:6). As you depend on Him; take up the Whole armor of God by walking in the knowledge of His will.

· Pray that the Lord will help you keep your faith in Him, that you will never act in a way that shows lack of faith in Him

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: 1 Samuel 1-5

March 14

LESSONS FROM SHUNEM: THE VICTOR'S ATTITUDE

Philippians 4:4 (NET)

Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in every situation, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, tell your requests to God. (Read also 2 Kings 4:18-37)

2 Kings 4:18-37 makes for an interesting read. Here was this woman with her only child, which she received by Elisha's prophetic intervention, dead. What will she do? How will she take it? How will she ever be consoled? But here is what she does. She sends to her husband to send her transportation (an ass) and a driver (a young man) so she could go to the man of God. She didn't bring down the roof with weeping and ululation; she had a plan (vs 18-22).

Observe her disposition and her responses in the face of this tragedy. Firstly, she takes the child and lays him on the bed of the prophet and shut the door, reminds me of 1 Peter 5:7 that says to put all our burdens on the Lord for He cares for us. Then when her husband asked her why she was going to see the man of God seeing as there was no special occasion (he had no idea the boy had died), she replied, it is well. Next, she instructed the driver to keep driving and not to slow down or stop until they got to the man of God. It was clear in her heart where she needed to be at such a moment as this (vs 23&24).

Again, when Gehazi the prophet's servant approached her and inquired if all was well, she kept her confession, it is well. This isn't positive speaking, she was going to the place where she was certain solutions will spring from, and when she got there, she grabbed the Prophet's feet, and the Bible records in verse 37 that she received her boy back from the dead. There is a place for weeping and there is a place for praying (never substitute one for the other), but there is absolutely no place for worrying. Whatever tempts you to worry is certainly something you should be praying about. Worry about nothing, pray about everything, and while you are at it, ensure your lips echo your faith. Make prayer your first resort and hold fast to your confession of faith. —Ikechukwu Mpama.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 30-32

March 15

COMMIT YOUR WORKS TO GOD

Proverbs 16:3 (NET)

Commit your works to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

Daniel had to drop out of secondary school to help his mother sell and feed the family. Daniel had always desired to become an engineer. When he was 18, he had a plan: he had saved enough money to buy books and register for an external secondary school certification examination (GCE). He decided to study very hard, attend free tutorial classes (organized by his church) and write the GCE. He prayed and committed his works to the Lord. The Lord led him to friends who helped him understand his academics. He passed his GCE and got a scholarship from his church. He got into a tertiary institution to study civil engineering.

We see from today's Bible text that we should commit our works to the Lord and our plans will be established. This means we need to first have plans. A plan is a logical and realistic way you intend to achieve your goals per time. This involves things you do right now that would move you in the direction of where you desire to be. God gives us visions that are usually bigger than where we currently are. No one gets things done by doing nothing, you need to begin something and have a realistic plan that God can bless.

Go into today determined to take steps that would move you in the direction of where God has shown you. It may be time to apply for that masters, read that book, write that business plan...do something and know that God will bless it.

Prayer: Thank God for giving you visions that are bigger than your current state. Ask God to empower you to accomplish them in the appointed time; that there shall be no more delay, in Jesus name. Amen

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 21-22

March 16

DELIGHT IN GOD'S WORD

Psalms 1:1-3 (KJV)

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

In the Old Testament, the word of God was referred to as the Book of The Law. The written word contains guidelines for life. We see from the first verse of Psalm 1 that the blessed man does not do certain things. But let's focus on what the blessed man does. His delight is in God's word. A man would avoid walking with sinners if he truly delights in God because Friendship with the world is enmity with God. Psalms 37:4 shows us that the Lord would give you the desires of your heart if you delight yourself in Him. You cannot delight yourself in the Lord without delighting in His word.

Joshua 1:8 shows us that a sound knowledge of God's word brings prosperity. Meditating on God's word helps us to further under it because God's word only becomes fruitful to the person who understands it.

As you go into today, determine to spend more time meditating on God's word. Let the word of God always reside in your heart and mouth. And know that it renews your mind so that it would be able to handle God's glory.

Prayer confession: I am walking in wisdom and power. The word of God in my heart and mouth is bringing good my way, in Jesus name. Amen

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Isaiah 56-61

March 17

FEED YOUR SPIRIT

Matthew 4:4 (KJV)

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

A while ago, a friend and I were discussing and wondering why in English language, when you want to know how a person is doing, you do not ask ‘how is you’ but you ask ‘how are you’ even though you are referring to a single person. Could it be because the masters of the language understood that a human being is a plural entity consisting of not only his body? I do not know the answer to this question, but I know that every human being has a body, a soul and a spirit.

Just like your body can feel pain, your soul can also feel pain. By inflicting pain to your body, a person can hurt you to the point of tears; a person can also hurt you to the point of tears by inflicting pain to your soul through words. There are so many other similar examples that prove we are not just flesh and blood, we have souls and spirits.

The way our bodies get nutrition is by eating food. The way our renewed spirits get nutrition is by hearing the word of God. The way we care about feeding our bodies should also be the way we care about feeding our spirits daily with the word of God.

Go into today determined to feed your spirit with God’s word; that you may grow into the fullness of Christ. Just like there are benefits of growing physically, there are so many benefits of growing spiritually.

As you pray today, ask the Lord to help you to crave His word more than your daily bread.

Ask Him to lead you as you face this new week. Amen

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Mark 1-2

March 18

KNOWING GOD

Colossians 2:2-3

My goal is that their hearts, having been knit together in love, may be encouraged, and that they may have all the riches that assurance brings in their understanding of the knowledge of the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. [NET]

Christie watched as her best friend healed the sick and casted out unclean spirits. Tracy received Christ the same day as Christie, but here was Tracy doing things Christie could only imagine. As one of the ministers invited to the convention at Christie's Church, Tracy requested to stay in Christie's house instead of the Hotel. Christie observed that Tracy was very prayerful and always very conscious of the Holy Spirit. "I guess that's why she walks in so much power" Christie thought.

From today's Bible text, we see that there are riches brought through assurance birthed by an understanding of the mystery of God, namely, Christ. These riches can be summarized in one word: Grace. 2 Peter 1:2 reveals to us that grace is multiplied by the knowledge of God, and of the Lord Jesus Christ. This means that the more of God we know, the more of His grace we will experience.

One of the first things leading to knowing God more is a desire to know Him more and letting this desire drive you to seek Him. You know God by studying and seeking to understand His word. You also know Him more by listening to those who know Him better than you.

When you pray, you talk to God and you also listen to the Holy Spirit. The more you talk to God, the more you know Him. Go into today determining to know the Lord more intimately.

As you pray today, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal more of Himself to you. Ask that you may know God more intimately. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: 1 Corinthians 7-8

March 19

THE TRUE FOUNDATION

Galatians 2:21

I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die [NLT]

1 Corinthians 3:11

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is [already] laid, which is Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) [AMP]

Also read Colossians 2:8-11

In the early church, some teachers were teaching that the people needed to be circumcised and follow the laws of Moses because these laws were the foundation for relationship with God. These teachers were trying to lay a foundation for salvation that is false. They were trying to induce righteousness by legalism into the church. The church is built on the foundation of righteousness by faith in Christ Jesus.

Today, that spirit of religious legalism is still very much around, and it has modified its message. It still tries to seduce the church by emphasizing that breaking certain rules is the ultimate reason why people will go to hell (even though they have faith in Christ Jesus). It attempts to take the focus from Christ Jesus (and fellowship with Him) to rules and regulations.

As you go into today, determine to depend on Jesus alone for your salvation. He is the foundation of our faith and we should never let any form of legalism derail us.

Prayer: Pray that the Lord will empower you to discern seducing spirits. Pray that your faith will grow as you depend on Christ alone for your salvation. Amen

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Genesis 44-47

March 20

THE TRUE FOUNDATION 2

Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)

And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. 7 Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

Also See: 1 Corinthians 3:11

What makes the difference between a thankful, happy, victorious Christian and a defeated Christian is growing faith. Your faith will grow or wither because of your foundation, and whether you remain connected to your foundation. Many Christian's faith has withered because they lost their connection to the foundation; they started depending on keeping rules and regulations as the requirement for salvation.

God's will is that your faith will continue to grow, and growth in faith produces growth in grace(see Eph 2:8). Christ is the foundation of our faith; He is the author and finisher of our faith; He is the foundation and the Chief cornerstone. Your faith in God and your relationship with God should be based on the finished work of Christ. And it should continue to be based on the finished work of Christ. Christ is our righteousness and it is because of Him that we receive grace to walk righteously. All things that we need for life and godliness are received in His name.

Go into today with a renewed determination to lead your life depending on Christ. Let His word guide and control your life.

Prayer: Pray that the Lord will help you to always live your life according to His will.

Ask your heavenly father to help you today; that His grace will be multiplied in your life.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: 1 Samuel 6-10

March 21

YOUR SPIRITUAL STABILITY

Ephesians 6:15

And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace.[AMP]

Philip: I fear all the time that I might miss heaven. I read in a book that so many people are going to hell, even Christians and pastors. Heaven is my ultimate goal bro, but I keep having fears of going to hell.

Pst. Eze: As much as I'm impressed by your sincerity and desire to make heaven, I don't think you truly understand the gospel of Jesus Christ, I need to show you certain things. Christians are not to live in constant fear of going to hell. We are to live in fear of our awesome Father (1 Peter 1:17) and we should fear to fall out of faith and lose touch with Him (see Hebrews 4:1-3). We are to be occupied with constant desire to please and glorify God. We do this by bearing fruits; manifesting His nature through our character and our gifts. We are kingdom people and the kingdom of God is our goal, this means we live our lives from a kingdom perspective. Being transformed to the fullness of Christ is our ultimate goal.

There is a preparation and spiritual stability your spirit develops when you truly understand the good news that Jesus gave His life to mediate peace between you and God. This means God is on your side and you are not under judgment but under grace. God wants the best for you more than you want the best for you.

Go into today walking in the consciousness of God's boundless love for you. This consciousness produces a stability that prevents you from stumbling.

Prayer: Pray that the Lord will empower you walk always in Love and fear of Him; that your life will be permeated by a consciousness of His presence. Amen. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 33-35

March 22

WORD DYNAMICS: THOUGHTS

Proverbs 23:7

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...[KJV]

As you think in your heart so are you. No man can be greater than his thoughts. You are a true reflection of your thoughts.

What you think is influenced by what you have either seen or heard; what you read and what you listen to or watch on the screen influences the projection of your thought process. It is entirely up to you. This is why you must be very careful about what kind of things you read, listen to or watch, as they have direct bearing on your in-making process.

Therefore, if you choose to think of Hope, Success, Health, Wealth and every good thing in line with God's Word even though circumstances may be otherwise, know that it is what you think that you will become.

To enjoy and experience the good life that God has created for you, you must change the paradigm of your thoughts to be in line with God's word. Do that today and you will not regret that you did.

Philippians 4:8: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Prayer: Pray for God's Grace to believe and align your thought to that of God

-T.S. Alalibo

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 23-24

March 23

WORD DYNAMIC: WORDS

Genesis 17:5

Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.
[KJV]

There lived a man named Abram who was childless for a large chunk of his life. He encountered God and God promised him a child through His wife who had already reached menopause. Abram took God at His word; he cooperated with God by calling himself Abraham which means 'Father of many nations'. He and his wife were still childless when this happened, and people must have laughed at them. But guess who had the last laugh?

It is not enough to simply choose the God blessed life nor is it enough to think it, you must also practice the discipline of speaking what you believe, not what you see (Luke 6:45, Matthew 12:34). Speaking what you believe is a sign of faith and a strengthener of faith. And faith produces results.

Proverbs 18:21 shows us that our tongues have great power over our lives. Let's choose to speak the right words over life all the time. Christians are not supposed to speak words inspired by fear but words inspired by faith.

Go into today with the determination to speak God's Word unconditionally and continuously. Speak life into every aspect of your life.

Prayer: Pray for God's Grace to believe and proclaim God's word in spite of any experience.

-T.S. Alalibo

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Isaiah 62-66

March 24

WORD DYNAMICS: ACTIONS & PRACTICE

Matthew 7:24

"Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. [NET]

In August 1934, Kenneth E. Hagin who was bedfast and paralyzed because of an incurable blood disease received illumination from Mark 11:24 and began to put it into practice. The paralysis disappeared, the blood disease left him, and his heart became normal and healthy. He lived a long and healthy life until his transition to eternal rest in 2003.

The Word becomes real only when it is expressed through our everyday actions and practices. To practice God's Word, do exactly what the Word of God (that comes to you) says without reservation.

The word of God that comes to you is the heard or written word that is activated in your spirit because of an illumination by the Holy Spirit. This is the word of God that becomes particularly real to your current situation.

Until you do something about God's Word, He is not bound to perform it through you.

Go into today with the zeal to be a doer of God's Word.

Prayer: Pray for Grace to believe and become a Practitioner of God's Word.

-T.S. Alalibo

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Mark 3-4

March 25

CRUCIFY THE FLESH

1 Peter 4:1

Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

Daniel would go without food for several days and was sometimes seen to physically inflict pain on himself. His reason was "anyone who would conquer sin must suffer the flesh". His fasting was not to seek God's face but was penance. Unknown to him, he was only opening his life to elemental spirits. His error was that he did not fully understand that Christ suffered for us so that we would not suffer for our sins; he did not fully understand the message of the gospel.

We crucify (suffer) the flesh by denying self and walking in the Spirit. When your flesh feels like doing something and you chose to walk in the spirit and not do that thing, you are crucifying(suffering) the flesh. The flesh wars against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh. Any man that will walk in the spirit must crucify the flesh.

We should arm ourselves with the mind to always crucify the flesh and walk in the spirit. "walk in the spirit and you won't fulfill the lust of the flesh"- Galatians 5:6. Crucifying the flesh and walking in the spirit is the only way you can truly conquer sin. That is what today's Bible text is telling us.

Go into today determining to walk in the spirit and enjoy the spirit life. Crucify the flesh by refusing to follow its dictates. Following its dictates only leads to death while walking in the spirit leads to life and peace (see Romans 8:6).

Confession: I have the mind of Christ; I am crucifying the flesh and taking up my cross daily, I am walking in the spirit and pleasing God in all regards. Amen

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: 1 Corinthians 9-10

March 26

SPIRITUAL LIMITATION

Galatians 4:8-9

Formerly when you did not know God, you were enslaved to beings that by nature are not gods at all. 9 But now that you have come to know God (or rather to be known by God), how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless basic forces? Do you want to be enslaved to them all over again? [NET]

Terna experienced a great deal of demonic activity and attacks in his life, especially in his sleep. This was partly because of certain ancestral and family powers that sought to control him. After he accepted Christ, the demonic activities slowed down, but they continued. Terna knew that his only hope for freedom was in Jesus, but he was not yet fully free. What was the problem?

There are two major things that can limit a Christian and keep him under demonic control and manipulation. The first is when he still has an un-renewed worldly mind. The second is when he is a legalistic Christian.

In today's Bible text, the Galatian Christians were allowing themselves become enslaved to demonic forces because they started becoming legalistic. Anyone who is legalistic does so at the expense of his faith, and your faith in Christ is what gives you victory over the forces of darkness (see 1 John 5:4).

A legalistic Christian is one who's walk with God is built on rules and regulations and no longer on total faith in Christ Jesus. When you begin to believe that aside from believing in Jesus, there are other things (such as dressing in certain ways, circumcision, etc.) you need to do in order to make it to heaven, you have become legalistic.

As you pray today, ask the Lord to empower you walk beyond every manipulation calculated to put you under the law and not under grace. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Genesis 48-50

March 27

LESSONS FROM SHUNEM: PERSEVERE IN PRAYERS

Luke 18:1 ((NET))

Then Jesus told them a parable to show them they should always pray and not lose heart. (Read 2 Kings 4:27-37)

Have you ever prayed about something, prayed really earnestly and yet it didn't seem to bulge? Well if you have, you are in good company with prophets and patriarchs of old. However, today's lesson teaches us how they eventually got the victory. Unanswered prayers seem to be the perfect recipe for discouragement. However, we don't have to give in to discouragement or lose heart, there is a better way.

In the story of the Shunamite woman in 2 Kings 4, there came a time when the woman lost her child and came to the man of God in petition and supplication. Elisha, a man with the double portion of the spirit of Elijah, made to meet her request, which was to raise her son from the dead. First, he commanded Gehazi, his assistant, to take his staff and to lay it on the child's face. Gehazi did as Elisha instructed him and guess what? Nothing happened. Bible puts it this way, "The youngster has shown no sign of awakening" (vs 31c ISV). There was no sign. This sounded like a good point to give up and say; at least I tried, but not Elisha.

Next, Elisha came to the house. The boy was lying on Elisha's bed and room. Elisha shut the door and prayed unto the Lord, then he went and stretched himself upon the child, and then the child's body grew warm, but he was still not up. Next, after walking to and fro the house, Elisha came back to the boy and once again stretched himself upon the boy and this time the boy sneezed seven times and came back to life.

Nothing but discouragement happens when you give up, but true victory belongs to those who persevere in prayers, like Daniel (Daniel 10:1-15), like Elijah (1 Kings 18:42-43), Like Zacharias (Luke 1:1-13), like you. Don't give up and don't give in. Pray until answers come. Let us pray. —Ikechukwu Mpama.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: 1 Samuel 11-15

March 28

SPIRITUAL TERRORISM: GUARD YOUR HEART

Proverbs 4:23 (BBE)

And keep watch over your heart with all care, so you will have life.

The media is a powerful tool. Today, our eyes, ears, and minds are being inundated with all manner of reports (news, gossips, etcetera) that can cripple the faith of the unsuspecting. Marriage is one of its casualties. Every single marriage gone wrong is plastered across our TV screens, mobile phones and newspapers. Every single minister of the gospel whose marriage experiences some turbulence will receive such media attention that one can begin to subconsciously accept that to be the truth about marriages. It so concentrates on the wrong example and displays deliberate amnesia for all the ones going right. That's an act of terror; using a few 'celebrated' failures in some to inspire terror, fear, and despair in the hearts of many.

It conveniently forgets to mention that for every single marriage broken down in a celebrated man of God, there exist a dozen marriages going according to God's pattern. But the statistic is not even a determining factor here. I mean, what if for example the statistics actually tilts against the marriages that still stand firm, would that make any difference? Empathically No! Even if there exists just one, working in conformity with God's standard, we look on to Jesus for light and draw encouragement from that single righteous example. That's the way to go.

Needless to say, marriage is not the only one under attack by this spiritual terrorism, ministers of the gospel, giving, sexual purity, etc. However, whatever case it is, Isaiah 8:12 offers valuable counsel: Do not say, 'conspiracy' every time these people say the word. Don't be afraid of what scares them; don't be terrified (NET). The next verse says to rather fear the Lord. Don't be afraid (or even ashamed) to live God's way, to approach marriage God's way, to give, to stay pure. Watch what you hear, watch the company you keep, fill yourself with God's word, and watch his word shape your reality. —Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 36-38

March 29

STEWARDS OF GRACE

1 Peter 4: 10 (KJV)

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Dozie never knew he had the healing anointing until he went with his friend to a village mission crusade. He saw a sick girl and simply prayed for her. He was surprised when he was told that the girl had been healed from a sickness that plagued her for more than six years. From that moment, many of the villagers brought their sick and Dozie ministered healing to them. Dozie would probably have never known that he had the healing anointing if he didn't reluctantly follow his friend to that village outreach.

The Lord told His disciples to go and preach the gospel. As they obeyed, signs followed them. Many times, the reason why many of us do not see these signs in our lives is because we are not preaching the gospel; we are not reaching out to the lost in our neighborhoods or in remote places. When last did you offer to first pray for that sick colleague (and prayed knowing that God would answer) before asking if he has seen the doctor or taken his meds? When last did you hold someone's hand to pray for him about that situation, and planned to preach Christ to him when the problem is solved because of your prayer?

As we go into today, let's remember that we are the light of the world. You are the one through whom God will minister healing, God will solve that difficult problem through you, and you will preach Christ through that opening.

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to always remind and help you minister the grace of God to others. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 25-26

March 30

THE MAN TO WHOM GOD LOOKS

Isaiah 66:2 (NHEB)

For all these things has my hand made, and so all these things came to be, says the Lord, but to this man will I look, to him who is humble and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at my word.

There are so many counsels and counselors present in the world today. There is an ‘expert’ for every conceivable area/matter of life. Therefore, it is not strange to see people begin to compare the opinions of ‘experts’ on a matter. They call it seeking a second opinion. Yet again, there is also this growing philosophy of living life on your own terms. That means you get to choose what you want and what you do not want. You get to decide which counsel to follow or not to follow depending on how it makes you feel

With God however, the man to whom God looks is the man who never takes God’s word as just another ‘expert’ opinion to be weighed in with other opinions. The man to whom God looks is a man who is submitted and resigned himself to treating God’s word as sacred and obeys God’s word with dispatch.

Our text today suggests that this is only possible with humility and contrition of heart. A proud man will find it hard to tremble at God’s word. He will take his jolly good time before (that is if he ever does) he decides to heed God’s word. A man who trembles at God’s word has already settled it in his heart that God’s word takes first place in his heart and will be the building blocks that shape his life and destiny. The proud man will learn on his own learning, knowledge, and understanding. Trusting in his own expertise and judgment.

Go into today meditating on these: do you tremble at God’s word? Is God’s word capable of leading you to alter your pre-determined and pre-disposed lifestyle?

Prayer: Lord, please help me live a life ruled by your word. Help me lead a fruitful life. Amen. —Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Jeremiah 1-6

March 31

ADD THESE TO YOU

2 Peter 1:8 (NET)

For if these things are really yours and are continually increasing, they will keep you from becoming ineffective and unproductive in your pursuit of knowing our Lord Jesus Christ more intimately

Judith received the Lord's salvation in an inter-denominational youth camp meeting. That day, the preacher preached on escaping the wrath to come, explaining that the only way of escape was Jesus, she responded to the altar call after the sermon and got born again. She was full of the joy of the Holy Spirit and was eager to share her faith with all that cared to listen, one of them was Cathy.

Three years later Cathy ran into Judith in the compulsory National Youth Service Corps orientation camp in Lagos Nigeria. She was so excited the first day she caught a glimpse of Judith and determined that she was going to meet her. However, when they finally got to meet, Cathy's enthusiasm was greatly doused as the meeting didn't turn out to be what she expected. She had expected to meet a Judith that was full of the joy and fire of the Holy Spirit, but instead, she met a Judith that was a barely-get-along-by Christian. It bothered her for long and she took it up in prayers. After praying sufficiently, she approached Judith again, this time she pointed out to Judith how Judith was influential in her getting saved and on fire for Jesus. She enquired to know what happened that put out all the light that she once exuded.

After a long discussion, she discovered that much of the discouragement Judith was having was as a result of the failures and lack of victories Judith had experience both in the areas of her health, sexual purity, relationships, and even finances. And these were largely a result of her not taking to heart the instructions of the scriptures and building her faith thereby. She pointed Judith to 2 Peter 1:4-10 encouraging her that giving all diligence, she must add to her faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. Go into today determined to give all diligence in adding these things to you. —Ikechukwu Mpama.
YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Mark 5-6

April 1

SEE JESUS

Hebrews 2:8-9 (BBE)

You put all things under his feet. For in making man ruler over all things, God did not put anything outside his authority; though we do not see everything under him now. But we see him who was made a little lower than the angels, even Jesus, crowned with glory and honour, because he let himself be put to death so that by the grace of God he might undergo death for all men.

We get a glimpse of God's grand plan for man in Genesis where after making man, God gave him dominion over all things. Understand this, the supposed king of the jungle is the one endowed with one of the most imposing physical structures. In the sea, the greater in structure also rules over the lesser. But over all these, man was put in charge. He had neither the imposing physique nor the menacing features one would expect, but he was made in God's image and likeness and given dominion.

So great was the throne God had prepared for man and so inexplicable was it that it was echoed in the prophetic words of David in Psalms 8 from verses 3 through 9. The Psalmist in amazement expressed his bewilderment with the words, "What is man that thou art mindful of him?". However, in verse 6 he says, "Thou hast made him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet". The Psalmist was speaking prophetically having a glimpse into the divine design for man.

It is no news that man lost his place to the devil and hence the plans of God for man was distorted. This is why we do not see all things under his feet as Hebrews 2 verse 8 also pointed out. However, God, through Jesus, brought man back into His divine plan. Jesus became flesh and reconciled man to God, bringing back man to the place where God originally designed for him. Now no man can attain the place of dominion and glory by and of himself, only in Christ can this be done. Everyone who believes in Him will share in that glory as the scriptures have said, "Christ in me the hope of glory" (Col 1:27). Look to Jesus. — Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Corinthians 11-12

April 2

BEING BORN AGAIN

1 Peter 1:23 (KJV)

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

The term 'Born Again' has come to mean different things to different people. To some it refers to Christians who are very serious with their faith, to others it refers to those who speak in tongues and flow in the things of the spirit. However, the scriptures should clear up any confusion that arises. A man is said to be born again when he hears and believes the gospel. The moment he believes and confesses Jesus as his Lord and Saviour, something happens. John 1:12&13 tells us that that person receives the right to become a child of God. This right is obtained through birth. It goes further to explain that this birth is not a natural kind of birth but is divine. A new life begins, a life submitted to God.

As a result of this miraculous birth, God becomes the Father and Master of the one born again. So, if you have believed in the Lord Jesus for salvation, believing in your heart and confessing Him with your mouth, you have been born again. Now you must live like your Father. You see, in John 8 vs 44, Jesus speaking to the Pharisees said, "You people are from your father the devil, and you want to do what your father desires..." (NET). Likewise, those whose father God is would also want to do what the Father desires. Which is why there is no dichotomy in Christ, there is part that is born-again while the other is not.

The difference between the 'serious' Christians and others is called Spiritual Growth. Therefore, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that you might grow thereby (1 Peter 2:2). So seek to grow, study the word, pray and fellowship with fellow believers. Go into today meditating on this admonition from the Book of Titus 3:8, "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men". — Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Exodus 1-4

April 3

HE IS NEVER LATE

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NLT)

Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

Three brothers once lived in a village, they lived every day in complete faithfulness to God and the whole community eventually became aware of their godly lifestyle. They had preached and boasted that God will always save his own when they're in trouble. They soon got into trouble with the king for refusing to worship the gods of the land. They were harassed, humiliated, and eventually bound and thrown into fire as punishment. It was at the peak of their suffering that God showed up, he stopped the fire from consuming them, and because the whole community was gathered to witness their punishment, they all saw God's power in display and believed Him. This was the case with the three Hebrew boys in Babylon (Daniel 3)

Do not say "where is God" when you are passing through difficult times, instead know that there is 'God's time' when all things will be beautiful.

When God's time comes, the crowd will witness the glow of your beauty.

Go into today knowing that God is never late, He will come to your rescue making all things beautiful but at His own time. Learn to wait on Him and trust in Him.

Prayer: Father, I believe you are with me even right now, I believe you will come and make my present situation beautiful, in Jesus name I pray. Amen.

-Dr James Emmanuel.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Samuel 16-20

April 4

HEARTFELT PRAYERS

James 5:16

...The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]. [AMP]

Danladi was watching the news. It was no longer news to him to hear that there has been yet another bombing in Bagdad or Pakistan. Each time he heard such news, he made it a point to pray for those places he heard about in the news. The day there was a bombing in Abuja, Nigeria, Danladi was eating pounded yam and Egusi soup when he heard the news. He lost his appetite immediately when he heard that the bombing was in an area close to where his sister and her family lived. He immediately started praying for them, and prayed for Nigeria in general. The difference between the prayer Danladi prayed now and the ones he usually prayed for Bagdad was that his prayer this time was heartfelt; he could not continue his meal but left it and started praying immediately.

We see from today's Bible text that the earnest, heartfelt, prayers of a righteous man will make much power available. There is something about heartfelt prayer that brings more results. You see, God is Spirit and He picks our prayers from our spirits. When something is heartfelt, it means it has touched your spirit and it will affect even the mode of your mind and body.

Go into today determining to pray heartfelt prayers. Let the issue touch your heart, then pray about it.

Pray for the salvation of your loved ones; no one you are connected to should perish eternally. Pray today for the global Church, that the Lord will restore her power and glory.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 39-41

April 5

THE KINGDOM

Colossians 3:4 [KJV]

When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

A great king was travelling to expand his kingdom. He called his servants and gave them some assignments and resources to keep them busy and to teach them administration before he comes from His journey. The king was expanding his kingdom and he wanted his faithful servants to be His governors and princes over territories. But Some of His servants used the resources they were given for personal purposes, others were just unfaithful in their use of the resources, only a few of them were faithful. When the king returned, the faithful servants were the few who were chosen as the King's Governors and princes. The unfaithful servants were not chosen to be part of the king's kingdom. Read Luke 19:11-27 for a similar story.

On that day when Christ shall appear on this earth, the city you currently dwell in will most likely still be called the same name, and Christ shall come and take over the governments of this world, and we shall rule and reign with Him(See Revelation 11:15). We shall have indestructible bodies and most superior intelligence and glory; the people of this world will not be able to overthrow our take-over.

It is important for us as Christians to always have this truth in our minds, that our Kingdom and citizenship is not of this world, but is of heaven and the Kingdom of heaven is physically going to come to dominate the earth after the church has been raptured.

Go into today remembering that you are going to be rewarded on that day according to your work.

Prayer: ask the Lord to help you more than ever to be Kingdom minded. Ask that your life will begin to express the power of our Kingdom more than ever before. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 27-28

April 6

DO NOT LAG IN ZEAL

Romans 12:11-12 [NET]

*Do not lag in zeal, be enthusiastic in spirit, serve the Lord. 12
Rejoice in hope, endure in suffering, persist in prayer.*

Tolani had a problem and she was quick to notice it. It was now clear to her that the zeal with which she started with the Lord was fading. She was no more as excited in the things of God as she used to be and this was now making her loose spiritual power.

I have come to realize that it is a natural thing for human beings to lag in zeal as time goes on. We naturally lose our first love and the fire that once burnt in our bones. I think one of the reasons for this is because God made us for Himself and with God there is always a new revelation and dimension. God perfectly understands this nature and He has given us a potent remedy. You will never lose your zeal as long as you stay filled with the Holy Spirit. You will never lose your first love and Joy as long as you practice His presence because He always reveals a new dimension to those who walk with Him.

If you observe that there was a time you were more zealous than you are right now, make sure you take time to pray and confess that weakness to God. Ask the God to fill you again with His Spirit and determine to cultivate friendship and fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

Go into today determined to encourage yourself and renew your zeal in serving the Lord. Remember that the Lord will never leave you nor forsake you.

Prayer: Thank you father for the newness of your mercies every morning; thank you for taking me from glory to glory as I know more of you. Please help me never to lose my first love, in Jesus name. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Jeremiah 7-11

April 7

ON PRAYER

Colossians 4:2 (AMP)

Be earnest and unwearied and steadfast in your prayer [life], being [both] alert and intent in [your praying] with thanksgiving.

Christians are not to be led by laws but by the Holy Spirit. We are however to be guided by precepts which are elements of the doctrine of Christ that has been handed over to us by the apostles. They are guidelines that simply make it easier for us to fulfill our destinies in God.

One good example is the one before us in today's Bible text. We are encouraged and instructed to be earnest, unwearied and steadfast in prayer; being both alert and intent in our praying. Being earnest in prayer means praying heartfelt; fervent prayers. Many Christians pray but their prayers are far from fervent; they pray as if it's a chore and not a real connection with God. Many pray and are not really intent in their prayer; they pray about something and act as if they have not prayed about it. Many are also not steadfast, they only pray when they feel like, or are in need, or are in a group where prayer is required. It is recommended that you develop a daily prayer habit and pray for a certain moments of every day. For example, you can choose to pray for one hour from 11pm to 12am every day. Also know that your prayers are powerful; therefore let them be enveloped in thanksgiving because this power (of prayer) does not come from you but from the Lord.

Go into today determining to develop a workable prayer schedule. Make sure to have a vibrant and active prayer life and let your prayers be fervent.

Pray that the Lord will release upon you afresh the spirit of grace and supplication. Pray that the Holy Spirit will teach you more to pray.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Mark 7-8

April 8

SELF-CONTROL

Proverbs 25:28 (KJV)

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

Chika and Ugo had a slight misunderstanding and Chika began to say so many things in anger. There were other people present and yet Chika angrily revealed certain things that Ugo had told her in confidence. Ugo was deeply shocked that her best friend could so publicly humiliate her because of a little misunderstanding. When Chika recovered from her anger, she regretted every word she had said, but unfortunately, an irreparable damage had already been inflicted on an awesome friendship.

Self-control and self-restraint do not begin when we are faced with pressing situations; they are perfected when we are not. One of the reasons you see children who never grow out of their temper problems is because as children, they were never trained to sometimes take 'no' for an answer. They always got what they wanted as children and grew up never able to say 'no' to themselves or handle 'no' from life. Therefore as adults, when things don't go their way, they lose control.

The grace of God that we have received does not only empower us to live Godly lives, it teaches us how to go about it. It teaches and trains us to reject worldly desires and live self-controlled lives (see Titus 2:11-12). One thing we all need training for is self-control, and thankfully, the Holy Spirit provides this training. The problem is that many are not listening to be trained.

Go into today depending on the Holy Spirit to teach and train you. He will show you practical ways to say 'no' to all overpowering desires of the flesh. Only open your ears and listen for His teaching and training.

Ask the Lord to help you depend on the training of His Spirit.

-Pst. Abraham Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Corinthians 13-14

April 9

GOD'S LOVE

Philippians 1:6 (NET)

For I am sure of this very thing, that the one who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

I want to ask you a question today. Who began this good work of grace in you? How much of salvation and righteousness did you understand when Christ died for you?

If while you were yet to be conceived, God thought of you and planned your salvation, know that He didn't plan to save you and let you perish again. God went all the way to save us because He loves us. Good news! God has not stopped loving us (see Romans 8:38).

Many Christians fall because they stop trusting in God's love and grace to save them to the end; they stop trusting the way they trusted in God's love when they first believed, they abandon their first love. Know that our love for God is produced because of a consciousness of God's love for us (see 1 John 4:19).

I am writing this to those who are already in God's love but are being deceived to think that they will not make it. Do not let your heart be troubled. If you believe in God, believe also in Christ; believe that He is your Shepherd and no good Shepherd would let his sheep go astray. They that are born of God do not seek excuses to continue in sin because there would be a fundamental change in their spirit man that makes sin repulsive to it.

Go into today knowing that God still loves you and He will never stop loving you.

Ask the Lord to empower you walk in His love so that you will please Him in all respects. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Exodus 5-8

April 10

AMBASSADORS OF HEAVEN

Philippians 1:27 (NLT)

Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ...

Honorable Zack was an ambassador and this meant that he was to represent his country. He was reported to have been behaving in a manner that was not worthy of an ambassador. There were allegations that he had a gambling problem and was now had run into debts with the locals. His country had to call him back home.

One truth every Christian must come to terms with is that he is not of this world, but he is a citizen of heaven. We are ambassadors of God's kingdom, and we are to represent our kingdom here on earth. And one day we will be called back home to give account for how we have represented our King here on this earth.

Go into today knowing that you are here to represent the interest of God's Kingdom here on earth.

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to help you always remember that you are an ambassador of God's kingdom. Ask for grace to conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the good news of Christ.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Samuel 21-25

April 11

ONLY BY GRACE

Romans 8:3 (NASB)

For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh

The law was weak because the law operated in the domain of the flesh; we keep laws by a decision of the mind, and our minds are too weak to overcome temptations. Whenever a Christian depends on His will power and mind to serve God, he has embarked on a fruitless journey. The only way we can truly walk righteously and please God is by depending on, and walking in the Spirit.

How then do we walk in the Spirit?

Walking in the spirit can only begin when we've lost confidence in the flesh; when we've come to a truthful realization that our will power cannot help us. We then depend on the Help of the Holy Spirit who empowers us to do the things we could not do by our power.

When the Holy Spirit helps, you will simply discover that you now have the power to do that thing you couldn't do before, and if you are not careful, it is easy to fall for the trap of attributing this to your will power and strength all over again. This is one of biggest traps from the devil, because he knows that we receive grace to conquer Him by faith. When we begin to attribute our good works to anything apart from grace, we are applying to be relieved of God's grace that has been helping us.

Go into today knowing to never attribute or credit your good works to anything but the grace of God. If just for 24 hours, the Holy Spirit withdraws the power He is supplying you to be righteous, you will be shocked at the depths of iniquity you will fall into.

Prayer: Thank the Lord today for His grace. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 42-44

April 12

GOD'S PROMISES: THE PORTAL

2 Peter 1:4 (KJV)

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

Yetunde's sickness was no longer responding to treatment. She had started planning for her death and she even called her lawyer to finalize arrangements on her will. One day she was going through audio files on her phone when she heard the sound clip from an audio Bible file that said "the chastisement for your peace was upon him, and by his stripes you are healed". She had heard this verse so many times already, but this time was different. The words came alive and communicated power: they seemed tangible. She now knew that Jesus had paid for her healing, and she kept audibly repeating that Bible verse to herself so many times that she lost count. It didn't seem like much, but she noticed that she could now sleep without pills, and then she noticed that the terrible migraines began to subside. In two weeks' time, Yetunde was completely healed. "This is nothing short of a miracle!" her doctor said as he read through her most recent comprehensive laboratory results.

Yetunde partook in the divine nature that brings divine healing because she accessed it through the portal of a promise of God's word.

Everything you need to fulfill your purpose in life is available through God's promises. Today's Bible text shows us that we can partake in the divine nature through these promises. As you go into the day, determine to access the divine life through the promises of God.

As you Pray today, say out loud the promises of God that you can remember. Amen.

Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Jobs 29-30

April 13

GOD'S PROMISES: THE FIGHT OF FAITH

1 Timothy 6:12 (KJV)

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Before Yetunde was totally healed, four days had passed and she kept confessing God's word as her health improved. Monika her cousin came to visit her but Monika did not believe in miracles, so as Yetunde gladly told her that she had miraculously started to recover, Monika asked Yetunde if she just felt that way or there were tests to validate her proof. "I just don't want you to get disappointed eventually. That was what Kemi did when she was diagnosed with cancer. The doctors would have easily treated her then, but instead she kept saying that she was now miraculously getting healed. Two years later, the cancer had spread and the doctors could no longer do anything to save her life. So please, keep taking your medicine and manage this disease, it doesn't have a cure". After listening to Monika, Yetunde's faith diminished. She later noticed that the migraines that left three days ago came back. Yetunde eventually found her way back to God's word and her faith was restored, and her healing process continued. Ten days later, she was totally healed. Her test results confirmed this.

Many people truncate their miracles because they allow faithlessness creep into their hearts. I believe the reason Jesus sent away certain observers when he wanted to perform certain miracles was because he did not want their faithlessness to get in the way.

As you go into today, determine to fight the good fight of faith by avoiding conversations, people, or materials that quench faith.

Pray that the Lord will help you fight the good fight of faith. Ask that your faith will always increase and never diminish.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Jeremiah 12-16

April 14

THE MID-NIGHT CRIER

Matthew 25:6 (KJV)

“And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.”

Matthew 25:1-13

The parable of the ten virgins is one of the parables I learnt from childhood. I grew up with the desire to be like the wise virgins who were eventually ready when the bridegroom showed up. But recently while listening to a preacher talk about this story, I discovered that both the wise and foolish virgins slumbered and slept while the bridegroom tarried. You see, with all their wisdom, they could not stay awake. Someone had said that any wisdom that is not in use is wish-dom; like a man dwelling in the domain of wishes.

You see friends, there was a cry made at midnight, who made that cry? If that midnight crier was not awake they would all miss out. For me, I want to be wise, because wisdom is the principal thing, but beyond that, I want to be among the company of the mid-night criers. Paul exhorts us in Romans 13:11-14 to awake out of our sleep. I believe we are in a season when there is a need for midnight criers because lots of believers are still sleeping.

Be that midnight crier in your family, church and community. Be spiritually alert. Live with the mentality of a man who must always be awake. Remain awake in every area of your life. And most importantly, remain awake in the place of prayer.

Go into today determined to stay awake no matter how stressful the journey may seem.

Make this declaration your prayer: the wisdom of God is at work in me, I know what to do, what to say, who to meet, all at the right time. I shall remain awake and alert in every area of my life, amen.

-Otuokon, Ubokudom.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Mark 9-10

April 15

THE BELIEVER'S CALL 1

Ephesians 4:1 (NLT)

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

Ephesians 1:1-4

Are you a believer? Have you surrendered your heart to Jesus Christ? Is He Lord and Savior of your life? If your answer is in the affirmative, then know that God has called you.

You see, as a believer, your calling may not necessarily be to the pulpit, God has not called everyone to the pulpit ministry. "So how do I know where God has called me to?" you may ask. Here is a question for you; what are you doing now in this phase of your life? Where do you live and work? I believe you are not there by mere coincidence, wherever you are now is a result of Divine orchestration. God has called you to do specific things at specific times. For instance; are you a husband? You are called to fulfill your mandate as a husband, a father and a leader in your home, or, are you a student, an employer or employee? Understand that there is a mandate you are to fulfill in this phase of your life.

So friends, find out from the grand Architect of your life what He wants you to do, then invest your time, talents and treasure to see that you've fulfilled that calling.

Go into today determined to do God's will in your life.

Prayer: ask that the Lord will reveal to you His calling on your life.

-Otuokon, Ubokudom.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Corinthians 15-16

April 16

THE BELIEVER'S CALL 2

Ephesians 4:1 (NLT)

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

“The most difficult apologetic struggle I live with is this question” says Ravi Zacharias “why do many people who talk about supernatural transformation show so little of the transformed life?” Think about it. Why when we talk so much about the work of the Holy Spirit of regeneration within a life, it is not so obvious to the unbeliever anymore who does not see the change but only hears the language. Maybe we need to come to terms with the fact that we no longer need to convince the unbeliever with mere words, but they need to see a life that is consistent with it’s proclamations and deeds.

Friends, Paul exhorts us today to lead a life worthy of our calling. How will we do this; humility, gentleness and patience are key attributes to fulfilling God’s call (see Ephesians 4:1-4). Humility will make you to give credit to another, take correction and endure affliction. Pride will hinder you from fulfilling God’s call. One of the key pointers that you’ll need to know if you are in God’s call is that your response to that call will strengthen the bond of unity within the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:3-4). If that response brings disunity in the body, then you are probably outside His will.

Go into today knowing that God wants to use you wherever you are, and be ready to respond to Him.

Prayer: Ask that the Lord will help you to fulfill your personal, territorial and generational assignments.

-Otuokon, Ubokudom.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Exodus 9-12

April 17

PRAYING RIGHT

Luke 18:7 (NET)

Won't God give justice to his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he delay long to help them?

Dorcias watched as her parents who were missionaries were murdered by idol worshipers in the village. She was lucky to escape. She also saw that those people would stop at nothing to destroy Christianity in their community. Because she knew that her wrestle was not against flesh and blood, after eight months of hating the people and praying for God's help to stop hating them, she changed her prayer point: "These people are under the bondage of a wicked spirit. See how wicked this spirit makes them, they even kill their own children who become Christians. Lord please judge that Spirit and set these people free". She started praying this prayer regularly. She had also learnt that one of the greatest judgments against unclean spirits is rendering them homeless on the earth (see Mark 5:10-12, Luke 8:31).

One midnight, there was a strange fire in the village. All the priests of their god were burnt to death in their homes. The villagers instantly knew that they were now under judgment. They immediately sent people to help them plead with the missionary organization that sent the couple they murdered. "The men who killed your people are all dead. Please forgive our village" they pleaded. This was the opportunity through which the gospel was received by that entire village, and most of them became believers in the Lord Jesus.

As we go into today, let's remember that our wrestle is not against flesh and blood. When we begin to pray the right prayers with the right mindset, we will begin to receive the right results.

Let's bring into judgment every spirit that is holding our loved ones and people of our nation in bondage and that has been working against our lives. –Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Samuel 26-31

April 18

RECEIVING MERCY

Proverbs 28:13 (TLB)

People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.

After wasting his father's resources on irresponsible living, the prodigal son returned to his senses and said "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee." Luke 15:18 (KJV)

Because he did this, he received mercy from his father.

"But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet." Luke 15:22 (KJV)

If you must receive mercy:

- You must not conceal or hide your sin. Remember that God cannot be deceived and nothing is hidden from Him.
- Confess your sin: Acknowledge, confess and forsake your sin and consciously continue to turn away from it.

Maybe you are a son turned prodigal or you are not a son at all, following the above steps will lead you to the place of mercy.

Go into today knowing that, only he who finds God's mercy is prosperous eternally. Every other prosperity is short lived and accompanied by sorrow.

Prayer: take some minutes to examine yourself, confess every known sin and take conscious steps to forsake them. Ask the Lord for grace to live above sin. Amen.

-Dr. James Emmanuel.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 45-47

April 19

YOU HAVE A PART TO PLAY

Ephesians 4:16 (KJV)

“From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

“What have you done for Jesus...” , this line from a song written by my friend Uti touches my heart whenever I listen to it. It is rather sad that many believers have a “clinical” relationship with the Lord. This is what I mean, a patient goes to the doctor only when he is sick; such persons go to the Lord only when they have problems. Why do you serve God? Why do you go to church? Is it only to have all your problems solved? Do you go to the gathering of believers only to ‘tap’ anointing?

You see, friends, God has blessed you with gifts and talents. You have something to contribute too. As a joint in this body, you too can help the body to “be fitly joined together and compacted” by what you supply. You may not be on the pulpit, but you can pray for your pastor. You have something to contribute. Here is Paul “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:6-8).

As you go into today, you can start contributing by sharing this devotional, giving out a tract, saying a prayer for a colleague.

Prayer: Thank God for blessing you with an opportunity to be contributor to what He is doing on the earth.

Pray for grace to contribute effectively wherever you find yourself.

-Otuokon, Ubokudom.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 31-32

April 20

ONLY BY GRACE 2

Ephesians 2:8 [KJV]

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God

By the time Amara was 35, the Lord had blessed her on every side and she was an icon of righteousness in her place of work. There was one mistake she started to make; she began to attribute her righteous life to her ability to be disciplined and to keep certain laws that were also becoming predominant among her friends.

When Amara was 38, her son was diagnosed with a scary disease. This was not the first time Amara saw something this scary; the child was not even to live more than 6 months but God healed him and he was now 12 years. Unlike when he was born, Amara simply noticed that her faith that she normally used to command such situations to submit was now missing. She did not know that her faith had been eroding for the past three years when she started walking outside grace by being legalistic and not even noticing it. After weeks of searching and seeking God's face, God showed her the root of her problem. Her son was later healed.

This is probably the biggest temptation against Christians; it manifests itself when Christians who have been walking by grace begin to outline laws and rules that they have been deceived to believe are responsible for their lives of righteousness. They think that they got to where they are because they kept certain laws and were more disciplined. They forget that they knew how to keep laws but were still wretched sinners when by faith, they came to the Lord who saved them and empowered them to be righteous.

Go into today thanking God for His grace that has empowered you with a disciplined sound mind, and that teaches you to live righteously.

Ask the Lord to help you always grow in grace. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Jeremiah 17-21

April 21

HOW GOD LEADS US 1

Romans 8:15 (KJV)

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

The Holy Spirit leads us in three common ways: The first is by the word of God we know. For example, If you had a choice whether to steal or not to steal, and you are praying to hear first from the Holy Spirit to know what the will of God is to do, now that would be ludicrous.

The word of God transforms our minds to the point that we know God's will by simply discerning what is right from what is wrong. "Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God – what is good and well-pleasing and perfect." - Romans 12:2 [NET]

The second way the Holy Spirit leads us is through His word that comes to us audibly, intuitively, through visions, dreams, trances, etc. Now this usually happens when your mind has not been tuned enough to receive what God has for you in that season, or the message is totally not within the consideration of your mind, or the message is very crucial and God wants you to act instantly. For example, God showed Apostle Peter the trance that meant the Gentiles could be part of the church. His Jewish mind would have screened out the message if it came any other way (See Acts 10:10-16). Apostle Paul was not thinking of going to Macedonia when he saw the vision to go there; Macedonia was not on His itinerary (Acts 16:9). To be continued...

As you go into today, ask the Lord to renew your mind completely, that you will have the mind of Christ in all things. Amen

-Pst Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Mark 11-12

April 22

HOW GOD LEADS US 2

Romans 8:15[KJV]

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Dooshima had prayed and was sure that Timothy was the right man to marry; she had peace in her decision to marry him. He was a child of God and really loved her. She was also in love with him. She went visiting her parents to give the good news. They were very happy too, particularly because Timothy had a good job as a consultant general surgeon. “My daughter is going to marry a doctor” Dooshima’s mother kept saying excitedly. The next morning, Dooshima’s parents woke her up early to “come and let’s go to visit our daddy in the Lord” who was a prophet. As soon as Dooshima told the prophet her fiancé’s name, he said “No! No! You cannot marry Timothy. It is not the will of God for you to marry him”. Dooshima was not convinced but her parents now insisted that she was to follow what the prophet said and break up with Timothy.

The third common way the Holy Spirit speaks to us is through prophesies. In the New Testament, the Lord uses prophesy to simply encourage us and to confirm His words that He impresses on our hearts. WE ARE NOT TO BE LED BY PROPHETS but by the Spirit of God (see Romans 8:15).

In 1 Kings 13, we see the story of a prophet who was killed because he allowed himself to be led by another prophet and no longer by the word of God that came to Him. We see also from Apostle Paul’s experience that He was not going to be led by a prophet but only received confirmation information of what he was going to experience in Jerusalem(see Acts 21:10-15).

As we go into today, let us determine to live lives led by the Spirit by staying filled with the Spirit always.

-Pst Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Corinthians 1-3

April 23

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

Ephesians 1:17-19

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power. [KJV]

The Holy Spirit is the greatest gift in the life of a believer. The Holy Spirit was not given for funfair, neither was He given for us to show off “for we have received the spirit which is not of this world, but the spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us by God”. (See 1 Corinthians 1:14). The Holy Spirit was also given that we may have spiritual knowledge and understanding. He is our teacher.

The Holy Spirit enlightens the eyes of our understanding. It is only by the Spirit that we can have a revelation of Jesus, and by this revelation, our eyes are enlightened to know the hope of our calling and the riches of our inheritance in Christ, and the greatness of the power that works in us. You see, before you can walk in a spiritual reality, you have to see it and know it.

The Bible contains matters that are concealed; but it takes the spirit of wisdom and revelation to search them out.

Go into today praying and desiring to grow in the knowledge of God and in the counsel of His will.

Prayer: I thank You Father for today. I ask that you grant unto me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in greater measures, in Jesus name. Amen.

-Pst Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Exodus 13-16

April 24

SALVATION IS OF THE LORD

Jonah 2:9

“But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.” [KJV]

All that we are is because of all that Christ did. Have you ever thought about this? Salvation is truly of the Lord. Look at the way Spurgeon described this:

“If I am prayerful, God makes me prayerful; if I have graces, they are God’s gifts to me; if I hold on in a consistent life, it is because He upholds me with His hand. I do nothing whatever towards my own preservation, except what God Himself first does in me. Whatever I have, all my goodness is of the Lord alone. Wherein I sin, that is my own; but wherein I act rightly, that is of God, wholly and completely. If I have repulsed a spiritual enemy, the Lord’s strength nerved my arm. Do I live before men a consecrated life? It is not I, but Christ who liveth in me. Am I sanctified? I did not cleanse myself: God’s Holy Spirit sanctifies me. Do I grow in knowledge? The great instructor teaches me. I find in God all that I want; but I find in myself nothing but sin and misery. Do I feed on the word? That word would be no food for me unless the Lord made it food for my soul and helped me feed on it. As a branch cannot bring forth fruit except it abide in the vine, no more can I except I abide in Him.”

Go into today making up your mind that you will live for Jesus and make this day count for Him.

Prayer Confession: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live: yet not I but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me (Galatians 2:20).

-Otuokon, Ubokudom.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Samuel 1-4

April 25

RISE LIKE AN EDIFICE

Jude 1:20 (AMP)

But you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit

Janice got born again and joined a Christian fellowship. She was faithful with Bible study, however, she still felt something was lacking as she was not quite able to exert her spiritual authority. She approached her fellowship president for counsel, he asked about her prayer life and she confirmed that she prays a few minutes in the morning and has not been quite consistent with it. He also asked her if she was baptized in the Holy Ghost and she affirmed that she was but that she rarely prays in the Spirit. He helped her choose a time every day for her to pray in the Spirit. He followed up with her to ensure she didn't default. Before long, she testified that not only is she able to exercise spiritual authority better than before, but that she is able to effectively discern the leading of the Holy Spirit for her life and ministry.

Romans 8:26 teaches us that the Holy Spirit helps us, and 1st Corinthians 14:4a says, "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself". Another word for 'edify' is build up. When we pray in the Spirit we build up ourselves. Today's text says we make progress and rise like an edifice higher and higher. It is a profitable practice to devote time to prayer and to pray often in the spirit. A person who devotes himself to this will experience great growth and increased spiritual sensitivity.

So make up your mind today to take advantage of this great privilege made available to us in the Holy Spirit. When you do this, you will see your self rise like an edifice. You will be able to discern God's will for your life and ministry with much more clarity. Go into today with a mind made up to build your self in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.

— Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 48-50

April 26

I KNOW WHOSE I AM

Acts 27:23(KJV)

For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve (Read from 21-26)

Usually, when there is a fight for supremacy, the one trying to exert his supremacy will ask, do you know who I am? For the believer, who he is a derivative of whose he is. The believer is special, but everything special about the believer comes from God. Now read the well-known 2 Corinthians 5 vs 17 to 18a: “So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away – look, what is new has come! And all these things are from God”

Therefore, the believer’s boast must only be in the Lord. We belong to Him, our life is His and our living must be based on His agenda. We live to do His good pleasure. We are of God says 1 John 4:4, but it goes on to tell us why: because the Greater One lives in us.

Now let us consider Abraham, It was obvious that there was something special about Abraham, he had left his father’s house and people and yet he was prospering, he let his nephew choose the best land and yet he kept prospering, and when four kings came together and defeated five kings and took captives including his nephew Lot, he took trained servants and defeated the kings the five kings could not defeat. But then came a man of God, Melchizedek and in his salutation, we get an insight into what made Abraham special; “And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the Most High God...” (Gen 14:19).

The Bible talks about great promises that are ours in Christ Jesus. But do well to remember that all these promises are because of what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. We are who we are because of whose we are. We are of God, saved by His grace. Let your boast be in Him, and let your living be for Him. Go into today remembering that when you live in the consciousness of whose you are, you will see the manifestation of His great power in your life.

– Ikechukwu Mpama.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 33-34

April 27

BUILD IN LAYERS

2 Peter 1:5

“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge..” [KJV]

see also 2 Peter 1:5-9

Our relationship with God is designed to grow. We are in a building process. We should not have to start from scratch every day. This requires consistency to the process and loyalty to God. It helps to consider your life with God as a wall that is being built. Good materials, the right tools and sound construction principles are required if your wall is to stand. I love the way Peter states it “ to your faith add goodness...” He is saying that if we have faith but stop there, we will fail. If we add goodness and knowledge but leave out self-control, our wall will fall. Get the concept?

Friends, think layers. Keep adding to. Here are a few challenging questions for you to consider and answer if you like:

- Is your relationship with God stronger today than it was last year this time? How about last week?
- Which of the 8 elements listed in 2 Peter 1:5-7 may be lacking? How may you add that element(s)?
- What layer do you plan to “add” today? How will you do that?

Verse 8 explains that if we have these attributes in our lives, we will be effective and productive. Verse 9 explains why so many of us struggle – we are making no spiritual progress. (Culled from the writings of Rick Whitter).

As you go into today, think layers!

Ask the Lord to help you take practical steps from today to keep improving.

-Otuokon, Ubokudom

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Jeremiah 22-26

April 28

ACCESSING THE DIVINE NATURE 1

2 Peter 1:4

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

Kemi had had six miscarriages and one stillbirth. The doctors had a medical explanation for her miscarriages. Her relatives in the village also had their own explanation. When she was carrying her eighth pregnancy, there was a difference; she was now born again and filled with the Holy Spirit.

She began to read the Bible and understand that the Lord had made her free from all spiritual bondages and limitations. She also saw promises in the Bible that she held unto as she approached her delivery date. She successfully delivered a bouncing baby boy. There were no complications because she was now walking in the divine life. She connected with this life through God's promises in the Bible because she was now a child of God.

Are you a Christian and yet you feel that you are walking in some kind of limitation that is being orchestrated from the demonic realm? This is the day of your deliverance. Locate a promise in the Bible that addresses your situation and stand on that promise. By doing this, you are connecting with the divine life of God. Today's Bible text shows us that God's promises are the link through which we access His divine nature. You access the unlimited power of God by believing and standing on His promises concerning you.

Go into today locating promises in the Bible concerning your current situation. Pray from that standpoint and you will experience a transformation that will surprise you.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Mark 13-14

April 29

ACCESSING THE DIVINE NATURE 2

2 Peter 1:4

By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. [NKJV]

Being partakers of the divine nature is God's plan for all of us and this is what makes us walk in the supernatural. We saw yesterday that the way through which we contact this nature is through God's promises that we hear and believe; they are the link through which we access the divine nature given to us.

But this is the second part. The first part about accessing the divine nature is to first escape the corruption that is in the world, and humans link with this corruption through lusts.

Corruption in this context can be defined as the product of an absence from the life of God. When something has lost its life, it dies, and the next stage is corruption. The way to escape this corruption that comes through lust is to live a life that is led by the Spirit. Walking in the spirit means walking above lusts. Rom 8:6 says 'For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace' [ESV]

Go into today determining to magnify the Spirit part of you and diminish the flesh in your life. This means you should give more priority to the things that enhance your spiritual life than the things that only enhance your flesh life.

Confession: I am walking in the Spirit; I am walking in the divine nature. I am walking above lust, greed and pride, in Jesus name. Amen

--Pst Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Corinthians 4-5

April 30

GODLY LEADERSHIP

1 Samuel 12:3

“Behold, here I am: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you.” [KJV]

The greatest need of the world today is godly leadership. God wants to partner with us but there is a need for us to respond by producing leaders in the Samuel mould. How do you relate with people in and around your life. If you will ever be useful to God as a leader wherever you find yourself, you'll have to have the testimony of Samuel.

In 1st Samuel 12, we will briefly look at some qualities of a godly leader as observed in the life of Samuel as we trust the Lord to begin to work these out in our own experiences.

1. Samuel was a man of integrity. He was a man of his words.
2. Samuel was transparent. Does the way you conduct yourself raise suspicion?
3. He was a leader who held himself accountable to God.
4. He held himself accountable before men.
5. He held himself accountable before divine and human institutions.
6. He was a leader who would not wrongly take anything from anybody.
7. He was a leader who was not covetous.
8. He was humble.
9. He was a contented leader.

There is a need for us to live within the restrictions that God has put in place in His word.

Pray that God will begin to work in your nation to produce leaders after His heart. -Otuokon, Ubokudom

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Exodus 17-20

May 1

THE MEDIATOR

Job 9:33 (ISV)

There is not yet a mediator between us, who would set his hand on the two of us

Debbie worked in one of the top commercial banks in her country. She was an entry-level staff. One day, she had a minor altercation with one of the bank's customers. The customer had come in very pissed because his account was debited without the ATM dispensing the cash. And to make matters worse, his card got stuck in the ATM. He met Debbie and demanded for his cash and card, stating that he was on transit and this was his last resort. Debbie tried to let him know that there was a process he had to follow to address the issues and that it might take a minimum of 24 hours before it could be resolved, but he would have none of it. He became so furious, using abusive words and was ready to make a scene when Debbie inadvertently remarked that shouting won't solve his problems and that he had better calm down and the customer at that point created a big scene.

Debbie was queried and she responded to the query. But when the matter was being discussed in the management meeting, she wasn't there because she is not in the management team, however, her Head of Department who works with her and is also member of the management team was able to speak on her behalf, pleading for leniency stating that Debbie has been a good staff and that this was an honest mistake.

Philippians 2:6-8 tells us that Jesus, being God, laid aside His mighty power and privileges as God, so he could take up flesh and become like one of us. By doing this, he was able to give Himself up for us so we could be saved. He is also able to daily make intercessions for us before the Father by reason of his shed blood. He pleads on our behalf citing not our good works but His. We have Jesus our mediator who is able to save us to the uttermost seeing he lives to make intercession for us. —Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Samuel 5-9

May 2

ACCESSING THE DIVINE NATURE 3

2 Peter 1:4

by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. [NKJV]

A very fearful Hurricane was expected to sweep over the land. Daniel and Carlos knew that this storm was going to totally destroy their city. Everyone was running up and down because the storm was approaching. “Never before have we seen a hurricane so strong” meteorologists said with fear in their voices on TV. Daniel said “This is our territory, this is where God has planted us. We have more authority over the elements here than anyone else”. He gathered his friends together and told them to begin to decree that the hurricane must subside. He knew he had that kind of authority and he used it. Seventeen hours later, when the storm got to their city, it came as a simple thunder storm; nothing was destroyed, no life was lost. International reporters were surprised about what happened because everyone (even in the international community) had prepared for a major disaster.

Sons of God are those that walk the earth with the divine nature. They are gods and are not to be mere men (see Psalms 82:6). They can control the course of events in their territories, they are also meant to execute divine judgment against iniquity and wickedness from the spirit realm.

Go into today remembering that you are a son of God if you live under the Lordship of Christ.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will teach you to walk in the reality of who you really are. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 51-53

May 3

PUT ON THE NEW NATURE

Colossians 3:8-9

But now, put off all such things as anger, rage, malice, slander, abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another since you have put off the old man with its practices. [NET]

When a person is born again, he is a new creature. The only problem is that he still has access to the old creature that he was. He can still choose to either walk in the Spirit or walk in the flesh. This is because he is an entity of spirit and flesh, the spirit is renewed but the flesh is not. From our text, we see that it is possible for Christians to still have some fleshly attributes like anger, malice, lying, etc.

You see, the more you walk in the Spirit, the easier it will be for you to continue to walk therein. The more you walk in the flesh, the harder it will be for you to walk again in the Spirit. That is the danger of allowing yourself to switch to the flesh from time to time. A man who walks in the Spirit controls himself according to His renewed mind by the word of God in his spirit.

The Holy Spirit supplies us with God's grace. This grace empowers us to put off the works of the flesh and walk in the spirit life. Those who do not have the Holy Spirit do not have the ability to do this.

Go into today determining to put off the works of the flesh and to walk in the Spirit always. The spirit life produces a life of love. The flesh life produces a life of selfishness.

Prayer: ask the Lord Jesus to deliver you from every work of the flesh that has become a stronghold which is difficult for you to put off.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 35-36

May 4

PRESERVED FROM THE CORRUPTION 1

2 Peter 2:8-9

(for while he lived among them day after day, that righteous man was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) [NET]

There was a man named Lot. He lived in a liberal country that grew more and more liberal against God. At first, they legalized homosexual marriage, and they legalized prostitution. They went on to legalize pedophilia, adultery, and even bestiality. Because of the iniquity in the land, law enforcement could no longer cope with the rate of crime. Gang rape was now common and normal. Lot was disgusted everyday by their lifestyle and his family members shared this disgust. This was how they were preserved from the corruption that pervaded their country.

As you go into today, determine that you would not only love righteousness, you would love the unrighteous but hate their wicked acts. This is a way God has designed to keep us from the corruption that is in the world; when we love righteousness and hate wickedness (see Psalms 45:7). You see, we don't practice what we have come to hate.

It isn't enough to simply avoid the iniquity in the land, you shouldn't watch TV shows that encourage it, and you shouldn't let your children watch such shows or read books that trivialize iniquity. There are many movies today that try to make fornication and immorality look normal, Christians shouldn't watch such movies (this is one way to guard your heart). It is not enough to love righteousness; we are to hate iniquity (Read Hebrews 1:9).

Pray that the Lord will supply you with more wisdom to win souls as you navigate this world (see Proverbs 11:30). Pray for countries around the world that are being deceived to legalize all forms of unholy vices for spiritual awakening in such countries. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Jeremiah 27-31

May 5

MAKE THE TREE GOOD

Matthew 12:33

“Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is known by its fruit. [NET]

Ebenezer accepted Christ into his life. The next step he took was to memorize the Ten Commandments and every other scriptural commandment he could learn because he wanted to be righteous before God. It didn't take him long to realize that he was not righteous by merely keeping the commandments; he was only religious. The fruit was modified and decorated, but the tree was not yet renewed because he was focusing on the fruit and not the tree.

One mistake Christians make is what our Lord pointed out in today's Bible text. You don't get good fruits by focusing on the fruit. You get good fruits by focusing on the tree. When the tree is good, the fruit will also be good. Your heart is the part of you that determines your outcomes in life. Make your heart good and the fruit of your life will be good. Any heart that has not been transformed cannot bring forth good fruit.

The Holy Spirit comes to indwell the believer and empowers his heart with the life that is capable of producing good fruits before God. We water and purify our hearts by allowing the word of God change us. We let the transformation work of the Lord in our hearts by hearing God's word and changing our thinking and culture to that of Christ. Anything in us that is still contrary to the culture of Christ is a disease of the heart that inhibits spiritual fruitfulness. A quintessential example is the love of money.

Go into today determined to make God's word the standard for your life. Ask the Lord to empower you abandon every worldly culture and adopt the culture of Christ.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Mark 15-16

May 6

TRUE VALUE

Mark 8:36

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? [KJV]

Chief Ola was now old and about to die. He started to reflect on His life. He had acquired many possessions, but he now realized that the most important things he did were not things he did for himself but things he did for people, especially those who had no one else to help them, and who had no way of paying him back. When he helped people, he was storing up treasure, not in bank accounts but in heaven where they never get devalued (see Matthew 6:19-21).

Anything you do out of love is a spiritual plus, anything you do for a selfish purpose is a spiritual minus.

It is more blessed to give than to receive. Christians are never to be materially minded. I am not saying you shouldn't have material things, as a matter of fact you can get them. But don't get them at the expense of the only thing you truly own (which is your soul); because at the end of the day, you will realize that material things were only a loan. You leave this world with only one thing- your soul.

Go into today determining to lay your treasure in heaven by doing good and helping the needy in the name of the Lord.

Ask the Lord to teach you to use the resources he gives you for His glory.

Ask Him for grace to help you have abundance in all things and also flourish in every good work (see 2 Corinthians 9:8).

(Credits: Pst. Lacrae Moore)

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Corinthians 6-8

May 7

THE KINGDOM 1

Matthew 13:33

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of flour until all the dough had risen." [NET]

Some time ago I had a conversation with a young friend. I remember something he said with so much assertion. He said the rate at which things are going in the world, if Christ does not return in the next couple of decades, true Christianity will cease to exist on the face of the earth. I promptly responded that even if Christ does not return in the next 500 years, true Christianity will only have increased. I told him that "500 years ago, some people said the same thing you are saying today, but do you know what happened? Then, my forefathers and your forefathers were still hopeless African pagans who had never heard the gospel. As a matter of fact, the civilized Christian world did not even know that they existed. But there are now millions of Christians in Africa today."

From today's Bible text, we can see that Jesus likens the Kingdom to yeast that keeps increasing. The Kingdom of God will only expand and will never diminish (see Isaiah 9:7, Matthew 13:31-32). The issue is with me and you; will we be agents the Lord uses or will we fail Him in our generation? Those who fulfill God's purposes are those who first of all believe that it is possible. Those who have a defeated mentality cannot conquer any territory for the kingdom.

We are Christians; we walk by faith and not by sight. Walking by faith is walking based on God's word. Walking by sight is walking based on happenings and the things that you see.

Let's go into today determined to ignore the bad news and focus on the good news (gospel) God has entrusted to us in this generation. Ask the Lord to help you do your part in the kingdom expansion.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Exodus 21-24

May 8

PERFECT PEACE

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! [NLT]

Eze was doing very well in His business. He had an awesome family. But the issue was with his health. He had never been able to enjoy his health for the past ten years. The last diagnosis was prostate cancer; the previous one was diabetes. The things he was not allowed to eat were much more than the things he could eat. Even though Eze had material prosperity, he did not have perfect peace.

Perfect peace in today's Bible text is translated from Shalom; a Hebrew word meaning peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, and welfare. That is what God plans for His children; those who trust in Him and whose thoughts are fixed on Him.

When you trust in God, you begin to see Him as your only source and sustainer. You cannot trust in God and trust in the arm of flesh at the same time. It is those who trust in God that can experience His perfect peace.

Go into today determining to trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, instead lean on the Holy Spirit.

Ask the Lord to help you always fix your thoughts on Him. Ask Him for His perfect peace in every area of your life.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Samuel 10-14

May 9

DELIVERANCE

John 8:32

And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free [NLT]

Chioma: Ronke, this issue has been persisting for too long. Let's go to Pastor John for deliverance.

Ronke: I am now tired of going for deliverance. The last time I went, it lasted for two hours; I was vomiting and saying strange things. Yet two months later, the problem came back with full force.

Chioma: what are we going to do now? We cannot give up oh. We have to try again.

Anyone that simply receives deliverance without the knowledge of the truth will discover that he only received a short break from his affliction. We see from John 8:32 that true deliverance is sustained by the knowledge of the Truth. Jesus is the way, the Truth and the life (John 14:6).

See what Jesus says in Luke 11:24-26: "When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, searching for rest. But when it finds none, it says, 'I will return to the person I came from.' So it returns and finds that its former home is all swept and in order. Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before."

How then do we receive permanent deliverance? See what Jesus says in John 8:36: "...If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed..." The way to sustain deliverance is by receiving the word of God. Jesus is the word of God; He abides in you through His word that you receive and believe (see John 15:17). This word changes many things about your mindset and character; it makes them no longer conducive for demonic activities in your life.

Go into today asking Jesus to teach you more of His ways, so that you will walk more in His realities daily (Psalm 86:11).

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 54-56

May 10

DELIVERANCE 2

Isaiah 10:27

And it shall be in that day that the burden of [the Assyrian] shall depart from your shoulders, and his yoke from your neck. The yoke shall be destroyed because of fatness [which prevents it from going around your neck]. [AMP]

I have seen people who think the solution to their problem is something external; that all they need is for a powerful man of God to lay hands on them and they will receive deliverance. Even though they do receive deliverance when this happens, they are not able to sustain the deliverance, and the affliction usually returns in a different more severe form.

There are demonic bondages that come as a result of demonic yokes. And Christians can find themselves in such.

The way God has designed for His children to receive deliverance from demonic yokes is that they will so feed on His word and the anointing that it produces such fatness in their souls that the yoke around their necks will break off because of the fatness. They will simply grow out of the yoke.

This happens as Christians begin to see things differently through the word, and walk in the reality of who they really are in Christ Jesus. The old fears fade away and so does the accompanying afflictions. The food your inner man feeds on is the word of God; the water is the Holy Spirit. The more your soul feeds on the word of God, the more it grows from leanness into the fatness of the anointing; and no yoke will be big enough to fit it anymore.

Go into today asking the Lord to send to you more materials that will build up your inner man to the fullness of the stature of Christ.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 37-38

May 11

DELIVERANCE 3

John 8:32 (KJV)

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Danladi had experienced a great deal of demonic manipulations and attacks since he was a child. He would hear fearful sounds of strange birds that others couldn't hear, and he would feel people pressing and suffocating him in his sleep. He had received deliverance several times but the problem always had a way of coming back. He received his final deliverance when he was exposed to sound faith teachings that made him grow spiritually. It got to a point that he would simply ignore the sound of the evil birds he heard because he knew that they could do him no harm. He latter no longer heard the strange sounds and he stopped having strange experiences in his sleep. He received his freedom by the knowledge of the truth (see John 8:32).

Does this mean we shouldn't cast out demons from people? We absolutely should, but we shouldn't stop there; we should lead them to know God's word for themselves. And those who are not ready to follow Jesus are not truly ready to be delivered.

When Jesus sets a man free, that man is free indeed. Jesus is the word of God. When your soul has integrated with the word of God, Jesus dominates it, and two powers cannot dominate the same territory. This is how he sets people free from very stubborn demonic bondages.

Go into today remembering that the word of God in your heart and mouth is your strongest weapon; it is the strongest weapon. Ask the Lord to teach you to do effective warfare with His word (see Ephesians 6:17).

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Jeremiah 32-36

May 12

PRAYER TIME 1

Psalms 51:1-3

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. [KJV]

There are certain times that this prayer becomes necessary for a Christian. In times when there is an overpowering and subduing transgression. In times when there is a true conviction that the mark has been willfully missed; in times of willful disobedience, this cry comes out of the heart of a true son in God's Household.

It is better to fall into the hands of the Lord than the hands of His enemies and yours. For we know that it is only by and through God's mercy that we survive.

We are empty before Him and can only be filled because of His everlasting mercies.

The mercy of the Lord reminds us that there is room for any sinner who wants to repent and forsake his sins. There is room at the cross for me.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly father, thank you for your loving kindness and tender mercies. I pray that you show me your unfailing love and fill me with your grace. In Jesus Holy name I pray. Amen

Go into today mentioning the names of your loved ones and family members who are not saved. Ask the Lord to have mercy and save them.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Luke 1-2

May 13

THE BARBERS SHOP 1

Ephesians 4:11-12

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ [KJV]

One of the things Akindele had learnt was that every child of God was to do the work of the ministry. But he just didn't see himself as a preacher.

As he grew in the knowledge of God's will, he learnt that God did not want him to be a church pastor. He learnt this after trying and failing to fit into that mold for six months.

He hadn't found a job after his diploma; this was a serious prayer point. He was praying about this one day when he started asking himself: 'what can I do very well that can be a job'. He remembered he had always been very good at barbing, thus, he decided to put together resources to begin a barbers shop.

Apostles; Prophets; Evangelists; Pastors and teachers have a job to equip God's people for the work of the ministry. All God's people are to be involved in the work of the ministry even though not all of them will be involved in the offices mentioned. Ministry is in everywhere you find yourself. You do ministry in your job by representing Christ there and ministering to people the kingdom of God. This means you are an agent of righteousness, peace and joy wherever you are (see Romans 14:17).

Go into today trusting God to empower you fulfill his purpose in everywhere he has planted you.

Prayer: heavenly Father, please help me walk in my calling and fulfill your purpose for my life. In Jesus name. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Corinthians 9-10

May 14

THE BARBERS SHOP 2

Proverbs 16:3 (NLT)

Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed.

When Akindele was sure that it was right for him to start the barbers shop, he raised money and went searching for a suitable shop. He decided he was going to use a place that was convenient for people to reach on their way back from work, with adequate parking space, and a place that had fair power supply because he intended to air condition the shop. Someone told him that there was a spot in one very good place in town, it met all his requirements but the shop was too big; he would have to pay 100,000 Naira more than he budgeted. He searched for somewhere else but could not find another place that met all his requirements. He kept praying as he searched. He later decided to take the extra-large shop and asked the Lord to help him.

Deaconess Abutu; a church member who knew about his project asked him how it was going and he gave her an update. He was shocked when her husband gave him a cheque for 100,000 Naira the next Sunday.

One way to discern that God's hand is in something is that He sends help when you run into difficulty and call upon him. Notice that because God wants you to do something does not mean you will not meet difficulties, what it means is that the Lord will help you when you call on Him (see Psalms 3:4, Psalms 34:4).

Go into today examining your projects and discerning whether they are in accordance with God's purpose for you.

PRAYER:

Ask the Lord for help in any project you are doing that you may be finding difficult. Ask the Lord for wisdom in doing your work. Thank him for the success of what he has entrusted into your hand.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Exodus 25-28

May 15

THE BARBERS SHOP PT 3

Romans 10:14

*But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him?
And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him?
And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? [NLT]*

Nkechi was a single mother and her Job was becoming more and more demanding. Her son Leke was only thirteen and she wanted him to be shielded from the vices of society. She had hoped he would be interested in playing football “at least that would distract him from doing bad things”, but he was rather interested in computers and video games. Because Akindele's Cousin had video games, he used to charge people to play them in Akindele’s barbers shop. Nkechi now noticed that Leke was always in the barbers shop when she was not around. She went to Akindele and requested that he keeps an eye on Leke since she wasn't usually around. At that moment, it occurred to Akindele that he was a mentor to many of the boys who came to his shop every day. He used that opening to introduce every one of them to Christ. They had so many questions that he was happy to answer. Some of the boys were not interested in his message and no longer came to the shop, but most of them kept coming back and Akindele would teach them more and more of Christ.

Akindele used his position of influence over those young boys to lead them to Christ. It wasn't easy but the Lord gave him wisdom to do so.

As you go into today, ask the Lord to help you use your position of influence for the purpose of His kingdom advancement. Ask for wisdom to be a witness even in the market place. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Samuel 15-19

May 16

THE WISDOM OF THE JUST

Luke 1:17 (NET)

And he will go as forerunner before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared for him

Every lifestyle is usually built on a worldview. A worldview refers to one's philosophy or explanation of life. You don't need to be a grey-bearded philosopher to have a worldview, you don't even need to be aware of it to have it. Proverbs 14:12 reads, 'There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death' (NHEB). This tells you that (even though it leads to death eventually) the person considers that way to be the right way. Here is how it works, take covetousness as an example, a person who subscribes to the view that money is the greatest end/pursuit of life is a potential murderer, thief, swindler, envious and bitter person. He doesn't need to set out to be all of these, but that is one of the pathways of that 'way'.

What about a man who believes that pleasure or self-satisfaction is the highest pursuit in life? You are looking at a man who is potentially given to lust, an unstable and unreliable person, a betrayer of trust, etcetera. These are some of the pathways on that 'way', and he will get quite skilled at it because there is a 'wisdom' that guides these ways. Apostle James spoke about this in James 3:13-16, '...But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.' The wisdom that is from above is revealed in Christ Jesus. It is called the wisdom of the just or the way of righteousness (as some other versions put it). It is peaceable, gentle, accommodating, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and not hypocritical (James 3:17). This is why the blessed man (of Psalms 1) does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly, no matter how 'wise' it sounds. (The counsel of the ungodly is a pattern of thought contrary to God's word and wisdom). —Ikechukwu Mpama

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 57-59

May 17

THE WAY HOME

Matthew 18:12-14

What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying?

And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray.

Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. [NKJV]

The Bible makes us understand that God knows our frame (Psalms 103:14); He knows our weaknesses and does not even condemn us when we fall; He expects us to come to Him instead of running away from Him. You don't run away from water when you are on fire, you run towards water.

God is very interested in the restoration of His children who have gone astray. The devil makes them believe that God is so displeased with them that He does not want them anymore. If you are reading this and you think God is so displeased with you that He does not want you anymore, God wants you to know today that He desires you to come back to your place in Him; He wants you back home more than you want to come back home. Come and Rest in God's love and receive strength to walk in the fullness of His will.

Go into today Remembering that Jesus shed His blood for your redemption. You don't again need to do anything in order to receive mercy.

Prayer: Thank God for His enduring love for you. Ask the Lord to empower you walk daily in fullness of His will. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 39-40

May 18

THE DOOR IS OPEN TO ALL

Matthew 20:11,13

When they received it, they began to complain against the landowner...

And the landowner replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am not treating you unfairly. Didn't you agree with me to work for the standard wage? Take what is yours and go. I want to give to this last man the same as I gave to you. [NET]

People have asked me what exactly this parable in Matthew 20:1-15 means. I have decided to use today's meditation to examine it. In the parable, a man hired workers to work for him and agreed to pay them standard wages: he hired some at the beginning of the day and kept hiring others till one hour before pay time. At the end of the day, everyone earned the same wage. Those who worked all day felt cheated because the workers who worked for just one hour were paid the same as them.

This parable illustrates how the kingdom of God has freely come to us the Gentiles who were outside God's covenant. For thousands of years, our forefathers were deep in idol worship while the Israelites were already worshiping God, yet today, we get to be partakers of God's grace and be joint heirs of the kingdom with Christ; we have the same opportunity as the Jews to inherit God's kingdom and blessings. Many Jews in the early church found this difficult to understand. This is a mystery that God concealed from the foundation of the world (see Ephesians 3:4-6). God used the Jewish race to preserve a culture through which Jesus could come. After Jesus came, He opened the door of salvation to every human race.

Go into today thanking God for making you a partaker of His eternal kingdom. Thank you Lord for dying to save the entire Human race, please help me do my part in letting people know of you. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Jeremiah 37-41

May 19

WALKING AS SONS OF GOD

James 1:15

Then when desire conceives, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is full grown, it gives birth to death. [NET]

There is a natural tendency in man to obey his cravings and desires. He feels thirsty and he must drink water, he is hungry and eating is just what he must do, he feels like looking at something and so he looks.

When a man is in Christ, he is given the power to truly deny gratifying fleshly lusts that war against his soul (1 Peter 2:11). These lusts war against the soul because when you gratify them, they always produce a guilty conscience that hinders fellowship with the Lord God. Denying these lusts and walking in the spirit produces a life of power- the power of the sons of God (see John 1:12).

Go into today determining to walk in your right as God's son by walking in the spirit and not according to the dictates of the flesh.

Prayer: Thank you father for giving me your divine nature. I pray you help me daily crucify the flesh and manifest this nature, in Jesus name. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Luke 3-4

May 20

KNOW THE SCRIPTURE

2 Peter 3:10

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.[NKJV]

I had an interesting conversation with a friend a while ago. He strongly believed that the earth was never going to be destroyed, and he made unsound references to certain Bible verses. I showed him this verse above and others too. I also reminded him that it was Jesus who said heaven and earth shall pass away, but His words wouldn't (see Mat 24:35).

I have come to realize that false sweeping doctrines that have come to confuse many Christians have simply preyed on their deficient knowledge of scripture. I know of Christians that have been swayed by even Muslims armed with certain arguments against the validity of the New Testament. I have personally not seen arguments more ridiculous than those, yet they have been successfully used to confuse many Christians who don't study their Bibles.

Whenever a Christian does not properly know the scriptures, He has a very high tendency to fall into error (see Matthew 22:29).

Even though in the New Testament, we emphasize Rhema (living word) that comes by spiritual understanding of God's word, we must remember that Rhema is usually crystallized from a knowledgebase of the letters of the scripture.

Go into today determined to increase your study of the word.

Prayer: Lord, please give me grace to study your word more than ever before. Amen

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Corinthians 11-13

May 21

THE BARBERS SHOP 4

Psalms 1:3

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.
[NIV]

Akindele was surprised that his business was so successful in such a short time. Many members of the Church assembly he attended decided to patronize his business and told their friends to do same. Because his services were excellent, he didn't lose any of his new customers.

He felt a leading to expand his business and open two more shops in other parts of town. He prayed about it, and when he was sure that expanding his business meant creating extra outlets for kingdom influence, He knew he would succeed.

When God greatly increases and gives you success in your work, you must remember that your work is an outlet for His Kingdom. God has given us a command to increase and multiply, and whatsoever God is involved with always increases and does not diminish. You must know that an expansion in your business and work means an increase in the influence points of God's kingdom on the earth through you. Everyone that works in your organization would work in a place under the influence of God's kingdom. As opposed to working in places that exerts principles of the kingdom of darkness. Some organizations are so designed that people who work in them would have no time for sound Christian fellowship.

Go into today knowing that God has set some of us to also build great organizations that herald His Kingdom and righteousness on the earth.

Prayer: Lord God, please help me identify and play my part in your kingdom expansion. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Exodus 29-32

May 22

A NEW KIND OF PULPIT

Psalms 2:8

Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, the whole earth as your possession. [NLT]

I was asked to speak at a business seminar for young Christians. I decided to start by asking them this question. "In this state, the largest employer of labor is the state government. If the governor instructs all government workers to show up in the stadium on Sunday morning, that anyone who doesn't would lose his job, what do you think would happen?" Many churches would be empty. "But if all the pastors in this city demand that everyone must show up in church on Monday morning, that if not, they would lose their blessings. Do you think everyone would show up?" No.

Employers of labor have very great influence over their workers. God has set out many apostles who will represent Him in the world of business, commerce, academics, and governance. They will build great institutions and use their great influence over employees for His kingdom purpose.

There are many prophets who would not only work from the pulpit, but like Daniel, they will be the voice of the Lord in high places of government. There are many like Joseph who the Lord would use to solve critical national and international problems, there are many like David who the Lord would use to bring nations into their destinies, many like Esther who would use their position of influence to advance God's kingdom agenda. These are the days for the manifestation of these things. Remember, your pulpit is your platform of work.

Go into today asking the Lord to help you represent Him from wherever you are.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Samuel 20-24

May 23

KINGDOM LIVING

John 6:15

Then Jesus, because he knew they were going to come and seize him by force to make him king, withdrew again up the mountainside alone. [NET]

The way to generate wealth is by meeting a need. God's glory in you empowers you to solve problems and meet needs. Jesus met needs and this made Him relevant to the point that the people wanted to force him to be their king.

Jesus had great power and a lot of wealth offered to Him, but that was never what He pursued. He pursued the kingdom of God by focusing on the assignment for His life, and the things people pursued followed Him. Everything He needed for executing His kingdom assignment was abundantly provided.

We are to be as Christ is on this earth (see 1 John 4:17). We are to be carriers of His nature that gives expression to His glory.

There was a Spirit in Jesus that made Him who He was (see Luke 4:18). He did not have the sinful nature so He naturally submitted to the Spirit. That Spirit is also available for you. Jesus died on the cross to empower you crucify the sinful nature that hinders your submission to the Holy Spirit of truth. When you submit to the Holy Spirit, you will be like Christ because the Holy Spirit will work out the nature of Christ in you.

Go into today determined to submit more to the authority of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Lord, please empower and help me to be like you. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 60-62

May 24

KINGDOM LIVING 3

Matthew 6:33

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

When Uche observed that he was now having problems with lying again, this became his top prayer point. He prayed and asked the Lord to deliver him from his old habit of lying. He had learnt that your prayers should be dominated by seeking God's Kingdom and His righteousness and he noticed a way of unrighteousness in him.

Some Christians would pray and fast when they are looking for a job or something material, they would pray and fast to fight physical sickness and disease, but would not pray and fast when they sense a trend of unrighteousness rapidly growing in their souls (spiritual sickness and disease).

One of the ways to know the things currently important to you is by checking your current prayer list. When last did the issue of righteousness dominate your prayers? When last was your prayer dominated by what you know God wants you to do that you are not yet doing; and you are spending time in prayer asking Him for grace and help to fulfill your calling?

Go into today asking the Lord to help you revolutionize your prayer life.

Prayer: Dear Lord, please help me truly set my heart on the things of your Kingdom, and please let this reflect in my prayer life. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Job 41-42

May 25

YOUR FINAL OUTCOME

2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful [NLT]

Someone once said "what we do echoes in eternity". Also on this line was a remark by John Steinbeck who reasoned "It seems to me that if you or I must choose between two courses of thought or action, we should remember our dying and try so to live that our death brings no pleasure on the world".

What mark are you making in the annals of time? Are you Living or merely existing? What will your world remember you for?

"Shattered dreams shattered dreams all my life without you Lord is shattered dreams" were the lines of a song. Please don't waste you. You are the best thing happening to your world. Your world is your area of influence e.g. your career, ministry, family, school etc. We need to live our everyday with the end in view if we are to fulfill God's best plan for our lives and destiny. Please join the train, make a mark. Stop living for you; start living for Him (God); a life on purpose with no regrets. This is the most lucrative offer you can ever get.

Please Go into today determined to live for Him without limit and with purpose.

Prayer: Dear Lord, it is my desire to be faithful in your service. Please help me serve wherever you have placed me. Amen.

-T.S. Alalibo

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Jeremiah 42-46

May 26

NO MORE CURSES

Proverbs 26:2

Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, So a curse without cause shall not alight. [NKJV]

Two witches were discussing about a young man whose destiny they were trying to derail.

Witch A was the senior witch while witch B the apprentice.

Witch B: this boy will really cause us trouble in the future. Why don't we just put a curse on Him right now?

Witch A: do you think it is possible to put a curse on someone like him who does not do business with our Kingdom? Haven't you heard that curse causeless shall not stand? He is heavily covered because of the blood of the Holy one.

Witch B: What do we do now?

Witch A: We don't have to waste our time trying and failing to curse him. Let us use our old trick; let us send thoughts and words to him and try to make him believe that he is under a curse.

Witch B: what good would that do?

Witch A: if we can get him to believe he is under a curse, he will never prosper again because he will always be defeated from within.

The Bible makes it very clear that if you are in Christ, all your curses have been nailed to the cross (see Colossians 2:14, Galatians 3:13); Christ has cleansed you from every curse. Christians do not worry about curses; they instead focus on abiding in Christ and growing in Him. As you grow, lingering vestiges of curses fades away.

Go into today knowing that no curse can follow you to the presence of God; and that is where you dwell (see Psalms 91).

Confession: I am fruitful in every good work. I am increasing in the knowledge of God, in Jesus name. Amen. (Colossians 1:9).

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Luke 5-6

May 27

PRAYER AS A BANK ACCOUNT

Revelation 5:8

And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. [KJV]

When Sandra was to deliver her first child, the doctor said there could be certain complications. Sandra was not the least worried because she remembered she had prayed and received peace concerning her safe delivery weeks ago. Everything ended up without complications; she gave birth to a healthy baby and was discharged from the hospital the next day.

What we experience in life is usually a result of what we prayed or failed to pray about.

One of the essences of prayer is to ask for God's intervention in our affairs. We pray about issues that border us. Even though we may not always get what we want or get it when we want it, the fact that God listens to us with keen interest flowing out of love and devotion is comforting, and we can rest knowing that He is in charge of what we've handed over to Him.

God keeps record of all our prayers. Whenever we pray, God hears us and He does not forget. God always answers; it may take time; it may be a "Yes" or a "No". His answers are the best for us from an eternal point of view.

Go into today with the goal of praying about everything. God is a listening father to all His children.

Prayer: Thank you father for always hearing me when I cry to you.
Amen

-TS Alalibo & Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Galatians 1-3

May 28

THE LAW OF LIFE

Romans 8:2

...through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. [NIV]

The force of gravity on earth is a blessing indeed. It is this force that makes life on earth possible. The oxygen that we breathe and other useful gases are held around the earth by this force. We can generate electricity because of the force of gravity; magnetic fields exist because of it.

As good as gravity is, if a person does not walk within the limits of its law, he would be greatly harmed and may even die. For example, if someone jumps from the top of a very tall building, the force of gravity could kill him. Even though this law (of gravity) which makes life on earth possible and comfortable is a blessing, it becomes a curse to the man who transgresses it.

In the same way, there is a law responsible for spiritual life. It is called 'the law of the spirit of life'. Walking in this law produces abundant life; blessings and increase. But anyone who transgresses this law exposes himself to death. Sin is a transgression of this law (see 1 John 3:4) and the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23).

Go into today knowing that you are walking in God's blessing and power because you are no more under the law of sin and death but under grace. The grace of God teaches and empowers you to walk righteously in accordance with the law of life (see Titus 2:11).

Prayer: Thank You heavenly Father for your power of life. I pray you help me experience more of it daily, in Jesus name. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Exodus 33-36

May 29

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 8:3-4

For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. [NIV]

The law was given so that people might be righteous by obeying it. Because of the weakness of the flesh, man was unable to truly obey the law.

Jesus came with grace and not the law (John 1:17). Grace does not say 'do this and don't do that'; grace transforms us from within and empowers us to walk in the transformed nature. This nature is the nature of righteousness; the same nature that the law failed to create in us.

Notice that Romans 8:4 says "in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the spirit". You see, it is possible to be a Christian and still live according to your sinful nature which is resident in your flesh; it is also possible to live according to your divine righteous nature which has been inputted in your spirit. You have a choice every moment to choose which nature you will obey. The word of God helps you separate what is coming from your flesh dominated soul from what is coming from your renewed spirit (see Hebrews 4:12).

Go into today determined to live your life by the word of God (Matthew 4:4). This is also what it means to walk by the spirit (Galatians 5:16).

Prayer: Heavenly Father, please teach me to walk in the Spirit always. Amen. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Kings 1-4

May 30

GOD JUSTIFIES HIS OWN

Romans 8:33-34

Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

[NRSV]

Andrew was afflicted with sickness. Before this happened, he saw it in a dream, but he could not resist the affliction adequately because he was still feeling guilty about something he had done wrong. Andrew was afflicted because there was an accusation leveled against him in the realm of the spirit and a guilty conscience hindered his access to God's presence where help is available. He received his healing when the words of today's Bible text became alive to him.

No one can bring a charge against you who are born again. God is the one who justifies you and not your works. Jesus died for your sins and took the punishment for your sins upon Himself. This punishment includes sickness, disease, failure, untimely death, poverty, demonic afflictions and every other work of the devil which could be inflicted on us because of our sins.

Go into today trusting in the righteousness of Jesus and ignoring every accusation by pleading the blood of Jesus. Approach God's throne of mercy and grace this day for help. Remember that Jesus has paid the price for your right standing with God and God's power is transforming you more into His nature.

Prayer: Thank you Heavenly Father for the access I have to your presence. I pray you help me be all that you want me to be, in Jesus name. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 63-65

May 31

HEIRS OF GOD

Romans 8:17

And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. [NLT]

We see in our text that if we must share in Christ's glory we must also share in his suffering. The reason why it is suffering is because we are in a body of flesh. This flesh cannot please God, it cannot carry this glory we are to inherit and it indeed tries to drag us away from our father. Taking up your cross; crucifying the flesh is the suffering of Christ. We must deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Christ. We must change the way we think. We must let the mind of Christ dominate us- we must choose to walk in the spirit and not in the flesh if we must share in this glory of Christ. If we pass this stage of conquering flesh, persecutions and the likes are a small matter.

Go into today knowing that God has given you the grace to live above the flesh. This grace is manifested when you walk in the spirit. Walking in the spirit is activated when you are filled with the spirit and submitted to His authority and leading.

Prayer: thank you heavenly father for saving me. I pray you help me crucify the flesh by walking daily in the Spirit. Deliver me from doing evil, in Jesus name I pray. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

Bible Yearly Reading: Proverbs 1

June 1

WISDOM AT THE GATE

Proverbs 8:3

Beside the gates opening into the city, at the entrance of the doorways she (wisdom) cries out: [NET]

Nike and Stanley both came to the university the same day. They were born the same day, but they didn't know this. Stanley was admitted to study chemical engineering while Nike was admitted to study mathematics.

Because Stanley grew up in a Christian home, he looked forward to when he would be in college and be totally free. The university was simply amazing, he thought. That was the same thought that came to Nike's mind when she walked through the gates of the campus. But unlike Stanley, Nike asked herself: 'why am I here? What are the practical steps I can take to achieve my goals in this place? '. She started out by developing a realistic plan that revolved around class, fellowship, hostel and other occasional social involvements. Stanley on the other hand met guys who were really having fun and wanted to join in the fun. Nike ended up accomplishing her goals and was an excellent student. That wasn't the case with Stanley because he didn't have a plan to succeed in the first place.

Proverbs 8 talks about wisdom. We see in today's Bible text that wisdom cries out at the gates into the city. Wisdom would make a person ask herself questions like these: "why am I here; what is my God ordained assignment in this place?" A wise person would also set goals toward accomplishing her vision; she would develop realistic plans to accomplish these goals.

Go into today determined to heed wisdom's call by planning your life according to God's will. Pray Father, please help me develop and walk with realistic plans that will bring me into my destiny, In Jesus name. Amen. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Jeremiah 47-52

June 2

WISDOM AT THE GATE 2

Proverbs 8:3

Beside the gates opening into the city, at the entrance of the doorways she (wisdom) cries out. [NET]

Uzor wanted to start a plastic manufacturing company (this decision was based on great interest and experience he had acquired in the manufacture of plastics). He started to pray about his business plan and asked the Lord for grace and strength. He knew that the Lord was the one who would give him power to make the kind of wealth that he saw (Deuteronomy 8:18).

After praying and Confirming that the Lord wanted him to invest in manufacturing plastics, he started planning. He did not have the required funds. The first thing he did was to get very specific estimates about everything he would need. At this point he made sure nothing was tentative; he had enough information that if someone would ask him how much he needed, he could give a precise figure. The next step he took was to develop a business plan that would be presentable anywhere in the world. With God's supply of help and wisdom, these steps and many more led Uzor from being a big dreamer to being a big achiever.

If you have a vision that you have been brooding over, it is time to dust yourself up and take the next step. Wise people may have visions that look impossible for them to accomplish, but they would have smaller day to day and week to week goals that they can achieve. These goals would propel them towards their destination.

Go into today asking the Lord to help you develop the right plans and take the right actions.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Luke 7-8

June 3

PLEASING GOD

Romans 8:8

Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. [NET]

When I read a verse like this, something comes to my mind: Do I really know what it means to be in the flesh? Am I not still living in a body of flesh, why then does it say those who are in the flesh cannot please God?

Verse 5 of the same chapter gives us more insight. It says “For those who live according to the flesh have their outlook shaped by the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit have their outlook shaped by the things of the Spirit”

One of the most important things about being a Christian is letting God change the way you see the world, the way you see yourself and the way you see Him (see Romans 12:2).

Psalms 1 explains this too; It says ‘blessed is the man that stands not in the counsel of the wicked...’. Anyone who still lives his life according to the standards and expectations of this world is living his life according to the counsel of this wicked world, and that is the default state of everyone who is born into this world. The solution is to delight in God’s word and meditate on it (see Psalms 1:2). The word of God has the ability to change our outlook to life from that of the world to that of God’s kingdom.

Any Christian that still has his outlook shaped by the things of this world cannot be spiritual but he is bound to be worldly and still live according to the flesh. Romans 8:8 shows that such a Christian cannot please God.

Go into today determined to have your outlook to life shaped by God’s eternal kingdom. Pray Lord please help me to let your word be the standard for my Life. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Galatians 4-6

June 4

PRAYING ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL

1 John 5:14

And this is the confidence that we have before him: that whenever we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. [NET]

Daniel loved Isabella so much. He prayed that the Lord would hasten things concerning their getting married. He had proposed to her, but her father bluntly refused an engagement between them. Daniel wondered why God did not answer his prayer. He didn't know that Isabella was not born again at all; she was only pretending and hoping to seduce him, make him claim responsibility for her pregnancy and marry her.

One very important aspect about prayer is knowing that your prayer is in agreement with God's will. One way to know if something is God's will is by evaluating it using the written word of God. For example, God forgives our sins and heals our diseases (see Psalms 103:3).

Every good and perfect gift is from God (James 1:17). 'Good' is defined using the standards of God's word. God is perfect and he wants us to be perfect like He is (see Matthew 5:48). 'Perfect' is defined as anything agreeing with the Holy nature of God; it does not involve unrighteousness.

As you go into this week, ask the Lord to transform you more into the image of Christ; so that you may be able to prove what the will of God is in every situation (see Romans 12:2).

Prayer: Father, please help me walk always in your will. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Exodus 37-40

June 5

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

Romans 8:30

And those whom He thus foreordained, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified (acquitted, made righteous, putting them into right standing with Himself). And those whom He justified, He also glorified [raising them to a heavenly dignity and condition or state of being]. [AMP]

After Bello gave his life to Christ, he knew there was a call of God upon his life, he knew his life now belonged to Christ and he had to live for the purpose of Christ. He responded to this call and made up his mind to live the rest of his life doing this. This was the point where he began to experience grace like he had never experienced before. He had power with God and was transformed into a better person.

What makes the difference is your response to God's call. Many are called but not many respond to the call of God upon their lives. The few that respond are the few that are chosen and glorified. God has called every Christian to live for Him. Whether from the pulpit or from the marketplace, we are to consciously do things that bring about the increase of righteousness and God's kingdom on the earth. The more we respond to God's call upon our lives, the more we will experience His grace which is a result of his justification.

Go into today asking the Lord to deliver us from every distraction and deception that has been hindering many from responding to God's call. Ask Him to help you live only for Him from today. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Kings 5-9

June 6

CHRISTIANITY IS A RELATIONSHIP

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. [KJV]

As a human being, if you wanted to go and help the ants in their kingdom, in order for you to do so effectively, you may have to become an ant so that the ants would be able to relate with you. Therefore, you may have to find an ant that you will empower to give birth to the ant version of you.

There are a number of religions in this world; many trying to establish contact with God. Christianity is not a religion but a relationship with God. This relationship is made possible by Jesus who is God in human form. In order for God to present Himself in Human form, He had to beget a son born of a virgin. This son is the express image of God bodily; He radiates the glory of God in the way humans can relate to (see Colossians 1:15, Hebrews 1:3).

Jesus did not bring a religion; He brought relationship with God. Jesus introduced God to us as Father; revealing that God is the source and sustainer of all things; both things seen and things unseen. Jesus teaches us to also relate with God as our Father because God cares for us.

Go into today remembering that you are in a family relationship with God. God cares for you more than a mother would care for her child (see Isaiah 49:15).

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I thank you for this great privilege Jesus has given me to have a relationship with you. I pray you teach and help me understand and enjoy this relationship, in Jesus name. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 66-68

June 7

CONFIDENCE IN APPROACHING GOD

1 John 5:14

And this is the confidence that we have before him: that whenever we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. [NET]

Have you noticed how religions in the world are marked by uncertainty, fear and constant effort not to displease their deity because there is no confidence whether their deity is truly pleased with them and hears their prayers?

One thing we have as children of God is the confident knowledge that God hears us when we pray to Him. Christ has transformed our hearts and enabled us to be able to walk in God's perfect will.

Because of Christ, for the first time since the fall of man, we now have peace with God and confidence to approach Him. This is not because of what we do but because of Christ Jesus. Religion cannot give this confidence because religion is based on what you can do to gain right standing with God, and most of the time, we find that we can't do enough.

Go into today knowing that among many other benefits you have as a Christian, confidence that God hears you when you pray is essential. This confidence you have in dealing with God is based on His grace that came through the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank the Lord for this.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for the confidence and boldness you have given me to approach Your throne. I ask that you help me always walk in this grace. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 2-3

June 8

LOYAL CHRISTIANS

Psalms 34:9-10

Remain loyal to the Lord, you chosen people of his, for his loyal followers lack nothing! Even young lions sometimes lack food and are hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. [NET]

What does it mean to be loyal to the Lord?

When the people of Israel were migrating to the Promised Land, they were led by the Lord through Moses. A day came that Moses went to the mountain to meet with the Lord and was there longer than they expected. He wasn't even gone for up to forty days when the people devised a way to practice idolatry-something that they always believed was a viable option to serving God. You see, they had lived for centuries among idol worshipers who were also very prosperous, they probably felt idols too had power, but this only proved that they were not loyal to the Lord (see Exodus 32).

A loyal Christian will not compromise his faith because of pressure, he will not cheat in an exam because he might fail, he will not lie because he might get into trouble; a loyal Christian trusts in the Lord to save him from and through every situation. He would rather displease men that displease God.

We see that when God's people are loyal, God himself guarantees their provisions in life.

Go into today determined to be a loyal Christian. Determine that from today, you will represent Christ even when it may seem unpopular. This is the way to walk in God's greater blessings.

Prayer:

Thank the Lord because He supplies your needs

Ask the Lord to help you remain loyal and please Him always.
Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: The book of Lamentations

June 9

THE MIRROR OF GOD'S WORD

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. [KJV]

When Deji was asked to pray, he sounded exactly like the general overseer of their church. If you didn't see him but only heard him pray, you would think it was the general overseer praying. He had also adopted the general overseer's mannerisms and even walked and gestured like he did. Even though Deji did not do this intentionally, the physical transformation he was experiencing was because he constantly beheld and listened to the general overseer of His church congregation.

This is the same way God wants to transform us from glory to glory. This transformation constantly happens as we behold Christ Jesus through His word. Now notice that God's word is likened to a mirror or glass. When you look at a glass, you expect to see a reflection of yourself. When you look at God's word, you see a reflection of your ideal self in the face of Christ Jesus; this means everything that Jesus does is a possibility for you who constantly beholds Him (see 1 John 4:17).

Just like you expect to see your reflection in a mirror, God expects you to anticipate His glory in your Life as you look upon the mirror of His word. Remember that everything you receive from the Lord is received by faith.

Go into today expecting to be transformed by God's word that is now within you.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to help you set Him before you at all times (see Psalm 16:8). Ask the Lord to help you grow from glory to glory. Amen. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Luke 9-10

June 10

YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER

Mark 1:8

I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost. [KJV]

When Salome found out that she was pregnant, the first thing that came to her mind was ‘who is responsible?’ This was clearly a sign to her that she had not been very responsible with her life. You see, even though Salome had ‘given her life to Christ up to five times already’, she found it practically impossible to live the life of a Christian. Why was it so difficult for her to be a Christian? Because there was no power available in her inner man to live the exchanged life.

Notice that when Jesus told His disciples to go and preach the gospel, He did not simply say to go into the world and preach, he always added something like this: “baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit (see Matthew 28:19)” or “he that believes and is baptized shall be saved (Mark 16:16)”. Jesus did not expect His disciples to only preach the gospel of salvation to people, He wanted them to lead the people to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and teach them about the Kingdom (see Matthew 28:20).

Many Christians struggle today because they have not yet received the power from heaven to be Christians. This power comes after the Holy Ghost has come upon you (see Acts 1:8).

Go into today depending on the power that the Holy spirit supplies. This power also empowers you to pray the way you ought to. If you have not yet been baptized in the Holy Ghost, this should become your top priority as a Christian.

Prayer: Thank our heavenly father for bringing you to this Day. Ask Him for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit and Power (see Luke 11:12-13). -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ephesians 1-3

June 11

YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER 2

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
[KJV]

Dele was now a Christian for three months. He knew in his heart that he had been transformed and He now loved the Lord. But his best friends and colleagues at work did not know this; they couldn't sense the difference in Dele's life. He was still that old Dele that they all knew. All this changed when Dele received the Holy Spirit. His life was transformed because he had now received the power to be a witness for Jesus. Everyone around him knew that there was something new, alive and refreshing about his personality- he had now received power to be a witness for Christ.

Some Christians are the only ones who know that they are born again; this is because there is no noticeable transformation in their lives for others to see. The transformation that Jesus brings is not one that can be hidden nor is it one that can be engineered for others to see because of acting. It is a tangible transformation that changes the substance of your personality. This only happens after the Holy Spirit has come upon you (see Acts 1:8); the power that enables you to be a witness for Christ comes from the Holy Spirit.

I like to define a witness for Christ as a person whose contact with you produces an experience of Christ.

Go into today determining to yield to the Holy Spirit that is within you. This is the way to walk in the spirit and be a witness for Christ.

Prayer: Thank the Lord for bringing you to His light. Ask the Lord to empower today to represent Him well. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Leviticus 1-3

June 12

THE HOLY SPIRIT PRESERVES

Ephesians 1:13-14

...in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. [NKJV]

When I was requested to preach in a crusade for the first time, I kept asking the Lord what He would have me speak about. I perceived in my spirit that I wasn't to preach the usual sermon aimed at calling people to receive Christ; my friend Evangelist Uche had ministered the previous day and the Lord moved mightily in drawing many souls to the Kingdom. As I pressed further, I was led to teach the people about how to be a Christian and remain a Christian. This all led to me teaching them practically about the Holy Spirit and His power in the life of a believer. We (evangelist Uche and I) ministered the baptism of the Holy Ghost to many of the people on the crusade ground that day, and I left there knowing I had done what God wanted.

Many times, we minister salvation to people but sometimes forget to minister the Holy Spirit to them, yet it is the Holy Spirit who would preserve their salvation. The Bible reveals that the Holy Spirit is the seal and the guarantee of our salvation (also see Col 1:22). A seal has many functions, one of them is to preserve.

Go into today asking the Lord to empower you win true followers of Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Thank God for your salvation. Ask the Lord for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit today. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Kings 10-13

June 13

POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Mark 16:15

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. [ASV]

Henry was posted to a village as the community development officer. As soon as he entered the village, he knew that there was something wrong with the land. He sensed a great demonic presence. As he inquired about the land, he found that even though the soil there was scientifically proven to be very fertile, their crops did not do well. He observed that things didn't just prosper in that village, and the people were like their land. The land was under a curse.

Henry knew it was time to preach the gospel to every creature. Through Henry, deliverance came to the land and the people therein.

Jesus has given us the awesome privilege to preach the gospel to every creature. This means everything that God has created can be affected by the power of the gospel. When the gospel prospers in a life, it brings deliverance and ushers in great blessings. When the gospel prospers in a territory, it has the same effect on that territory. Territories held bound by demonic princes can be set free because of the gospel, and most importantly, people who have been sentenced to eternal damnation are now free to partake in God's divine life because of the gospel.

As you pray today, ask the Lord to empower you to be a more effective agent of the gospel.

Pray this Prayer: thank you Lord for the privilege I have to present your precious gospel. I pray you help in this. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 69-71

June 14

CONQUERING PRIDE

Habakkuk 2:4

"Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by their faithfulness in God."/[NLT]

This conversation ensues between two friends; Fred and Blessing
Fred: Blessing, the way you responded to the pastor showed a level of pride.

Blessing: really! How do you mean, what have I done now? You are so judgmental.

Fred: I am sorry I only wished to help.

Blessing: sorry for yourself, remember you are not to judge.

Sadly, many people are like Blessing, we give excuses for our misdeeds, we explain why we have to do what we did instead of accepting that we are wrong.

Let's take a look at pride:

Pride is a disease of the heart. It is an overly high esteem of oneself.

Pride is not a virtue, it is a sin. It does not give glory to God, it gives glory to self. Pride always says "I can do it better, why not me?"

Pride is not sorry except when forced to apologize.

A proud person sees faults in others but never in himself.

Go into today knowing that pride keeps its prey far from God, it does not exempt Bishops and Pastors, it will not exempt you if you allow it. Pride can be conquered by submitting totally to God.

Pray this Prayer: search me o God and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts, point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. AMEN

-Dr James Emmanuel.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 4

June 15

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Mark 4:20

But these are the ones sown on good soil: They hear the word and receive it and bear fruit, one thirty times as much, one sixty, and one a hundred. [NET]

Someone said 'I know the word of God says so, but I can't do it'. This person is an example of someone who has heard the word but does not receive it into his heart.

Many people hear the word of God. Oh, how much people hear the word of God! But what makes the difference is receiving it. You see, when a visitor comes to knock on your front door, you are expected to respond to the knock, but you can choose whether or not to receive the visitor into your house. So it is with the word of God that comes to the door of our hearts. What makes the difference between fruitful and untruthful Christians is whether or not they receive the word of God that they hear.

We receive the word by letting the word of God change us; we let the word change our philosophies that do not align with it; we determine to live as new creatures with a new identity and citizenship as sons of God.

Let's go into today determining to allow God's word Change the way we see life, change the way we see ourselves, and change the way we see God.

Prayer: Pray that God will multiply His grace upon your life (see 2 Peter 1:2).

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ezekiel 1-6

June 16

SPIRITUAL GIFTS 1

1 Corinthians 12:1

With regard to spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. [NET]

When Gbenga became born again, it was hard for him to convince his family members that there was anything to be desired in Christianity; they were quite content with their idol worship. One day, as Gbenga studied the Bible, it dawned on Him that when his family members see the gifts of the spirit, they would know Christianity is not just another religion, but the power of God.

His mother had been afflicted with fibroid and Gbenga insisted that the Lord would heal her if she followed him to church. She reluctantly followed him one Sunday, and she was ministered to. Miraculously, her fibroid disappeared. The surgery that was scheduled for the next week was cancelled because the doctor couldn't find any fibroid in her again. This is how Gbenga's entire family was brought to the knowledge of the truth because he attended a Church congregation that was not ignorant about spiritual gifts.

God has given us spiritual gifts to make it easier for us to serve him. These gifts are available to every Christian today. You have to believe that you can walk in them before you manifest in them.

As you go into the day, ask the Lord to help activate His gifts that are currently lying latent in you.

Pray this prayer: Lord God, I thank you for your spiritual gifts. I pray you help me walk in them. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Luke 11-12

June 17

NO RESPECT OF PERSONS WITH GOD

Romans 2:11

For there is no respect of persons with God. [KJV]

Pastor Bernard was praying that God would open ministry doors for him in places outside his country. God answered his prayers and he received an invitation to minister in South Korea (this was in the sixties when Korea was still a poor country). Pastor Bernard later received another invitation to minister in a church located in Greece. He somehow felt that people in Greece were more valuable than the poorer brethren in Korea. He decided to go and minister in Greece even though he sensed that his ministry was more needed in Korea. His ministrations had no fruits and nothing of eternal value was affected by his long visit to Greece.

Today, some of the most vibrant churches with very large missionary programs are located in South Korea. God wanted Pastor Bernard to be part of that success story but he saw people for their material value and missed out of God's program.

Many people in the kingdom today still miss out of God's program because they walk by sight and not by faith. We walk by faith by making our decisions based on what we know is right and not simply based on surrounding influences. We do not see people based on their buying power but based on how God sees them. God's word defines right and wrong for us, understanding God's word will help us discern what is right in any situation.

As we go into this day, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you more how to walk in God's will and plan. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ephesians 4-6

June 18

TRUE RICHES 1

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was rich, he became poor for your sakes, so that you by his poverty could become rich. [NET]

Chief Patrick was the richest man in his community. He was not very generous so when he died people did not miss him. The last ten years of his life was like hell on earth; he had struggled with cancer that kept spreading, but his riches could not alleviate his suffering. The riches that Christ gives, is superior to the type Chief Patrick had, it can expel all kinds of sufferings and bondage. It does not only provide financial security, it provides eternal security.

Jesus was rich but He became poor so that through His poverty we might also become rich like Him. It is therefore necessary to understand His kind of riches. Think about the kind of riches Christ has; He is all powerful; nothing is impossible with Him, nothing can conquer Him, etc. This is the same kind of riches Christ offers you. He came to make us more than conquerors (see Romans 8:37); He came to supply all our needs and to cause us to have abundance in all good things (see 2 Corinthians 9:8), etc. We receive Christ's riches by dwelling in Him and allowing Him dwell in us (see John 15:7). This means His word controls your life and you are submitted to His authority; this means you no longer live your life to serve mammon but to serve God alone (see Matthew 6:24).

Go into today determining to enter the riches Jesus purchased for you with His precious blood. Know that you are an over-comer and nothing can conquer you in life because of the blood of Jesus.

Prayer: Thank our Father in heaven for your life. Ask for more of the enriching grace of Christ Jesus.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Leviticus 4-6

June 19

HOPE FOR CREATION

Romans 8:20-21

For the creation (nature) was subjected to frailty (to futility, condemned to frustration), not because of some intentional fault on its part, but by the will of Him Who so subjected it — [yet] with the hope that nature (creation) itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and corruption [and gain an entrance] into the glorious freedom of God's children. [AMP]

Daniel's dad was a great scientist. He developed a customized Vehicle for Daniel that could become invisible, change shape and start flying like an airplane; it could also be used as a normal car. Daniel spent seven years learning how to operate this complicated machine. Unfortunately, Daniel had a terrible accident that led to his complete memory loss. When he regained some of his memory, he only remembered basic operations of the vehicle; he didn't know how to fly it anymore. For Daniel's safety, his father had to temporarily disable most of the powerful functions of the vehicle, hoping that when Daniel fully recovers and remembers how to operate it, he would enable all the other functions.

When man fell, the entire physical creation of God was brought under a curse because man was to be head over God's physical creation. God did this in hope that in the fullness of time, when we have been redeemed and brought into the glorious nature of SONS of God, creation too will be free from the limitation that it suffers. The resurrection of Jesus meant this day will finally come. I believe this is one of the reasons the Lord didn't say 'preach the gospel to all people' but He said 'preach the gospel to all creation' (see Mark 16:15).

As you go into today, remember that what you have in Christ is more powerful than your mind can comprehend.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to empower you walk in the power of His sons.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Kings 14-18

June 20

TRUE RICHES 2

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was rich, he became poor for your sakes, so that you by his poverty could become rich. [NET]

If Jesus was rich and then became poor so that through His poverty we might be made rich, then the kind of riches He gives is the kind of riches that He has.

There are riches that the devil can give, but this is different from that that Jesus gives. You see, the blessing of the Lord, it makes rich, and He adds no sorrow (see Proverbs 10:22). The empowerment from the devil may make one rich, but he would add much sorrow. A spirit cannot give you something without leaving its fingerprint in your life. Every spirit apart from the Holy Spirit that enriches people leaves its fingerprint of sorrow and destruction in the life and lineage of the person that it enriches.

The man the Lord blesses is the man who focuses on Him and not on riches. One way to know such a man is by checking the way he responds to God's word. Such a person delights in the word of God (see Psalms 1:1-3).

Go into today knowing that the type of riches Jesus gives is eternal, nothing of this realm can affect it; it manifests in this realm and yet cannot be affected by the forces in this realm.

Pray this prayer: father, I ask that you empower me walk in the riches of Christ, in Jesus name I pray. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 72-74

June 21

DIVINE POWER

2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. [NRSV]

Study of the Bible reveals that there are realms, with each realm exerting its power over the lower realm. The spirit realm or second heaven can exert some influence and power over this physical realm because it is higher than this realm. There is a realm higher than the second heaven; this realm is called the third heaven. This realm is superior to the spiritual realm where demons operate, it is the highest heaven where God dwells (see Psalms 115:16, Deuteronomy 10:14). This is the divine realm and the power from this realm cannot be resisted in all the lower realms; which include heaven, earth, and under the earth (see Philippians 2:10).

Those who are in Christ are seated with Him in heavenly places, far above principalities and powers, dominion and rule, and every name that can be invoked in heaven, on earth and under the earth (see Ephesians 1:21, Philippians 2:10). Christians are partakers of the divine nature and the divine power of God operates in us (see 2 Peter 1:4).

Go into today discerning the height to which Christ has elevated you. You are light and darkness cannot comprehend you. Prayer confession: I am walking in the divine nature; I am walking above pride, greed, fear, and all forms of lusts, in Jesus name. Amen. (Read 2 Peter 1:2-4).

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 5-6

June 22

THE DELIVERANCE

Romans 8:21

That nature (creation) itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and corruption [and gain an entrance] into the glorious freedom of God's children. [AMP]

In 2015, while many were celebrating with their families and spreading the Christmas Holiday cheer, hundreds of homes in the United Kingdom had to vacate their houses because of a terrible storm. This particular storm was an unusual one.

Do you know that the earth is growing old? And this is showing through certain natural disasters that do not usually happen? Anything in this earth grows old with time. God didn't make things to be this way. The entire creation (including us humans) was placed under the bondage of decay (corruption causing things to grow old) and the only way out of this bondage is for the sons of God to be revealed and to be manifested as such. This will fully happen during the resurrection of the dead. But we can see first fruits of these things now because of the Holy Spirit who empowers us to walk in the divine nature while in this body of flesh. This means you have the empowerment to minister deliverance to your life and that of others.

Remember that in this dispensation of the world, this is how you will know the sons of God: "they that are led by the spirit of God are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14).

As you go into today, sincerely ask yourself this question: who and what is leading me in life?' Remember that the Holy Spirit will never lead you do anything that is unholy, unrighteous or unloving.

Prayer: thank you father for your grace that fills me through your Spirit within me. I pray you help me always follow His leading, in Jesus name I pray. Amen. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ezekiel 7-12

June 23

FRUIT OF REPENTANCE

Matthew 3:8

Therefore produce fruit that proves your repentance [NET]

Steve used to steal a lot; he stole mobile phones, tablets, and cash from unsuspecting acquaintances and church members. When Steve repented, he cried through that night because he saw himself in the light of God's reality. He now knew that he had wasted a great part of his youth; being a church instrumentalist but never really following Jesus. The phone he was currently using was stolen. He knew instantly that he could not keep using that phone. He had to return the phone, and this was very difficult for him to do, but he depended on God's grace and did it. He later wrote out the names of all those he could remember stealing from; he had 16 names. Although Steve could no longer return what he had stolen from all of them, he promised to pay back in cash what he had stolen. Many who were Christians refused to collect his money and forgave him. One of the men he stole from was so impressed by his genuine repentance that he offered Steve a job. This was how Steve got a good job.

When a person repents, this means he decides to stop doing the evil things that he used to do, and he cuts off from the benefits of such. This is a function of grace.

Go into today knowing that there are fruits that prove that a person has repented. Returning what you stole, and undoing damages caused by past sinful actions is a fruit that proves your repentance. Doing these is consistent with the precepts of God. Read Luke 19:8.

Prayer: Thank the Lord for saving you by His grace. Ask the Lord for His grace to help you undo every evil you have done to people in the past. Thank the Lord because He is always on your side (See Psalm 118:6).

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Luke 13-14

June 24

EFFECTIVE PRAYING

Romans 8:26

So too the [Holy] Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance. [AMP]

When Ben woke up early in the morning, he felt a burden in his spirit, but because he could not express this burden using words, he began to pray in the spirit. He prayed in tongues for about 30 minutes, until he felt the burden lift.

Ben got to the office that morning to discover there was a big conspiracy against him. Someone had submitted a terrible complaint against his department, and it was clear to him that he was the target. Something similar made his colleague lose his job the previous month. Immediately Ben got wind of the situation, he understood why the Holy Spirit wanted him to build spiritual might early that morning; he also knew he was going to come out of that situation victorious. That was exactly what happened; his accuser was the one who lost her job.

As you go into today, remember that the Holy Spirit helps you in the place of prayer. There are many times you don't know what to pray for as you ought to pray for it, but the Holy Spirit helps you in such times. It is important to be able to pray in the Spirit, especially in tongues. Praying in tongues does not require interpretations because you are talking to God who understands all languages. When you are delivering a message in tongues to men, then it should be interpreted.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to empower you pray more in the Spirit.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Philippians 1-2

June 25

YOU SHALL FLOURISH

Psalms 92:12

The [uncompromisingly] righteous shall flourish like the palm tree [be long-lived, stately, upright, useful, and fruitful]; they shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon [majestic, stable, durable, and incorruptible]. [AMP]

The palm tree is a very useful and strong tree; one very important thing about the palm tree is that it is evergreen. It does not wither when all other plants around it withers.

The word God has for you today is that you will flourish like the palm tree. When others say there is a casting down, you will say there is a lifting up. Your growth will never end and you shall be incorruptible.

A palm tree does not struggle to grow; all that is needed is for it to remain planted in the right place.

Your growth and prosperity in life shall not be a function of struggle but a function of grace. All you need to do is to make sure you remain planted in the Lord.

As you go into this day, make up your mind to focus more on abiding in Christ and doing His will- this is the secret to true success. When you do this, you will notice that the Lord will take care of every aspect of your life.

Prayer: thank the Lord for bringing you into this day.

Thank the Lord for the grace that makes you a Christian

Ask the Lord to help you abide in Him all through the year. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Leviticus 10-12

June 26

PLANTED SECURELY

Psalms 92:12

Planted in the house of the Lord, they shall flourish in the courts of our God. [AMP]

Kemi's neighbors were her enemies but she didn't know this. One thing they constantly couldn't understand was the way in which she made progress in life. 'Don't mind her, she is a prostitute, how else do you think she keeps getting promoted?' Some of them would say out of envy. The day Kemi got married, one of them had to confess out loud, she said: 'there is something about this girl that is very powerful. She is simply invincible and untouchable'.

I prophesy into your life today that your enemies will never be able to limit your success; they will always look up to you.

If you are planted in the house of the Lord, you do not need to struggle to flourish; your heritage in life is blessing and prosperity. You do not need to worry about your security because the Lord who keeps you does not sleep nor slumber (see Psalms 121:4). Actually, you do not need to worry about anything at all, just trust in the Lord and seek to please Him always (see Matthew 6:21).

How do we remain planted in house of the Lord? By dwelling in the secret place of the most high (see Psalms 91). This means we live in the consciousness of God's presence every moment of our lives. This consciousness produces the fear of the Lord which keeps us in divine wisdom and grace.

As you go into the day, ask the Lord to empower you to always practice His presence. Ask the Holy Spirit to make His presence Known in your life. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Kings 19-22

June 27

DIVINE WISDOM

Psalm 111:10 (NLT)

Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true wisdom. All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom. Praise him forever!

Everyone who is wise has come to understand the fact that life has a Lord who orders things, and there is more to life than meets the eyes. Wisdom makes any understanding person know this from simple observations of life. It is only the fool that says in his heart that there is no God (see Psalm 14:1). There are many who have said with their mouths and with their pens that there is no God, but not in their hearts, they know in their hearts that they are lying. Some of them are even servants of the devil set up to turn the hearts of the simple-minded into ultimate foolishness.

Since we know that one primary manifestation of divine wisdom is the fear of the Lord, we want to be sure that we are walking in divine wisdom by ensuring that we understand and walk in the fear the Lord. We may not be able to easily know and control whether we are walking in divine wisdom (because everyone is wise in his own eyes), but we can definitely control whether we are walking in the fear of the Lord. If we are walking in the fear of the Lord, we are walking in divine wisdom (see Job 28:28).

Every child of God has the spirit of Christ, this means he has the spirit of wisdom. Many do not walk in their divine wisdom because their hearts have not been renewed to walk in this aspect of their divine nature.

Go into today remembering that the fear of the Lord in your heart provides the right atmosphere for the manifestation of the divine wisdom that you have received in your spirit through the Spirit of Christ(the Holy Spirit).

- Pst SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 75-77

June 28

FORGIVENESS

Matthew 6:15

But if you do not forgive others, your Father will not forgive you your sins. [NET]

Cynthia betrayed and offended Monica in a very bad way. She told Monica's fiance that Monica once had an abortion. This was something that Monica was still trying to find words with which to tell him, and she shared this burden with Cynthia her best friend. Monica now found it impossible to forgive Cynthia. But she didn't know that this was exactly what the enemy of her soul wanted.

When Monica needed help, she cried to the Lord as usual, but the heavens appeared to be closed against her. She was worried and kept asking the Lord why His presence was no longer in her life like before. She found today's Bible verse and received deliverance.

Jesus reveals to us that our heavenly father forgives our trespasses. The only reason God will not forgive us is because we refuse to forgive others who have trespassed against us. Anyone who refuses to forgive others is only showing that he does not appreciate and accept what God has done for him in forgiving him his many sins. He is also proving to the heavens that he does not truly possess the nature of God.

As you go into today, remember that choosing to forgive is choosing to walk in the Spirit; it is in keeping with the nature of God.

Prayer:

Ask the Lord for grace to forgive those who have offended you.

Ask the Lord to empower you be more like Him everyday and in every way. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 7

June 29

ESTEEM THE WORD

Job 23:12

Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.
[KJV]

Some people might be offended in the story of Monica in yesterday's devotional. They did not understand how someone like Monica will still have a real relationship with the Lord after what she had done. The truth is, what Monica did when she was an unbeliever was a horrible thing, abortion is actually murder. But she repented and God forgave her. God does not judge people for their past, He judges them based on the way they respond to His word.

Now let's talk about the way people respond to God's word. I have come to learn that the way to know if someone is truly born again is not by what church he attends or the things he says, even though these are important, they can be faked and there are many morally sound unsaved people. The way people respond to God's word is the way to know whether or not they are born again. Anyone who has no regard for the word of God has no regard for God and does not really believe in God. Such a person cannot bring forth the fruits of righteousness because the transformation that produces such fruit comes by God's word. Jesus purges us by His word so that we may be fruitful (see John 15:3). The only way a person can truly walk above sin is by letting God's word dominate his heart (see Psalms 119:11).

Go into today determining to regard God's word above your daily bread.

Prayer: Thank the Lord for sending His word to transform you into His nature. Ask the Lord to empower you walk in the fullness of His will for your life.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ezekiel 13-18

June 30

FORGIVENESS 2

2 Corinthians 6:14

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? [KJV]

After Monica explained to her fiancé that she was still an unbeliever when she had the abortion Cynthia told him about, she apologized and explained to him that the only reason Cynthia knew about this was because she sought Cynthia's counsel on how best to tell him about her shameful past.

When Cynthia heard that Monica and Gerald were still going ahead with their wedding as planned, she felt very ashamed. She later decided to go to Monica and apologize for what she had done. Monica told her that she had already forgiven her. Even though Monica forgave Cynthia, she was wise enough to discontinue friendship with her. Cynthia was not born again and Monica always knew this. Even if she didn't know this before, she now knew.

One of the wisest things you can do for yourself is to obey all God's precepts; they will protect you from unnecessary trouble. Being nice and friendly with unbelievers is different from letting an unbeliever be your friend and confidant. Doing this is simply foolishness because the unbeliever will end up hurting you, either spiritually or physically; intentionally or unintentionally. An unbeliever you are yoked with will infect you with his unbelief, whether you like it or not and the worst thing that can happen to a Christian is unbelief.

Go into today asking the Lord to send you true friends that believe in Him. Determine today to wisely discontinue close friendship with those who do not truly believe in Jesus.

Prayer: Thank God for giving you life; thank Him for relationships. Ask for the wisdom to make the right friendships. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Luke 15-16

July 1

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Isaiah 2:2

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.
[KJV]

As soon as Ladi started work in the company, it was clear that a something good has come. Because of her work there, the company became profitable again. Ladi was the most valued person in that company. Her secret was her ability to employ the resources of her divine life in Christ.

Today's Bible text shows us that in the last days, the kingdom of God will be glorified and all nations will seek direction from it. I believe this is a prophecy concerning the days the Lord physically comes with us His saints to dominate the earth. But I also know that now in this present world, we are to manifest the first fruits of all the realities of the age to come (see Hebrews 6:5).

Go into today knowing that the power that is at work in you is superior to any the world has ever seen (see 1 John 5:4; 4:4). Remember that you are the light of the world (see Matthew 5:14), you will provide solutions to the world's greatest problems and nations will feel honored to have you.

Prayer confession: I am walking in the fullness of God's will for me. I am the light of the world. Men will see my good works and glorify my heavenly father, in Jesus name. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Philippians 3-4

July 2

SIGNS OF KINGDOM 1

1 Corinthians 1:6-7

Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: 7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: [KJV]

Ronke went to visit her friend in another campus. She stayed there for three days and was really blessed by their fellowship. One notable thing about that Campus fellowship was a great presence of spiritual gifts. Prophesying and healings were a common thing, even among new believers there. Ronke left that campus desiring the spiritual gifts and praying to receive them. In a short time, she too started walking notably in spiritual gifts. Her desire birthed a manifestation that Jesus had long paid for.

When Jesus commissioned us preach the gospel, He told us that 'these signs shall follow they that believe' and He mentioned a list of spiritual gifts and manifestations (see Mark 16:15-18).

In today's Bible text, we see Apostle Paul making reference to spiritual gifts in the people as a sign that His testimony of Christ among them was confirmed. You see, the sign that true Christianity is in a place is the manifestation of God's power and righteousness (see 1 Corinthians 4:21).

Go into today desiring more manifestations of God's power and gifts in your life. Remember that your desire would birth a manifestation. "... Seek and you shall find..." (Read Matthew 7:7).

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I thank you for saving me and making me your own. I pray that you help me walk in your power; that your power and gifts will be manifested in my life like never before. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Leviticus 10-12

July 3

BRING IT ALL

Mathew 11:28.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest". [KJV]

Bisi is a Christian. He borrowed a book from a senior colleague while in school. He knew this fellow was about to graduate so to return the book to him, but he wanted to finish reading everything in the book. Unfortunately, this friend graduated, but Bisi could not return the book. Thereafter he heard a sermon on restitution and this fueled every sting of condemnation in his heart because he tried to locate this friend but all efforts proved abortive. He labored in this condemnation for years until he read Matthew 11:28. He saw Jesus in that scripture calling out to him to BRING IT ALL. Immediately, he found God's peace in his heart.

Just like Bisi, you may be stuck with this kind of arrow in your heart, especially when a scripture is pointing to your wrongs. My dear, the scripture must point to your wrongs, but it is not always within your strength to right the wrongs. Take that embargo of the devil upon you to Jesus and He will give you peace in exchange. He will free your heart from all condemnation and give you the strength and wisdom to do what is required.

Don't be too anxious and careful to prove yourself before God because your proof is already in Christ. By grace, you have already been accepted in God's beloved family (see Ephesians 1:6), Read Philippians 4:6. 1 Peter 5:7: Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. [NET]

As you go into today, note this: there is no question you cannot find its answer in Christ. BRING IT ALL.

Prayer: I surrender all my bewildering questions to you Lord, withholding nothing. Thank you Father for hearing me. Amen.

-KC Ibekwe

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Kings 1-5

July 4

SIGNS OF KINGDOM 2

Romans 12:6

And we have different gifts according to the grace given to us. If the gift is prophecy, that individual must use it in proportion to his faith.
[NET]

“If I had walked in these spiritual gifts a year ago, my aunt wouldn’t have died”. Ronke thought. It pained Ronke that she could have been walking in her spiritual gifts long ago if she knew what she now knows.

What exactly was it that Ronke knew? She knew that spiritual gifts were meant for her, that she didn’t have to earn them because they are gifts. Jesus has already paid for them with his life. She also acquired faith to manifest them by hearing God’s word of faith. She had learned that spiritual gifts are manifested according to one’s measure of faith, so she went for the word of God to build her faith.

Ronke noticed that she started becoming more and more conscious of the Holy Spirit and she grew in friendship with the Holy Spirit, this was a major key to her breakthrough in spiritual gifts.

We saw previously that one sign that the kingdom of God is present is that the power of God will be manifested. We are to be agents of God’s power on the earth. One way we manifest this power is through His spiritual gifts. We are to desire spiritual gifts (see 1 Corinthians 12:31). Our desire is bound to birth manifestations.

As you go into today, remember that the Holy Spirit is the one who distributes spiritual gifts. This means you have to be in fellowship with Him in order to activate and maximize His gifts within you.

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you to walk in closer communion and friendship with Him from this day. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 78-80

July 5

HER CANDLE GOETH NOT OUT BY NIGHT

Proverbs 31:18

She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. [KJV]

Also read: Luke 15:8

Ayo received many awards, he was also the overall best student in the school. The principal of the school came up stage to make comments "Ayo burnt the night candles" he said.

Night: a time to rest, sleep and a time covered with darkness. This time is characterized by inactivity. Yet, almost every great success is associated with the night.

The woman in today's text perceived that her merchandise was good; hence, she spent the hours of the night preparing, rehearsing and practicing. What have you perceived to be good in your life? What are your strategies to achieving it? What extra effort do you need to put in place? Certainly, there are excesses you must cut off.

God has given the dream; it is your responsibility to pursue it. Remember that to have a dream eyes must be closed, but eyes must be opened to make it come to pass.

Check your archive as you go into the day, find out those merchandise in you that are good and spend quality time developing them. Follow God, seek knowledge, chase excellence and you will be productive.

Prayer: I rebuke laziness in my life in Jesus name.

I receive the grace of an achiever in Jesus name.

I receive light (knowledge) to achieve in Jesus name. Amen.

-Dr James Emmanuel

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 8-9

July 6

THE TIME OF FIGS WAS NOT YET

Mark 11:13

And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find anything thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. [KJV].

There is the true story told of an eighty year old woman who was seen moving from street to street preaching the gospel with a bell in her hand. Those who saw her were amazed; they would ask why she was still doing this at her old age? 'I neglected it when I had the strength, God gave me a second chance' she would respond.

The tree in our text had no second chance, it withered immediately. Jesus sought fruit from a tree when it was not time for fruit, have you thought on this before? Think about it today.

Has God given you an assignment: talents to use; a book to write, a message to preach, tracts to share, lives to touch, etc.? Are you saying in your heart that it is not time because conditions are not favorable? are you excusing yourself waiting 'for the time of figs'? Remember brethren, that our lives are not our own (see Jeremiah 10:23).

Go into today pondering on today's text. If God will come seeking fruit from you today, will He find fruits?

You can do all that he assigned you. Begin it today and He will supply all you need to be successful.

Prayer: My Father, as I begin to do all you have committed into my hands, supply all my needs in Jesus name. Amen.

-Dr James Emmanuel.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ezekiel 19-24

July 7

BE STRONG IN THE LORD

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. [NIV]

Deji had an effectual prayer life. Each time he prayed he had great confidence that the Lord would hear him, and because of this he received great results. Deji derived strength in knowing that he was walking in a righteous and holy manner. One day as he was praying with his usual strength drawn from consciousness of his righteousness, his thoughts strayed to some unrighteous things he'd done some time ago, he remembered them and his strength in the place of prayer diminished. His ability to do spiritual warfare failed in the darkness of his sin consciousness. Thankfully, he remembered that Jesus came to make him righteous. He remembered that he was never to stand before God based on His own righteousness but based on the righteousness of Christ Jesus. Immediately, Deji received strength in the Lord and regained his ability to do spiritual warfare against the powers that sought to limit his destiny.

Even though as children of God, we are not to consciously walk in a way that gives the accuser grounds to afflict our consciences, let us not be deceived into the trap of self-righteousness. It makes a person think that God would hear him because of something he did, or did not do. Let us cease to draw strength from our own self-righteousness and discipline. Let us continually draw strength from the Lord's righteousness. This is what it means to be strong in the Lord.

As you go into today, know that you are going from Victory to victory because your strength comes from the Lord's righteousness.

Prayer: Lord, help me to always depend on your righteousness and walk in it. Deliver me from walking in a manner that is not consistent with your new righteous nature within me. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Luke 17-18

July 8

HOW TO PRAY EFFECTIVELY 1

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in every situation, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, tell your requests to God [NET]

Nkechi wondered why it appeared God wasn't answering her prayers. It so happened that each time she prayed about her needs, she would pray like this: "God, I have come again, you haven't done it for me yet oh, I have prayed, I have fasted; I paid my tithes, offerings, and first fruits. I have even given to the poor. Has your word failed in my life? Look at Sandra; she got married last month after getting that good job. Is it that you don't love me? "

Some Christians are like Nkechi, they attack God with their prayers; carefully listing all the things He has not done. They are not thankful and they actually believe God owes them because of some money they've given in church and some good they've done. They forget that we are breathing solely because of God's mercy, and this we cannot pay for.

I would like to let us know that this is the trick of the devil. He likes to blind us to all God is doing for us so we can only see our problems, when in truth, most times, thanksgiving does half of the work in the place of prayer.

One of David's greatest strengths was his ability to praise and give God thanks through every situation. This should be our attitude too. We must adapt the attitude of gratitude if we must receive our testimonies swiftly. The next time you are about to pray, remember to wrap your prayers in the parcel of thanksgiving and praise (see Philippians 4:6).

Pray this prayer: Dear Lord, open my eyes to all that you have done for me so that I may always give thanks. Amen.

-Pas Esiri Amurun

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Colossians 1-2

July 9

HOW TO PRAY EFFECTIVELY 2

James 4:3

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. [KJV]

David prayed that God should give him a car, but his motive was not in alignment with God's counsel; his desire to have a car was furnished by deep seated pride within Him. God wanted to give him a car, but God first sent sound teachings to purge him from his wrong mind-set. Fortunately, he repented and was promoted in life.

The truth is that many pray sentimental prayers a lot of the time. They think God owes them a breakthrough because they have been through so much in life, but there are people passing through much worse.

When we pray, we must pray in line with the word of God; remind God of His promises (see Isaiah 43:26). Praying this way ensures that we never pray amiss but pray according to God's will.

Those who do not pray in line with God's word usually end up waiting and waiting for answers, and may finally conclude that God doesn't want to answer them.

We might not always expect God to act because of pity on us, but we can always expect Him to honor His word.

Next time you want to pray about certain issues, find out what the word says about them and take that to God. God will always honor His word.

Prayer: Teach me your ways o Lord that I may walk in your truth and pray according to your will always. Amen.

-Esiri Amurun & SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Leviticus 13-15

July 10

HOW TO PRAY EFFECTIVELY 3

1 Timothy 4:1

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; [KJV]

As most of us know, prayer is communication with God. Now communication requires hearing on both sides, so naturally when we pray we are eager to hear God too.

Now is it possible to pray to God but hear back from something or someone else? The answer is yes. This is not a matter of spirituality it is a matter of spiritual knowledge and understanding. When you pray without the knowledge of the word and counsel of God, you are unable to tell the difference between voices because the devil can disguise himself as an angel of light (see 2 Corinthians 11:14). This is why we must guard our hearts with the word of God always so that when we hear something contrary to God we can identify it. The word of God serves as a fence that hinders wrong intruders into your mind.

As you go into today, determine to study to know the word more so you will not be misled by any false voice.

Prayer confession: I am filled with knowledge of God's will, with all spiritual knowledge, wisdom and understanding. Amen.

-Pas Esiri Amurun

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Kings 6-10

July 11

ANSWERS TO OUR PRAYERS

Jeremiah 1:12

Then said the Lord unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it. [KJV]

Very recently, I was believing God for something. And even though I knew my prayers have been answered for months, I didn't see any manifestation. So I began to pray against delay. But then the Lord showed me this scripture, and I realized the word of God cannot be delayed in my life. The Scripture says God will hasten his word. Another translation says 'His word is in a hurry to come to pass'

Delay of answered prayers is not in God's will for us, and anything that is not in line with the will of God should have no capacity to survive in the life of a Christian- one who has been purchased by the precious blood of Jesus.

Next time your answered prayers delay to manifest, pray with this revelations and you will surely have a testimony.

Go into today remembering that God is good to you. He is your heavenly father who is more interested in doing good for you than you want good for yourself. Rest in His Love and cease from unnecessary works inspired by unbelief.

Prayer: I thank you Heavenly Father for saving me and making me your own. I ask for grace to rest in your Love and always please you by living by faith and sound knowledge. Amen.

-Esiri Amurun & SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 81-83

July 12

A PLACE BY HIM

Exodus 33:21

And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock. [KJV]

It was masquerade festival in the village. Ade the son of chief Aweje followed other children to the village square to watch masquerades perform. As customary, it was time for masquerade to chase and whip people. Other children were whipped so hard that they had bruises but Ade simply ran to his father who wrapped him with his cloth; from there Ade watched how other children were beaten. Ade was spared from brutal beatings because he had a father to run to.

Every child has a father, even the bastards do. The difference is in the legitimacy of their birth. One of the many benefits of being a legitimate child is security from your father.

If you are born again, you are legitimate and you are not to suffer the fate of bastards, yet, one very important thing you must do is stay in the 'place by Him'. This is the place where access to the abundance that is in God (your father) is possible. It is a place that is higher than you; a place of safety. The psalmist wrote in Psalms 61:2b "when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I." [KJV]

Go into today knowing that you are God's child and your father has provisions for you. Know also that it is by standing in this place that is by Him that you can access His protection and provisions for you. This place is the place of fellowship and intimacy. Develop a more intimate relationship with your father and you will walk in the abundance that is in Him.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Please lead me to that rock that is higher than I. help me to remain there. Amen.

-Dr James Emmanuel.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 10

July 13

BE STRONG IN THE LORD

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. [NIV]

Deji had an effectual prayer life. Each time he prayed he had great confidence that the Lord would hear him, and because of this he received great results. Deji derived strength in knowing that he was walking in a righteous and holy manner. One day as he was praying with his usual strength drawn from consciousness of his righteousness, his thoughts strayed to some unrighteous things he'd done some time ago, he remembered them and his strength in the place of prayer diminished. His ability to do spiritual warfare failed in the darkness of his sin consciousness. Thankfully, he remembered that Jesus came to make him righteous. He remembered that he was never to stand before God based on His own righteousness but based on the righteousness of Christ Jesus. Immediately, Deji received strength in the Lord and regained his ability to do spiritual warfare against the powers that sought to limit his destiny.

Even though as children of God, we are not to consciously walk in a way that gives the accuser grounds to afflict our consciences, let us not be deceived into the trap of self-righteousness. It makes a person think that God would hear him because of something he did, or did not do. Let us cease to draw strength from our own self-righteousness and discipline. Let us continually draw strength from the Lord's righteousness. This is what it means to be strong in the Lord.

As you go into today, know that you are going from Victory to victory because your strength comes from the Lord's righteousness.

Prayer: Lord, please help me to always depend on your righteousness and walk in it. Deliver me from walking in a manner that is not consistent with your new righteous nature within me. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ezekiel 25-30

July 14

CHANGING DESTINY THROUGH PRAYER

1 Chronicles 4:10

And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.
[KJV]

Jabez was born into a very hard world. He must have observed that life was particularly hard for him. From the beginning, his portion was unusually tough and hard. Even for His mother to give birth to him was abnormally difficult, thus she named him Jabez which means pain. And indeed his life was to be full of pain. This was to be the path of His destiny. But Jabez didn't like this destiny, so he changed it by praying to God.

Jabez prayed and asked the Lord to bless him and enlarge his coast. He asked the Lord to be with Him and change his destiny from that of pain to that of peace and prosperity. God granted his request, and he lived to become the most honorable person in his entire family.

If you are going through any unfavorable circumstance in your life, the way out is to pray to God and simply ask Him to change it. You spoil things in the place of prayer if you begin by complaining or comparing with others.

Philippians 4:6: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God [NIV]

Go into today determining to pray about anything in your life that brings pain. Know that the Lord is happy to change your story for Good. Read James 4:3.

Prayer: Thank God for bringing you to this day. Ask Him for grace to pray in faith always. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Luke 19-20

July 15

DON'T LET YOUR LOVE FADE

Matthew 24:12

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.
[KJV]

When the Daramolas first moved to Abuja, they had great love in their hearts for the brethren. Their hearts and their home was open to anyone who was in need of their help and temporal accommodation in the city.

But certain things had happened over the years and their love for the brethren was now waxing cold. They had been cheated and deceived several times by some so called Christian brethren. There was a time that someone stayed in their house and made away with their laptops, smartphones, and some other valuable belongings. This person was said to be a brother who came from their fellowship in Zaria.

The reality that iniquity will abound in these times is not news. Jesus has forewarned us of this. He has also informed us of the possibility of our love waxing cold because of increasing iniquity. You see, whenever you hear a warning like the one in today's Bible text, it is meant to prepare you for reality, so that you will not be a victim of diminishing love. One of the indicators that show our love for the Lord is our love for His brethren. When you start losing your love, you have started losing your faith because faith works by love (see Galatians 5:6).

Go into today determined to keep loving people regardless of past experiences. Because when you show love to people who come in the name of the Lord, you are actually showing your love for Christ, regardless of who they truly are.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to empower you walk always in brotherly Love and faith.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Colossians 3-4

July 16

THE POWER OF RIGHT BELIEVING 1

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Pastor Dan:... and Ikenna, don't forget that God will never allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to handle.

Ikenna: But Pastor, my experience says the contrary. The temptations I've been facing are much more than what I can handle. That is why I am here to see you sir.

Pastor Dan: you underestimate yourself spiritually. Do you not know that what you believe and say would control your life? What you believe is very important, even your salvation is as a result of what you believe. You believed in the Lord Jesus and received His salvation.

One of the biggest deceptions of the devil against Christians is to make us believe that the temptations we face are insurmountable. As soon as you begin to believe that you cannot overcome a temptation, you have weakened yourself and greatly reduced your power to overcome. But if you go into every day believing God's word that He will not allow any temptation that is beyond your strength to come your way, even though you see a temptation that looks beyond your strength, you will find a way of escape.

Go into today knowing that what you believe is very important. Never ever believe that there is any challenge you can face that you cannot overcome. Your Father in heaven who controls all things will never let such challenges come your way.

Prayer: Thank the Father for His word today. Ask for grace for right believing in every area of life. - Pst SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Leviticus 16-18

July 17

HE IS ABLE TO KEEP YOU

Philippians 1:6

For I am sure of this very thing, that the one who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. [NET]

After reporting to his new job in the city, Felix was excited to meet some of his old friends who were fellowship leaders on their campus. But he was deeply disturbed to realize that many of them had backslidden and were living as unbelievers. One of them was even living with his girlfriend in sin and shame. “What has this city done to my brethren” Felix thought.

After a lot of thinking, Felix wasn't sure he too would last as a fervent believer in that city. Even though he didn't have any plan to backside, he was already getting defeated from within. And that was the plan of the enemy.

Many Christians sometimes doubt the durability of their faith because they have not understood that it wasn't built by them but by God who is the master builder. Your salvation and your faith was not your idea, it was God's idea. And God is faithful to keep you and increase you in the faith. Remember that He who began a good work in you will perfect it.

As you go into today, do not let your heart be troubled about whether you will make heaven or not. Believe in Jesus that He is able to keep you and present you blameless before God on that day (Read Jude 1:24 and John 14:1-3).

Prayer confession: I will never backslide but will always grow in grace In Jesus name. Amen. (Keep repeating this till you totally believe it).

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Kings 11-15

July 18

HER CANDLE GOETH NOT OUT BY NIGHT

Proverbs 31:18

She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. [KJV]

Also read: Luke 15:8

Ayo received many awards, he was also the overall best student in the school. The principal of the school came up stage to make comments "Ayo burnt the night candles" he said.

Night: a time to rest, sleep and a time covered with darkness. This time is characterized by inactivity. Yet, almost every great success is associated with the night.

The woman in today's text perceived that her merchandise was good; hence, she spent the hours of the night preparing, rehearsing and practicing. What have you perceived to be good in your life? What are your strategies to achieving it? What extra effort do you need to put in place? Certainly, there are excesses you must cut off.

God has given the dream; it is your responsibility to pursue it. Remember that to have a dream eyes must be closed, but eyes must be opened to make it come to pass.

Check your archive as you go into the day, find out those merchandise in you that are good and spend quality time developing them. Follow God, seek knowledge, chase excellence and you will be productive.

Prayer: I rebuke laziness in my life in Jesus name.

I receive the grace of an achiever in Jesus name.

I receive light (knowledge) to achieve in Jesus name. Amen.

-Dr James Emmanuel

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 84-86

July 19

MY LORD AND MY GOD

John 20:28

“And Thomas answered and said unto Him, My Lord and my God.”
[KJV]

The key to living a victorious Christian life is having a personal relationship with Jesus. Jesus is not some abstract figure in ancient history. He is real. He is alive today. His grave is empty. But you can only know Him by revelation (see John 14:21). One of the proofs of your love for Christ is making Him the Lord of your life.

Are there any aspects of your life He is not involved in? Is He really in charge or have you relegated Him to the background? What about the choices you make, is He a part of your decision making? Is He Lord over the type of drinks in your fridge or music on your phone?

You see, it's either He is Lord over all or not Lord at all. You can't make Him Lord over your life only on Sunday mornings and expect to live victoriously as a Christian. He wants to reveal Himself to you in a deeper dimension, but He won't until you make Him Lord over your life. Making Jesus part of your daily living by submitting to His Lordship everyday is the best decision you can ever make. He will take care of you. Genesis 18:14. Nothing is too hard for Him when He is truly made Lord.

Prayer: Lord, I come before you in repentance for every area of my life that has been in rebellion to your Lordship. I ask today that you will be Lord over my whole life, amen.

-Otuokon, Ubokudom.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 11-12

July 20

ACKNOWLEDGING GOD

Proverbs 3:6

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”
[KJV]

This is a refreshing promise from the word of God especially in times like ours when one of the greatest needs of humanity is the need for direction. In the world today, there are many questions on people’s minds and no answers. Many are confused and perplexed because they lack direction. As children of God, we must not live that way. In the midst of the whole confusion, God wants to direct us; tell us what to do, where to go, who to meet and what to say. God wants to be a part of all the decisions we take whether major or minor. Life would be far easier and more economical if we make God a part of our lives by acknowledging Him in all our ways.

God won’t take the lead if we don’t acknowledge Him or invite Him in. He wants to be our major focus, the first point of call, not the last resort. I believe one of the ways to acknowledge Him is thanking Him for everything, living a life of gratitude.

Therefore friend, trust Him, lean on Him, acknowledge Him by thanking Him. Be grateful to Him for all the seemingly little blessings in your life.

As you go into today, punctuate your day with brief words of thanksgiving to the Lord. Acknowledge Him by thanking Him today and watch Him bless your day.

Prayer: Dear Lord, I thank you for today. Grant me the grace to acknowledge you through thanksgiving as I go through my day. Order my steps today in Jesus name I pray, amen.

-Otuokon, Ubokudom.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ezekiel 31-36

July 21

KNOWLEDGE

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

But just as it is written, "Things that no eye has seen, or ear heard, or mind imagined, are the things God has prepared for those who love him."10 God has revealed these to us by the Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. [NET]

When Uche got wind of what was going on in the family, things had already got so bad. His step-mother did not want anyone to know her role in the whole issue. She had gone to very powerful sorcerers to make sure she was never exposed. All other family members who went to fake prophets and native doctors were in the dark. But Uche knew. It took Him just 15 minutes of prayer to know that she was the one responsible for the woes in the family business.

Anyone who is born again and has the Holy Spirit has a real advantage in life. He can know things that no one else can ever know. Secondly, he is privy to the deep things of God.

There is knowledge that goes far beyond human comprehension. It is the spiritual knowledge of your inheritance in God, which the Holy Spirit supplies to your spirit. This knowledge gives you the access and ability to partake in the divine nature (the grace of God). This knowledge produces stability and peace in your heart that is beyond human understanding (see Philippians 4:7).

If you are deficient in any area of life, it is because there are things you should know that you don't know. What makes the difference between the great and the small in life is knowledge; who and what they know.

Go into today praising God because you know Him, and you have access to knowledge the world can never comprehend.

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to help you use the advantage of Knowledge that He supplies. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Luke 21-22

July 22

BE STRONG IN THE LORD

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. [KJV]

Emeka had to work closely with some men who he knew were deeply into the occult. Emeka was representing his company and they theirs. These men were so sure of themselves, and it was clear to Emeka that they drew their confidence from the fact that they belonged to a powerful occult group.

There was a particular time that the two parties (Emeka and the two men) had a conflict of interest, and the men behaved as if Emeka should understand to let them have their way because of who they were or what they belonged to. Emeka bluntly refused. "You people have been behaving as if you own the world, but you don't. Because I haven't bragged does not mean I don't know who I belong to. If you were really as powerful as you think, you would have known not to mess with me a long time ago". These words Emeka said invoked great fear in those men, because they understood that he knew what he was talking about. "he wouldn't have such courage to confront us if he didn't have something" they thought.

As a Christian, Emeka had superior power to those men and he knew it. He was strong in the Lord, and he could not be intimidated by people with inferior powers. They were the one that ended up being intimidated. Many Christians are defeated because they do not really understand the incomparable power of God that is at work for them. Ephesians 1:18-19 shows us that this understanding is a function of spiritual enlightenment.

Go into today remembering that all authority in heaven and on earth now belongs to your Lord who lives in you. Walk always in the consciousness of this truth.

Prayer: Lord, please help me walk in the full understanding of who I am in you. Amen. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Thessalonians 1-3

July 23

CASTING OUT DEMONS

Luke 11:24-26

“When an unclean spirit goes out of a person, it passes through waterless places looking for rest but not finding any. Then it says, ‘I will return to the home I left.’ [NET]

If a child leaves the house, he knows he can still come back. But if a child is sent out of the house, he knows he cannot come back except he is invited.

Unlike people who use satanic power to deliver people, Jesus was not requesting that demons leave people. He was casting them out with authority, and this was clear to everyone. If it appears that a false prophet is casting out unclean spirits from people, what he is really doing is to covertly negotiate with the spirits to leave. The unclean spirits would always come back with more wicked spirits because they willfully left and can therefore come back when they want.

I believe this is one proof Jesus was showing to the people who were in doubt about the source of His power to cast out devils (read Luke 11:14-26). The people must have noticed that unlike others, when Jesus delivers a person, that person is free indeed; he becomes a productive member of the society. But when others (who use demonic power) ‘delivers’ a person, that person is always having to go back to solve a bigger problem.

Notice that the example Jesus gave in today’s Bible text suggests that the demon was the one who left. Jesus did not say ‘if an unclean spirit is cast out of a person’ He said ‘if an unclean spirit leaves a person’.

Go into today remembering that ‘ if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (see John 8:36)

Prayer: Thank the Lord for giving you the power to cast out demons.
- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Leviticus 19-21

July 24

DISCERNING TEMPTATIONS

2 Corinthians 5:7

for we live by faith, not by sight. [NET]

Jide got a promotion with transfer. He was very happy, but his joy vanished when he remembered his work in his local church assembly. He remembered that just few weeks ago, the Lord specifically instructed him to be faithful with his assignment in that assembly; that he was going to be launched to greater heights through his work there. Jide now knew that moving away from the city was not God's will. He refused the promotion and was demoted because someone else had already been transferred and promoted to his current position.

As Jide served the Lord in the city, he grew so much in spiritual might that diverse healings were very common in his ministry. He eventually had to resign from his job so that he could cope with the worldwide demand for his ministry. Every temptation has the goal to drag the tempted away from God's will. That is why God never tempts us (James 1:13). We may be tempted to do what is wrong, and we can refuse. But when we are tempted to do what seems to be right, how do we discern and handle it?

Let's remember that our definition of right and wrong is not based on the world's standards, but based on the word and counsel of God. When Jesus was tempted by the devil to do things that appeared acceptable and desirable (see Matthew 4:1-11), because He had the spirit of God, He could discern and resist the temptations through God's word. Acquainting yourself with God's word builds up your faith, wisdom, and your discernment level.

Go into today remembering that a man whose life is controlled by faith in God will also receive God's help and guidance in everything. Ask the Lord for grace to always walk by faith. Ask for grace to study and understand God's word more.

-James Emmanuel & Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Kings 16-20

July 25

THE POWER OF RIGHT BELIEVING 2

Rom 10:10 (KJV)

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Serdo woke up in the morning and was feeling very condemned and unrighteous. She felt this way because she believes that God had not forgiven her of her sins even though she had repented. She woke up with a new wave of guilt and this was going to affect the whole of her day. But she started reading the word of God, and she remembered how much God loves her as her father. She began to say 'if God is my father, then all these things I've been thinking are not true. I am a child of God and I am blameless and righteous in His sight'.

One of the biggest manifestations of what you believe is what you say. You can also use what you say to control what you believe (see Prov 18:21). That was what Serdo started doing, and it worked.

If it looks like what you believe is not consistent with God's word, confess God's word until it begins to change what you believe. This can take several minutes or even hours in the place of prayer. But never forget that what you believe will control the course of your life.

The Holy spirit ministers righteousness to your spirit, He is the one who makes you know that you are God's righteous child.

Satan is the one who ministers condemnation to your spirit, he always tries to make you feel you are not righteous enough, and God is not pleased with you.

Go into today remembering that you are to resist the devil and he will flee from you (James 4:7). One potent tool with which to do this is the word of God. Confess what God says concerning you and resist the condemning thoughts engineered by the kingdom of darkness. - Pst SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 87-89

July 26

FIGHTING FEAR

2 Timothy 1:7

'For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind'. [KJV]

Fear is a spirit, it is not good and it's not perfect, hence it's not from God. God gave us the spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Fear causes us to undermine the truth of God's word and elevate the size and opinion of man. Fear causes us to seek consensus rather than really seeking the voice of the Lord.

The presence of fear depicts the absent of faith. Fear makes us focus on our problems rather than focusing on God. The imperfect one can only leave when the perfect one comes. Fear comes when we do not acknowledge the truth of God's word. We tend to believe more of what the world and our senses tell us rather than what the word of God says. In fighting fear, we need to realize that God loves us and is committed to making all things work together for our good because we now belong to Him. Our fears will no longer exist when we begin to see our fears in the light of the Almightyness of God.

Fear comes from the knowledge of an unfavorable event or a wrong perception we have about a particular thing. Fear comes from the knowledge of that which brings fear. So also, faith comes from the knowledge of that which brings faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

Go into today determined to feed your Spirit with God's word.

Prayer: I receive the Spirit of power to fight against all my fears. Father, help me to always see the truth from Your word, in Jesus name. Amen.

-Bishop Karo

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 13

July 27

FIGHTING FEAR 2

2 Timothy 1:7

'For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind'. [KJV]

Clair had a dream that her first son died in a motor accident, and she had this dream twice. Because of this, she was very afraid. All her prayers were prayers and fasting of fear and anxiety. She also went from place to place to seek spiritual help. Unfortunately, in a camping trip her son went for, there was a freak accident and he was the only one who lost his life.

Two years later, Clair had another dream. This time it was her daughter that she saw involved in a plane crash. Her daughter was an air force officer. Clair had this disturbing dream thrice. But Clair had grown spiritually and had more spiritual understanding. She prayed about the dream and refused to fear or worry about it. She now understood that her fear and anxiety was an evil thing that the enemy was using to gain entrance into her life. The last time she had the bad dream; she woke up and began to confess good and great things concerning her daughter. She confessed God's great promises until she no longer felt any anxiety.

Her daughter was promoted according to her confession, and several years passed with no evil report concerning her daughter.

Faith is the vehicle through which God connects to us and helps us. Fear is the vehicle through which Satan afflicts. When God says 'Fear not', it is not a suggestion, it is a command.

Go into today remembering that God has not given you the spirit of fear, but the spirit of love, power, and a sound mind.

Prayer: thank you heavenly father for your word that quenches my fears. I pray you help me live by it, in Jesus name. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ezekiel 37-42

July 28

GOD'S TIME

Genesis 1:2-3

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 3. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
[KJV]

Josh finished from the university with a very good grade. His friend Joe got employed immediately but Josh went between unemployment and underemployment for years. Even though he served God the best way he could, it seemed Josh was not getting any reward for his work. He was insulted and called names because he wouldn't compromise his faith to get a job. There was a good job he missed because he wouldn't lie about his age.

During His period of waiting, Josh used the time he had to study and learn more of God and further grow spiritually. He also invested time in self and professional improvement. Eleven years after he graduated school, Josh got a big contract, and everything changed for good. In only a few months, Josh achieved more than all his friends put together.

We can see from today's Bible text that even though the Holy Spirit was present, the earth was void and in darkness. Does it sound contradictory? God has his calendar and there are certain things His Spirit does in us during our periods of waiting. They are usually things of preparation for the glory He wants to bring to us. Yielding to the Holy Spirit's work of purification and preparation shortens the wait period.

Go into today holding on to God. Do not let circumstances control your faith. Let your faith control your circumstances.

Prayer: thank God for what He has done and what He will do. Thank God for His great promises that will come to pass in your life.

Dr James Emmanuel & Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Luke 23-24

July 29

GRACE THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

2 Peter 1:2

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord [KJV]

Sandra did not know that her father was once a footballer until her wedding day. It then occurred to her that there could be many other things she does not know about her father. But she was sure that even though she may not know everything about her father, she knows him. From her relationship with her fiancé, she had learned that knowing a person is superior to merely knowing about the person.

Grace is very powerful. It turns an ordinary person into an extraordinary person. Today's Bible text reveals that your grace increases as you know God more and more.

Many people know about God: they know that God is powerful and loving; they know that God is jealous over them and does not want them to worship other gods. But many people have not come to truly know God. Knowledge of God comes by relationship and experience of fellowship with Him. This is what the Holy Spirit living within you provides- the sweet fellowship of the Holy Spirit (see 2 Corinthians 13:14).

The more you know about a good person, the easier it will be for you to have a smooth relationship with that person and know Him. Studying the Bible and listening to God's word will help you know more about God, and this will pave way for a deeper and more intimate relationship with Him. Another thing that paves way for knowing God is a deep desire to know Him.

As you go into today, do not be satisfied with only knowing about God. Seek to have a personal and intimate relationship with Him.

Prayer: Thank God for the privilege He has given you to know Him.
- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Thessalonians 4-5

July 30

HIS THOUGHTS FOR YOU

Psalms 92:5

O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep.
[KJV]

Kemi had a delay for three years before going for her country's compulsory youth service corps called NYSC. Because she would not be employed without an NYSC certificate, she decided to prepare and go for certain ICT professional certificate examinations while she waited. She had ample skills and time to prepare for the examinations and she performed excellently and was duly certified.

After she finished her NYSC, she applied to a multinational company and was invited for interview. To her amazement, there was a large number of people who came for the interview. She was taken, not because of her degree but because she had the extra qualification of the ICT certifications. "Thank God I was delayed, thank God I wrote those exams" Kemi said. She was the only person from her country Chosen for that particular spot in the multinational company.

One thing I have come to learn in my dealing with God is that I can never out think Him in planning for my life and future. His plan are more detailed and beautiful than my greatest imagination. His thoughts are indeed very deep. He even uses situations that you may deem unfortunate to produce great benefits for you.

Go into this new month rest assured that God's thoughts for you are good and not evil, to bring you to an expected end (see Jeremiah 29:11).

Prayer: I am walking in the will of God for me, in Jesus name.
Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Leviticus 22-24

July 31

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Romans 8:16 (NET)

The Spirit himself bears witness to our spirit that we are God's children.

I once asked a friend how he knew that he was born again; why was he so sure that he was a child of God? His reply was very simple, he said “I just know it deep inside that I am a child of God, God is my father”. As simple as his reply was, I could see that he was truly convinced and very sure of what he was saying.

This knowing that you are a child of God is not a product of wishful thinking or educated thinking; it is a knowing that goes far beyond that, it is a knowing from your spirit that you belong to God. You cannot buy this with money and you cannot pay for it by works, in fact, many who act as if to pay for it by works do so because they don't truly have it yet, they are trying to make up for what they don't have.

One of the advantages of cultivating personal relationship with the lord is that you will have assurance of salvation. This assurance comes because of the Holy Spirits activity in your heart.

As you go into today, determine to make peace with the lord and take out time to commune in His presence (make peace by honestly confessing and forsaking your sins).

Prayer: Heavenly father, please give me the will and the power to please you always, that I may continue in sweet fellowship with you, in Jesus name I pray. Amen

By Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Kings 21-25

August 1

STAND THEREFORE

Ephesians 6:14 (KJV)

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness.

The pilgrim's journey towards the Celestial City is not an easy one. Our Lord made it very clear that the road on which we will make this journey is indeed very narrow and difficult. (Luke 13:24 "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able"). However difficult the road may be, the pilgrim's strength comes from the assurance of the Lord Himself, "...lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:20. So, dear pilgrim, let your encouragement and strength come from the promise of our Lord.

Many pilgrims however, can identify with the words of prophet Micah in their experience. (Micah 7:8) "Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me."

Dear Christian, do you find yourself falling into sin frequently? Do you feel the powers of hell and darkness are winning the battle over your life? Do you wish you could pray some more or study the word some more? Do you wish you could have a more consistent walk with God?

Here is a word from the Lord for you today: stand therefore! You can't wish victories into reality, you must stand. Rise up from the dark place of sin and stand in righteousness. Rise up from the place of laziness and complacency and stand in the place of prayer. The Lord Himself will be your light. Don't just wish for these things, rise up, take your stand and do them.

Prayer: Dear Lord, grant me the strength to stand today, amen.

-Otuokon, Ubokudom

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 90-92

August 2

IT IS BY GRACE

Ephesians 2:8-9

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. [NLT]

When Sandra gave her life to Christ, She did not fully understand God's grace. She was taught that grace is unmerited favor. And that it was because of this unmerited favor that she was saved. She did not know that grace also meant God's empowerment toward to us be who he wants us to be.

Because of this, she found Christianity to be an unbearable struggle. She was told that she was to pray for up to an hour every day. It was impossible for her to pray for more than 15 minutes, and by then she would have repeated all her prayer points up to five times. Everything changed when she fully understood the grace of God. She saw strength to do things she never knew she could do.

It is not possible to be a Christian without the grace of God empowering you to be a Christian. This grace is administered to your spirit by the Holy Ghost who lives within you. The more filled with the Holy Spirit you are, the more of God's grace you will experience. Those who walk in spiritual gifts also do this because of their measure of grace (see Romans 12:6)

It is by grace that we are being saved, and by it we experience anything that is from God. Our works do not and can never qualify us for anything that is from God. Any work not inspired and empowered by God's Grace is not recognized in heaven.

Go into today remembering that your walk with God is by His grace, and this grace is abundantly available for you through the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Thank the Lord for saving you. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you from this moment (see Luke 11:13). - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 14-15

August 3

KEEP THE DEVILS OUT

John 5:14-15

After this Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "Look, you have become well. Don't sin any more, lest anything worse happen to you." [NET]

Abu was possessed with unclean spirits and he knew it. His grandmother was a very popular and powerful witch doctor and he was her favorite grandchild. She once told him that he was the one to take her place in the future.

When Abu became born again, he was delivered from over 40 unclean spirits that possessed him. He knew that even though he loved his wealthy grandma so much, he could not continue going to her for any kind of help. Abu somehow understood that going to his grandma for help would expose him again to the demons that wanted to ruin his life. She would usually give Him a lot of money if he requested, but she would insist that he joins her in one or two rituals first.

Yesterday, we saw that when a spirit is cast out of a person by the power of God, it cannot come back unless it is invited. The unfortunate thing is that some Christians invite back the evil spirits they have been delivered from. They do so by going back to their old ways of iniquity. Note that anything you do that has a hint of idolatry is usually an express invitation to demons.

As you go into the day, ask the Lord to empower you walk above every old sin that empowers unclean spirits against you.

Prayer: Thank the Lord for calling into His glorious light. Ask the Lord for grace to be all that He wants you to be.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ezekiel 43-48

August 4

OUR CONFIDENCE

1 John 5:14-15

And this is the confidence that we have before him: that whenever we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. [NET]

Daniel wondered why Femi had so much confidence in the office. It was clear to everyone that unlike them, Femi was not working in fear that he might lose his job. He was bolder and more confident than his colleagues in that branch. This made him excel above them all.

Daniel: Fiona, what do you think gives Femi so much confidence? What is the source of His boldness?’

Fiona: so you haven’t heard? Femi’s uncle is the chairman of the company, and Femi has his uncle’s ear.

Daniel: No wonder he is so confident and domineering.

Femi had confidence in the office because the Chairman knew him and listened to him. Do you know that God the creator and ruler of all things, knows you and listens to you? He is now your father if you have accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord and savior.

Today’s Bible text reveals to us that our confidence comes from the fact that God hears us.

Go into today with new confidence and boldness to life, because you know that the King of Kings hears you whenever you ask according to His will. The easiest way to know God’s will is by knowing his word.

Pray heavenly Father, I thank you for the privilege of speaking to you. I ask that you help me walk always in this reality. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: John 1-2

August 5

POWER BY FAITH

1 John 4:4

You are from God, little children, and have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. [NET]

Do you know that if you are born again, the most powerful spirit in all of existence dwells within you? The Spirit that dwells within you is the same spirit that created all things that exist, including the devil that you may have been afraid of. The world, and they that dwell in it belongs to Him (see Psalms 24:1), and all power in heaven and on earth belongs to Him (see Matthew 28:18).

Spiritual power is always contacted by faith. If you do not have faith in the Lord's power to protect you, you are exposing yourself because faith is a spiritual shield (see Ephesians 6:16).

Because of what Jesus has done for us, God is on your side, and all His power has been made available for you. The choice whether or not to walk in this power is yours. The more faith you have, the more you will be able to connect with God's mighty power.

Go into today determining to increase your faith and be able to draw more strength from the Lord who is within you. Avoid committing to people who have no faith because unbelief is contagious (see 1 Corinthians 15:33). Let God's word fill your heart because this is how faith is contacted (see Romans 10:7). Pray in the spirit as much as possible because this is how you build up your faith (see Jude 1:20).

Prayer: Thank God for bringing you to this day. Ask the Lord to help you fill your heart with His word. Ask the Lord to help your faith grow. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Thesalonians

August 6

PRICELESS GIFTS

Romans 12:7-8

If it is service, he must serve; if it is teaching, he must teach; 8 if it is exhortation, he must exhort; if it is contributing, he must do so with sincerity; if it is leadership, he must do so with diligence; if it is showing mercy, he must do so with cheerfulness. [NET]

Dan was anointed by God to teach, he also had the gift of leadership. Seven years had gone by and Dan never really consciously utilized any of these gifts in the service of the Lord. His excuse was that his job was very demanding and there was no ministry platform available for him to express his gifts.

One very sad thing I have come to discover is that there are many Christians like Dan who do not use their spiritual gifts. There are a number of reasons why this can happen, but those reasons only exist because many times we think using our gifts is a luxury we can choose not to accept.

We see in today's Bible text that if a person has the gift of teaching (for example), 'HE MUST TEACH'. That is God's ordinance and it hasn't changed today. Regardless of your job or how busy you think you are. You see, Jesus did not resurrect and ascend on high to give us His priceless gifts just for us to do nothing with them. He gave us His gifts for us to consciously use in the work of advancing God's kingdom.

Go into today determining to be a faithful steward of all the gifts Christ has so graciously lavished upon you. Don't forget that the day is coming when you will give account for how you used them for His purpose.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, please help me and teach me to use my gifts according to your will. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Leviticus 25-27

August 7

PURIFIED UNTO EVERY GOOD WORK

Titus 2:14

He gave himself for us to set us free from every kind of lawlessness and to purify for himself a people who are truly his, who are eager to do good. [NET]

Jude said to Pastor Ehiz “I have come to discover that there is lawlessness and evil hidden deep in my heart. I really desire to follow and serve the Lord, but I still know that there are deep seated desires and proclivities in my heart that does not please Him”

Pastor Ehiz reminded Jude that he was now born again and this means he is to constantly take advantage of his new life in Christ Jesus to deny the old life of sin within His flesh. “Each time evil desires and thoughts come, always resist and attack them with the word of God because you now have the life to do that” Pastor Ehiz said.

Today’s Bible text shows us that Jesus gave Himself for us to set us free from every kind of lawlessness. Lawlessness is the tendency of the heart to want to operate without boundaries; it rejects the idea of submitting to God’s authority.

Even though you may have been born again for years, you may still find that there are deep seated evil desires in your heart that may want to begin to control you. The Solution to this is to constantly stand on the word of God and profess God’s will and counsel concerning you.

Go into today determined to use the power of your words to drive your life in the right direction. Attack evil desires with the spoken word of God. Constantly remind yourself that you are a new creation walking in the divine nature.

Confession: I am being purified unto every good work. My heart is conducive for the operation of God’s Spirit, In Jesus name. Amen. -
Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Chronicles 1-4

August 8

SEEKING WISDOM

Matthew 25:1-2

Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish (thoughtless, without forethought) and five were wise (sensible, intelligent, and prudent). [AMP]

It is sad to see that not many people have wisdom and it is sadder that not many seek and desire wisdom. It is not good that the soul be without knowledge. (Proverbs 19:2). One of the worse things that can happen to any man is to be without wisdom. The Bible encourages us to seek wisdom. "Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom" (Proverbs 18:1 KJV).

Wisdom is gotten through a strong and consistent desire for it. It is not just given to anybody, but to those who sincerely want it. When we seek, we shall find. (See Proverbs 2:3-5). The next step to getting wisdom is by separating oneself to study and meditate on God's word and on the issues of life in the light of God's word on a regular basis.

So many believers perish, so many can't get hold of the blessings God has blessed them with because they lack wisdom. From our text, even a believer can go to hell just because of the lack of wisdom to do what is right. The Spirit of God is the source of wisdom. But this wisdom will not be released upon us if we don't desire and seek it. The more we desire and seek it from God's word and in prayers, the more wisdom the Spirit of God releases to us.

Go into today with the desire to get wisdom. Ask of God, for He giveth liberally to any who lacks wisdom. (See James 1:5)

Prayer: Father, I ask that you release upon me the spirit of wisdom, that I may operate daily in Your wisdom. Amen.

-Bishop Karo

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 93-95

August 9

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

So, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but instead as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 2 I fed you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready. In fact, you are still not ready, 3 for you are still influenced by the flesh. For since there is still jealousy and dissension among you, are you not influenced by the flesh and behaving like unregenerate people? [NET]

How would you feel if you have a baby that has remained a baby for nine years? Babies are cute and we love them, but babies have to grow up. When you were born again, you were literally born a spiritual babe. As you learn the word of God and apply it to your life, you are to grow into the image of Christ. Unfortunately, many Christians have refused to grow spiritually; they are still babes tossed to and from by every wind of doctrine (see Ephesians 4:14).

As revealed in today's Bible text, spiritual babes are believers controlled by the flesh. They are controlled by their feelings and circumstances, and not by God's word. Spiritual growth is proportional to knowledge growth. The more of God you know, the more you will grow spiritually. Believers who do not give time for the word of God and prayer do not grow spiritually, no matter how long they have believed.

It is only Christians who have grown spiritually that will be able to command God's mighty power. In the kingdom of God, growth never ends. Even though you grow out of being a spiritual baby, you never get to a point where you have grown enough to longer need growth.

Go into today determined to grow spiritually by applying your heart more to the word of God and to fellowship with Him.

Ask the Lord to help you grow.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 16

August 10

SPIRITUAL GROWTH 2

Ephesians 4:12

...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, that is, to build up the body of Christ...[NET]

In the preceding verses to today's Bible text (Read verse 8-14), we can see that God has given the Church gifts of Apostles, Pastors and teachers, Prophets, and Evangelists. These were given to help equip the saints and help them grow spiritually- so that they will no longer be spiritual babes. It is important to note that the people with the above-mentioned offices are gifts to the body of Christ.

One of the most common sources of spiritual stagnation among some very serious-minded Christians is spiritual malnutrition. Malnutrition happens when you eat only one kind of food diet from one source. God in His infinite wisdom did not plan that one single person will carry all the resources that His people would need to grow. One of the worst things you can do to your spiritual growth is to limit yourself to one single individual for all your spiritual nourishment and growth, all your lifetime.

Even though there are times that God could join you to a certain gift in His body for certain seasons of your life, and there are definitely people who God has ordained to pastor you; to whom you are accountable, God never intended that you should receive all your spiritual nourishment from just one source. This is not consistent with the New Testament Church. Many Christians have had stunted and one-sided growth because of this error. One effective way of getting your part in a gift to the body of Christ is by reading books and/or listening to sermons.

As you go into today, ask the Lord to open your eyes to gifts that He has sent to help you grow.

Prayer: thank you father for further advancing my spiritual growth.
Amen. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Daniel 1-6

August 11

SPIRITUAL GROWTH 3

Galatians 4:1-2

Think of it this way. If a father dies and leaves an inheritance for his young children, those children are not much better off than slaves until they grow up, even though they actually own everything their father had. 2 They have to obey their guardians until they reach whatever age their father set. [NLT]

Unekwu used to have terrible nightmares. Sometimes, she would wake up with scars on her body because of demonic attacks during her sleep. Even after she became born again, these nightmares and attacks appeared only to reduce. She wondered what was happening.

As she began to grow spiritually, she noticed that her attacks reduced and later went away all together. A time came that she could not believe that she could go through those experiences. When she remembered them, she would laugh? She remembered how she used to run from place to place for deliverance and received temporary breaks from the demonic attacks. She now knew that she could never be under such demonic attacks again because her spirit man has grown too big for that.

As Unekwu grew spiritually, she grew in spiritual might and power. Many times, Christians are unable to face certain things because they are still spiritual babes and are weak. When you begin to grow in the knowledge of God and in faith, you will notice that your spiritual power and authority increases. And your spiritual might make it impossible for you to be bound by any demon. Do you have a problem that you know has been spiritually orchestrated? Do not worry; focus on your spiritual growth. You will either grow out of that problem or gather enough might and strength to permanently conquer it in your life.

Go into today focusing on knowing Jesus and not focusing on your problems and weaknesses anymore.

Pray Lord God help me know you more and grow spiritually. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: John 3-4

August 12

SPIRITUAL GROWTH: KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST

Ephesians 4:13

until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God - a mature person, attaining to the measure of Christ's full stature. [NET]

Some terrorist intercepted the vehicle Lola was traveling in. They robbed everyone in the vehicle of their mobile phones, jewelries, and money. When they finished robbing, they said they were not going to release any Christian who does not renounce Christianity. Lola was the only Christian in that bus who did not renounce Christianity. She said "if I do what you are asking, I am betraying and denying Christ. I cannot do that". Lola said this because she had come to know the Lord personally. For her, renouncing Christianity was not simply renouncing a religion; it was betraying the trust of a person she had come to personally know. When the terrorist were taking her away, they were over speeding, and this made their car to have a ghastly accident. Everyone in the car died, but Lola did not even sprain a single bone. She was rescued by the police.

The knowledge of Christ talked about in today's Bible text is not theoretical, it is experiential and real. Jesus is real to a spiritually mature Christian. He is not just a person she talks about, He is a person she knows. But this is not usually the case for a baby Christian. Baby Christians are too self-conscious to be conscious of Jesus' living presence within them.

Go into today desiring to know the Lord more by spending time to seek Him. When you make time for Him, you will see He has time for you, and He is very present in your life.

Prayer: thank you heavenly father for giving me the grace to know Christ more. I pray you help me walk fully in this grace and benefit. In Jesus' name. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Timothy 1-3

August 13

SPIRITUAL GROWTH: UNITY OF FAITH

Ephesians 4:13

until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God - a mature person, attaining to the measure of Christ's full stature.[NET]

I remember how me and my siblings used to quarrel and fight when I was a child. This didn't mean we weren't siblings who love each other, the strife and fights happened simply because we were children.

As adults, I don't remember when last we fought or even had a quarrel. Maturity has brought respect and unity among us. We may have certain disagreements and sometimes see certain things differently, but this doesn't mean we would be in a state of disunity.

One of the ways you will know that you are growing spiritually is when you begin to develop a more open heart and mind to other believers in Christ who do not belong to your denomination or Church. If you truly know the Lord Jesus, you will not be a judgmental and condemnatory person.

Even though all Christians will not be in the same denomination, all Christians can grow into spiritual maturity. And a sign of this is unity. This unity comes because of our common faith in the Lord Jesus.

Go into today determined to put away spiritual childishness by removing every tendency in your heart to be judgmental. But rather, seek to show the love of Christ and project the substance of His doctrine through your life of Love.

Prayer: Thank the Lord for facilitating your spiritual growth.

Ask the Lord to open you to know Him more and more.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Numbers 1-4

August 14

THE FULLNESS OF GOD

Ephesians 3:19

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. [KJV]

Ola and Folu were friends from childhood. They gave their lives to Jesus at a very tender age and they grew up loving the Lord. They turned out very successful in life.

Ola as a child didn't take drugs; he believed God was able to heal him. He would always say "by his stripes I am healed". Even when he was stung by a scorpion, he kept repeating those words. He was healed without drugs.

As an adult, Ola never again fell sick.

Folu on the other hand believed that once he had money to treat himself when he fell sick, the Lord healed him through the drugs. His faith in God to provide His needs was strong. Because of this Folu was very wealthy but he spent a lot treating sicknesses.

Both friends chose a dimension of God and it worked for them. But there is more to God than just wealth or health. Jesus has been made the head over all things to us (see Ephesians 1:22). Many Christians have limited God and have suffered setbacks in certain areas of their lives. God can be everything to you if you believe Him that much.

Go into today knowing that there are many more dimensions in God that you can manifest if you access them by faith.

Prayer: Lord, I recognize you as Lord over all situations in my life. I stop limiting you and ask that you take over my entire life in Jesus name. Amen

-Dr James Emmanuel.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Chronicles 5-9

August 15

THE FURNACE OF AFFLICTION

Isaiah 48:9-11

For my name's sake will I defer mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off. 10. Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction. 11. For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another. [KJV]

Doyin was trained by loving and generous parents. She finished her university education as a good daughter making them proud. During her National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), she met her first boyfriend who stole her heart and turned her against everyone, including her parents. She became rude and disobedient.

After some months, she had emptied her bank accounts, was stranded, and suffered because her boyfriend had left her for a richer girl. It was in her suffering that she remembered her parents and returned home in repentance. She was welcomed warmly.

If afflictions come, they come not to destroy us, but to refine us. As children of God, we have entered into a covenant relationship with Him, and He sometimes permits afflictions because He knows they would only make us better and wiser. Sometimes, that is the only way our eyes open to see the reality that makes us run back to God in humility and submission to His complete counsel, rather than stubbornly depending on our own understanding.

Come to God today in full submission to Him and every affliction would have no more use, thus they would vanish away.

Prayer: cry out to God like Peter did; say "Lord save me". Remember that God is forever willing to help you.

-Dr James Emmanuel.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 96-98

August 16

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Matthew 5:14 (NET)

You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden.

After Kole had been in his new office for two years, he had a speckle record of integrity. It wasn't that he was never tempted to collect bribe like his predecessors, but he knew how to overcome imminent temptations in the place of prayer.

His MD invited him to his office. A conversation between them ensued:

MD: Mr. Kole, please come and sit down. I am so happy to see you.

Kole: Thank you, sir.

MD: I called you because I have been monitoring your office for the past two years. Mr. Paschal, who was there before you was very corrupt, he was removed because he gave this office a bad name. When Mrs. Umar suggested that we put you in that office, I didn't agree with her. But she said she had worked with you and seen that you are a man of integrity. Now I see what she saw.

As everyone knows, my tenure as MD here will soon end, and I am recommending somebody for this Job. I would normally have recommended someone from my part of the country, but you have impressed me and I am recommending you as the next MD.

Kole was speechless. He was not even the tenth in line for the huge promotion. He remembered just three months ago when he was offered a seven digit bribe to manipulate some figures, but he didn't. He prayed till the temptation lost its power. He later discovered that if he had taken the bribe the MD would have found out.

As you go into today, remember that the world has higher expectations from you because you are a Christian. Ask the Lord to help you walk worthy of your calling and shine your light in this dark world. - Pst SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 17-18

August 17

PRIDE AND INIQUITY

Proverbs 21:4 (NET)

Haughty eyes and a proud heart – the agricultural product of the wicked is sin.

Darius was very displeased with the way he was treated by his brother's wife when he visited them. He felt she did not respect him enough, and he did not get over this offense. But unknown to him, he too was a very proud person at heart. That was why he was so grieved by his sister-in-law.

Because of this pride in his heart, anger entered his heart and hatred for his sister-in-law started to grow. It got to the point that he would tell lies against her.

When pride is allowed to remain in the heart, sin is being cultivated there. God sees a proud person as a wicked person (see Psalm 10:4). Pride and Iniquity are closely related and God calls them wickedness (see how the word 'wickedness' and 'inequity' are interchanged in Psalm 47:5 and Heb 1:9). Pride was one of the reasons Lucifer the arc angel fell and became Satan-Iniquity was found in him (see Eze 28:15).

God's eyes do not behold iniquity (Habak 1:13). He does not listen to a man who regards iniquity in his heart (see Psalm 66:18). He resists the proud (see James 4:6). It is our responsibility to guard our hearts against pride because it is a spiritual fertilizer that engenders the growth of iniquity in the heart.

One way to check for pride is by checking the rate at which you get angry. If you are very easily offended, it might be a sign that pride is in your heart.

Go into today remembering that the blood of Jesus is strong enough to wash away every pride and iniquity. Ask the Lord to search you and purge your heart of every pride and iniquity. - Pst SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Daniel 7-12

August 18

BE JOYFUL ALWAYS

1 Thessalonians 5:16

Be joyful always [NIV]

Chinedu: Pastor, I don't know what is happening to me. I am spiritually very weak. I have noticed that I recently have been falling into temptations and I even have been very prone to demonic attacks. I now have nightmares again.

Pastor Dele: I am not surprised to hear this Chinedu: I don't understand. How come you are not surprised? P. Dele: Ever since you didn't pass that professional exam, I have noticed that you have lost your cheerful and happy spirit. Because of this, I knew spiritual strength would depart from you, and I have been praying for you. When the Bible says 'be joyful always' it is not just an advice, it is a commandment because the Lord knows that His joy is our strength (see Nehemiah 8:10c).

Chinedu: But how do I overcome my depression?

P. Dele: you can begin by changing your mindset. Instead of complaining and feeling deprived, why not thank the Lord and remember all He has done for you. Thank Him because you succeeded in becoming a doctor in the first place. Don't you remember the many that started medical school but couldn't graduate?

Thanksgiving and praise is a major key to sending away the spirit of heaviness and filling your heart with the presence of God. Do not let the devil deceive you; the simple fact that you are still alive is something to be thankful for. If Satan were so powerful, he would have taken your life long ago.

Go into today determining to be joyful by focusing and meditating on the goodness of the Lord. Prayer: thank the Lord for all He has done for you. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: John 5-6

August 19

BE OF GOOD CHEER

John 16:33

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. [KJV]

Temidayo was now tired of this world. Each time he tuned to the news channel, there was another bad news. The level of insecurity in his country now reached heights never seen before. He just heard that another friend of his was kidnapped. 'Would he be the next victim?' he thought as he started becoming more and more despondent daily.

Jesus has forewarned us of the evil and tribulations in this world. One reason I believe He gave us this warning is to prepare us so that we would not be perplexed by the news of the evil we now hear. Remember He also instructed us to 'be of good cheer' despite the fact that there will be tribulation in the world.

As a Christian, you can choose to dwell in the bad news you hear and allow it make you sad, or you can chose to dwell on the good news of the gospel and let joy fill your soul. The best thing still happening in the world is the saving grace of Christ Jesus. It far outweighs all the evil in the world.

When you focus on the bad news and allow it make you unhappy, it also makes you lose your spiritual strength. But when you focus on the good and pleasant things and allow thanksgiving produce true joy in your spirit, your spirit is strengthened.

Go into today determined to be a joyful person regardless of the tribulation in the word. Know that joy and thanksgiving is the will of God for you always (see 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Prayer: Ask the Lord to help you always magnify Him in your life. Amen. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Timothy 4-6

August 20

ETERNAL LIFE

Ephesians 2:4-5

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. [NIV]

The life talked about in today's Bible text is spiritual and eternal life. You see, the only reason why you can participate in this physical realm is because you are physically alive. The only reason why a person would be able to participate in the eternal realm is because he has eternal life. When the devil and some other angels sinned, they were cast out of God's presence and fell from this life. When man sinned, we too were cast out of God's presence and lost this eternal life because sin cannot participate in the eternal realm.

Because of God's great love and grace, He made us alive again with Christ. Humankind's only hope for eternal life is in Christ Jesus. This is because God included us in Christ when he was resurrected into eternal life. It is in His name that we have access to the things of God, for no one can come to the father except through Christ (see John 14:6).

There are numerous benefits to having eternal life. This is the highest quality of life and it has authority and advantage over all other realms of life; including lower spiritual realms where spirits and demons operate, and this physical three dimensional realm.

Go into today knowing that if you have received Christ, you have received a quality of life that even the devil and demons do not have. You can therefore exert authority and dominion over them and all their works (see Luke 10:19).

Confession: I have eternal life through Christ the Lord. I am walking in this life in Jesus name. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Numbers 5-8

August 21

GOOD WORKS

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 it is not from works, so that no one can boast. [NET]

Someone might ask, if salvation is not from works. Why then do we say faith must have works?

Ephesians 2:10 says “For we are his workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works...”

The works produced by your faith are not dead works of the flesh produced by legalism. Let’s be clear about something, there’s no ‘good’ work you can do that can pay for your salvation. There is no ‘good’ without God (Jesus made this quite clear in Matthew 19:17), and God does not work with you to do His good works without faith in your heart.

The only way we receive salvation is by faith in Christ Jesus. What Apostle James teaches in James 2 is that if this faith is not dead, it has works that it produces as proof of its life. Therefore, there are two categories of works: THE WORKS OF THE FLESH (referred to in Ephesians 2:9) and THE GOOD WORKS OF FAITH (referred to in Ephesians 2:10, James 2:14).

If your faith does not produce any good works, it is dead because any faith that is living produces good works. God has called us and ordained us to bring forth fruit which can be referred to as the good works of faith.

Go into today knowing that Just as a branch abiding in the vine does not struggle to bring forth fruit, so you are not to struggle to produce good works if your faith is living.

Confession: My faith is alive, and it produces good works in my life. Amen. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Chronicles 10-14

August 22

GOSPEL, NOT THE LAW

Luke 16:16

The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. [KJV]

Remi: why have you shaved your hair?

Juliet: our pastor said the new revelation from the Lord stipulates that I must do this in order to make heaven. There are also fifteen new rules you must keep to be sure to make it. You need to read them.

Remi: New rules? Count me out of that.

One of the reasons John the Baptist is so important is because his coming and ministry marked the beginning of the kingdom era. The kingdom of God is now the heavenly agenda for humankind. Anyone who will be saved now will have to accept the gospel and enter the kingdom of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

It is very sad that today, so many still preach the law rather than the kingdom. The law is characterized by rules and regulations. Obeying them should guarantee salvation, but it does not. The law and the prophets in themselves are not bad, and they came from God. But God brought the gospel because humankind does not have the ability to obey the law according to the spirit of the law. This made the law unable to produce real righteousness in people. The best it produced was self-righteousness which is as filthy rags before the lord. Note that righteousness is worn as a garment before the Lord.

Go into today knowing that the kingdom of God is the best thing that can happen to you. You enter into the kingdom by receiving Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Prayer Confession: I am saved by grace, not by law. I am a partaker in God's kingdom because of Christ Jesus. Amen. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 99-101

August 23

RACE FOR THE JOURNEY 1

Hebrews 4:16

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most. [NLT]

A very wealthy king sent three of His servants to another city. They were to bring his goods from that city to their city within two days. He gave them sufficient money for their journey and for fueling their vehicles. Two of his servants arrived on time. The third servant was nowhere to be found. He showed up three days later after being apparently robbed and beaten up. He narrated to his boss how he ran out of fuel in the middle of the wilderness. His boss wasn't very sympathetic with him; he said "I gave you more than enough money to buy fuel. You have failed, not because you are a bad person but because you failed to use the money I gave you to buy sufficient fuel at the right time and place. I am sorry, but you will not be promoted like you other colleagues who succeeded in their assignments"

Grace can also be defined as divine empowerment for exploits. It is the fuel with which we live goodly empowered lives on this earth. Many have fallen along the way side because they failed to approach God's throne to receive grace. Jesus has paid the price for grace; all you need to do is to simply ask so that you can receive. God does not expect you to run this race by your own power, which is why He has provided unhindered access to His grace. All you need to do is ask (see Matthew 7:7)

Go into today determined to constantly ask your heavenly father for the grace you need in living the life that pleases Him and fulfills His assignments.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I come before your throne today. I ask for mercy and grace. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 19

August 24

GRACE FOR THE JOURNEY 2

Matthew 7:7

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you. [NET]

Gbemi began to notice that he was becoming spiritually weak. It wasn't that he had fallen into any known sin, but he observed that his faith was quite low, much lower than it had been in a long time. Immediately, he knew this meant he needed more grace for the journey ahead. (You see, the grace of God can be likened to spiritual energy of life. A person can be full of it or can run low). Gbemi had ASKED the Lord to increase his grace and faith, but nothing seemed to change in his spirit. He knew it was now time to SEEK. He decided to go on a fast in order to seek the face of the Lord. During this period of seeking the face of the Lord, the Lord showed him certain things in his life that were not according to divine pattern. He repented and made the required change immediately.

The Lord wanted to bring Gbemi into a higher realm of grace and glory, but his current state of heart could not accommodate it. He received more grace when he took time out to seek the face of the Lord and gain spiritual alignment.

Sometimes, when we ask and we do not receive, it might just be a signal that it's time to seek. Many times Christians seek the Lord in prayer and fasting, the result is that their grace is multiplied. This manifests in heightened ability to cast out strong demons and command difficult situations to obey the will of God.

Go into today to be a diligent and regular seeker of the Lord. Remember that when you seek, you will find. This is because God is your father.

Prayer: Heavenly father, please empower me to seek you and gain proper alignment with your will and power. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Hosea 1-7

August 25

GRACE FOR THE JOURNEY 3

Matthew 7:7

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you. [NET]

God does not expect us to run this race of life by our own ability but by His grace. We receive this grace by asking, seeking, and knocking. We have previously examined asking and seeking. Let us examine the spiritual principle of knocking. In teaching us how to receive from God, Jesus told us the parable of a man who received help from his friend in the night because he was persistent- he kept knocking on the door (see Luke 11:5-13). The key about knocking is consistency. Consistency means doing what is right and continuing even when expected results are not immediately forthcoming.

For example, many people like you now read Streamglobe Devotional. What you may not know is that this work started since 2012, and it started with just a handful of friends who read it. Some warned us to stop sending the messages to them but we were not discouraged and continued to do the work consistently. Today, our feedback shows that thousands now read Streamglobe Devotional across several countries. This was something we desired from the first day we started, but a major key to getting here was knocking (consistency). And we are still knocking.

Is there something in your life you are asking the Lord to expand and increase? The Lord's word for you today is that you should be consistent in doing what is right. He will bring growth as you keep knocking. He will redirect you if you are on the wrong path.

Go into today remembering to be consistent in doing what is right before God.

Confession: I am a child of God, Life responds positively to me. I am always a victor and never a victim. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: John 7-9

August 26

HOUSEHOLD OF GOD 1

Galatians 6:10

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. [NKJV]

Ugbede was looking for a better job. His brother and sisters were doing their best to help him secure a good one. There was an opening in the company his brother worked. They needed a new ICT specialist, and Ugbede had the required qualification and experience. When Ugbede's brother heard about this, he knew many people would be interested. He summoned courage to go and see his MD to request that Ugbede be given the Job. That was how Ugbede got the fantastic job.

We go out our way many times to help our earthly brothers and sisters, but many times, we fail to do so for our heavenly brothers and sister. Many Christians don't realize that what joins us together as Christians is stronger than flesh and blood.

We are members of the family of God. You were born into this family when you became born again. We should always be conscious of the fact that we belong to God's family and we have brothers and sisters who may need our help.

When you walk in the consciousness of this reality always, you are unlocking several possibilities that are only activated when you understand your spiritual identity. Many Christians have not fully taken advantage of the fatherhood of God because they have neglected true brotherhood with His Children.

Go into today determined to treat your Christian brother as your brother indeed.

Prayer: Heavenly father, I ask that you help me obey this word and understand that my first identity is in your Household. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Timothy 1-2

August 27

HOUSEHOLD OF GOD 2

Galatians 6:10

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. [NKJV]

What today's Bible verse is saying is that we should show kindness to all men, but we should give special priority to our Christian brethren.

Jesus was quite clear about this, He said all will know that we are His disciples when they see the way we(Christians)love one another (see John 13:35).

We can also see in Matthew 25:41-46 that Jesus will chastise some people. These 'Christians' would not be able to enter His Kingdom on the last day because they did not show love to fellow Christians.

Apostle John in 1 John 4:20 reiterates this point when he says we cannot say we love God and hate our Christian brother.

Go into today determined to treat your Christian brother better than you would want to be treated. This is what it means to esteem each other more than yourself (see Philippians 2:3).

Prayer: Heavenly father, please help me walk in true love for my brethren. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Numbers 9-12

August 28

HOW CAN I BE SURE THAT I BELONG TO GOD?

1 John 2:3

And how can we be sure that we belong to him? By looking within ourselves: are we really trying to do what he wants us to? [TLB]

Nnamdi: Pastor, I don't like deceiving myself. How can I be sure that I belong to God?

Pastor Ken: Open your Bible to 1 John 2:3 and read.

Nnamdi reads today's Bible text.

Pastor Ken: you can see that it is quite easy to understand.

Who are you serving and pleasing with your life. Who or what do you make your plans around? For most people in the world, the answer is Mammon. Their lives are defined by what they can get. They do not realize that God made us in His image for us to live for Him.

You see, when you live for God and give service to Him the top priority in your life, God Himself will be the one bringing material things your way without your sweat. Answering the question of who your life pleases answers the question of who you belong to.

Don't be deceived, you cannot live your life to serve mammon and claim to belong to God. It is the person you belong to that you serve.

Go into today determining to live your life to please God always.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to empower you please Him in all regards. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Chronicles 15-19

August 29

INSPIRATION OF THE ALMIGHTY 1

Job 32:8

But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding. [KJV]

Jacob carried the covenant blessing of Abraham, yet, for many years he was cheated by Laban, despite his hard work.

When Laban was to pay Jacob for his years of fruitful work as a shepherd, Jacob requested that any among the flock that was not completely white (the very few with spots, or any other coloration) should be given to him as payment. This was a fair and an excellent arrangement, it eliminated suspicion about whether Jacob would steal Laban's flock in the future, and the sheep and goats that were not pure-white were relatively very few. Laban agreed to this arrangement. But before the set day for Jacob to select his flock, Laban secretly arranged with his sons to remove all colored and speckled animals from the fold. (See Genesis 30:31-35).

Humanly speaking, there was no way Jacob would have prospered under the meanness of his boss, but his story changed when God gave him inspiration through a dream. He moved from the dimension of hard work alone to the dimension of grace. Because of this, he was so blessed that Laban and his sons began to envy him.

Many Christians have looked to the government or their employers for rightful reward for labor, but have been disappointed over and over again. I will proffer today that all you need is inspiration from God, and like Jacob, your blessings will run after you.

Go into today knowing that every struggle, whether financial, academic, marital or even spiritual will end once you begin to walk in God's inspiration.

Prayer: my father, I ask for your inspiration to set me into my blessings. In Jesus' name. Amen. -Dr James Emmanuel

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 102-104

August 30

INSPIRATION OF THE ALMIGHTY 2

Job 32:8

But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding [KJV]

Most people who have done great things in this world are usually highly spiritual. Unfortunately, many of them have resorted to demonic methods like Yoga and such things in order to be in touch with their spirits. This is because they understand that the spirit is the organ through which man receives inspiration.

From my personal experience, I have noticed I received my most notable inspirations when praying in the spirit. Isn't it enlightening to discover that in today's Bible verse, the spirit was mentioned before inspiration was mentioned? This is because the writer understood that the spirit of man is the part of him that receives inspiration.

We saw yesterday how God blessed Jacob through the inspiration he received in a dream. Many people have received great inspirations through dreams because they are more conscious of their spirits when they are asleep. This is because at that point their flesh is less active.

We who are children of God should always walk in God's inspiration, and this happens when we are spiritual; walk in the spirit, and pray regularly in the spirit.

Go into today determining to seek the inspiration that God constantly sends to your spirit. Know that this is the key to your greatness in life.

Prayer: thank you heavenly father for your inspiration that gives me understanding of all things. I pray you help me walk in the spirit and receive these inspirations. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 20-21

August 31

IT IS BY GRACE 2

2 Peter 1:2

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord [KJV]

Here's a question whose answer will be very enlightening.

Question: Do we all have equal grace or do we have grace more than each other?

Answer: We all have equal access to God's unlimited grace, but we don't all maximize this access. That is why some walk in God's gifts while others don't. Grace and faith is given to us because of our relationship with God.

Grace is multiplied because of spiritual knowledge and understanding of God. This knowledge produces faith in us. It is with this faith that we can access God's grace.

Things like past experiences could be the reason why people don't walk in the faith required to access God's grace for exploits. Anything in your heart that hinders the entrance of God's grace is a spiritual strong hold. Strong holds are in the minds of people, and the way to deal with them is by using the most powerful weapon of God's word. It pulls down strong holds by presenting better evidences and bringing light.

Strongholds are thought patterns that perpetually quench faith. We shall examine them more closely next time.

Go into today determined to praise God's word above your current circumstances. Let the word of God stir faith in your heart and let this faith produce action. As you act in faith, you will see God's grace in action.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for your grace that you have made available for me. I ask for grace to access this grace in a greater measure (see John 1:16). Amen. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Hosea 8-14

September 1

THE FATHER

Matthew 23:9

And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. [KJV]

In the Spirit realm, God alone is father; father in this context means source and sustainer. God is our only source and sustainer, that is why we are to call no other person father but God; this means we are to see no other person as our source and sustainer but God.

If indeed God is our only source and sustainer, we should not see ourselves: our skills, qualifications, abilities and talents as what sustains us. They are all tools that God uses to sustain us. They, including people that God sends to help us in certain seasons of our lives are tools God uses. And we are grateful to people for allowing God use them, but we do not forget that it is God who ultimately used them.

If you understand how powerful our heavenly father is, and how he controls all things to fulfill His purpose for those who love Him, you will see that even your birth and the family to which you were born was orchestrated by the father. Just like your faith in Christ as your savior and Lord activated a (spiritual) reality to your life, your faith in God as FATHER activates a reality to you.

Go into today remembering to make God your only source and sustainer. Know that He gives you all things that pertain to life and godliness. He provides your physical and material needs and supplies grace and spiritual might to your spirit. Do not hinder the flow of God's supply by looking to anyone but Him as your source and sustainer.

Prayer: thank God for bringing you to this day. Ask the Lord to empower you walk in the fullness of His will for you, that you will always abide in Him, In Jesus name. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: John 10-12

September 2

IT IS GOD WHO JUSTIFIES YOU

Romans 8:33-34

Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is the one who will condemn? Christ is the one who died (and more than that, he was raised), who is at the right hand of God, and who also is interceding for us. [NET]

Daniel felt very condemned in his heart because of a sin he had committed. His conscience condemned him because of guilt and he couldn't pray and access God's grace. This made him miserable and depressed, he even became very sick.

The grace of God (as administered by the Holy Spirit) is so powerful, precious and sweet, that when a true child of God walks outside of it, life becomes bland and tasteless. This usually happens to a child of God when he has committed a "great" sin and is feeling very guilty. The accuser can capitalize on this to make him so depressed and empty of grace that he can become very sick physically. That's why James 5:14-16 talks about when saints are sick, that confession to the elders (Christians to whom they are accountable) and prayers would make the sick saint well. This is because the guilty conscience that plagues a saint to the point of making him sick (and this is orchestrated by the accuser) usually does not leave until he confesses to another saint.

Today's Bible text reminds us that no one can lay a charge against God's elect. Why? Because Christ has died for you, and He also resurrected and makes intercessions for you. You are no more to suffer for the sins that Christ has already suffered for.

Go into today knowing that it is God who justifies you. He justifies you because he chose you.

Prayer: Thank you Father because you are the one who justifies me. I receive the grace to walk in grace, in Jesus name. Amen. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Timothy 3-4

September 3

GOD'S MASTER PIECE

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

[KJV]

Further Reading: Leviticus 20:26

A missionary spent his entire life preaching to the people of one village. This missionary lived, died and was buried in this village. Much later, a set of missionaries arrived the same village and preached Christ to them. Surprisingly, the villagers exclaimed 'we know Christ, he lived here among us'. The villagers were referring to the dead missionary whose life radiated the life and nature of Christ as described by the new missionaries. The entire community now turned to God because of the life the old missionary had lived.

You are God's master piece; you are created for good works. Are you living up to expectation? How many will come to Jesus because of your attitude? Who are you when you're not in Church? Remember that your life should preach Christ. What difference exists between you and the world?

Here are some of the differences between a master piece and other pieces:

The master piece is exclusively reserved for the Master, he will not sell it. Every other piece is a copy of the master piece.

Go into today asking yourself these questions:

Is God proud of me? Can God ask others to copy me? Do I fit as a master piece? If you know you do not measure to the standard of God's master piece, spend the day talking to God and determine to live for God from today.

Prayer: Dear Lord, please help me to be an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Amen (1 Timothy 4:12). -Dr James Emmanuel

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Numbers 13-16

September 4

WE ARE TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." [NIV]

This was the first time Dr. Femi and his team was doing this. They were mostly doctors and other medical professionals who felt the need to minister free healthcare to a community and preach the gospel in the process. They recorded a massive harvest of souls but they knew it was just the beginning; they also needed to make them disciples of Christ.

Jesus has given every Christian an awesome assignment. We are to make disciples not just of individuals but of nations. How do we do this? We are to first preach the gospel to them. We are to be witnesses for Christ with our lives and words. Secondly, we are to baptize them; this also entails introducing them to the Holy Spirit. Anyone who is baptized in the Holy Ghost receives grace to do exploit.

Thirdly, we are to teach them things we ourselves have learnt from the Lord over time. This will help establish them. This takes longer time.

Go into today knowing that you have a responsibility from the Lord to make disciples; a responsibility for which you will give account before God someday. You can make disciples of your children, your employees, your colleagues, your pupils, friends, family members and even strangers.

Prayer: thank you heavenly father for saving me and making me a light to show the way to others. I pray for more grace to do this more effectively, in Jesus name I pray. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Chronicles 20-24

September 5

AVOID PROFANE CHATTER

2 Timothy 2:16

But avoid profane chatter, because those occupied with it will stray further and further into ungodliness [NET]

Even though Deji was born again and a member of the choir, he had a practice that was now becoming a dangerous habit. He had a female contact on WhatsApp that he would chat with regularly, and these chats were becoming more and more profane every day. She also added him to a chat group that was created for profane chatter. They would share dirty jokes, experiences, and pictures.

Even though Deji was not yet involved in any physical immorality, his involvement with these chats caused him to stray further and further into ungodliness. It was just a matter of time before he fell down flat spiritually. Thankfully, the Lord used one of Deji's closest friends to deliver him from his spiritual free fall. He accidentally saw an indecent picture Deji received from the chat group.

It is much easier to get involved with indecent chatter than that to actually get involved with what is being talked about. Many have lost great spiritual power because of this. They become very weak spiritually and are no more effective in their kingdom assignment. I've discovered that it becomes very difficult to get involved in indecent chatter with people who you are already sharing the word of God with. If you share the word of God daily with your friends on social media, it becomes very difficult for any of them to initiate indecent chatter with you.

As you go into today, determine to flee from all appearances of evil by meditating on God's word and sharing it at every opportunity.

Prayer: Heavenly father, I thank you for the opportunity to be your child. I ask that you help me purge myself of everything that makes one an unworthy vessel. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 105-107

September 6

SEEK THE KINGDOM

2 Timothy 2:22

But keep away from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faithfulness, love, and peace, in company with others who call on the Lord from a pure heart. [NET]

Paul's instruction to Timothy is equally relevant to us today. The first part of today's Bible text says 'keep away from youthful passions'. One sure way to do this is to avoid materials that arouse youthful passions. The social media today has been flooded with such materials, but let's not forget that God wants us to keep away!

I love the second part of today's Bible text because it helps to make the first part possible. You see, if you do not do one thing, you will do another, because you must do something. If a person keeps away from youthful passions, one way he would do this is by pursuing righteousness, faithfulness, love, and peace. And He doesn't do this alone; he does this in the company of like-minded people who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Spiritual lone rangers don't excel spiritually. Even our Lord did not walk alone; He had his company of like-minded Apostles.

In today's Bible text, If you look more closely at the things we are to pursue, you will see that they are consequences of God's Kingdom in a person's life (see Romans 14:17). This reminds me of the word of our Lord that says 'seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these other things shall be added unto you' (see Matthew 6:33). So instead of allowing yourself to be controlled by youthful passions, seek the kingdom of God-this is even more exiting.

Go into today determined to keep away from youthful passions and seek God's kingdom in a practical way. Pray Lord, please help me keep this word for today. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 22

September 7

THE LORD'S SERVANT MUST NOT QUARREL

2 Timothy 2:24

And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. [NIV]

As soon as Debbie reported for her new posting, she noticed that her colleague with whom she shared an office was very disrespectful. It was as if the woman was looking for every opportunity to quarrel with her. Unknown to Debbie, all the other workers in that office knew of Mrs. Kolade's quarrelsome behavior. She had quarreled with everyone who shared an office with her. No one in the office wanted to share an office with Mrs. Kolade, but since Debbie was posted newly to that station, she didn't object to sharing office with her. Debbie refused to quarrel.

As time went on, Debbie earned the respect of everyone in the office because they waited and waited but did not hear any raised voices from her office. Because of this, Debbie could lead people in that office to the Lord. Have you ever come across quarrelsome Christians? It is sad that some Christians are quarrelsome. Some Christian couples even are very quarrelsome and harsh to one another. I have noticed that quarrelling does not produce any good fruit; it only creates more separation and negative feelings.

When you are kind in dealing with people, you would never quarrel. A kind person treats others the way he would want to be treated. You don't want others to raise their voices at you and say hurtful things to you do you? You want people to be understanding and sensitive to your feelings don't you? If you are truly kind in heart and meek, the need to quarrel with people will not present itself.

Go into today determined to avoid quarrels because you are a servant of God. Remember that it takes two people to quarrel.

Prayer: Ask God to give you a heart that is truly kind and meek.
- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: The book of Joel

September 8

ABIDING IN CHRIST

John 15:4-5

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing. [KJV]

John 15:7 says 'If ye abide in me and MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU...' This means Jesus abides in us through His Word. The more of the revelational knowledge of the scriptures we have, the more of Jesus we have abiding in us.

John 1 reveals to us that Jesus is the word of God. When you take in the word into your spirit, you are actually letting Jesus abide in you because He is the word of God.

One way you can be sure your prayers will be answered is by abiding in Christ and letting Him abide in you by His word. See what Jesus says about this: "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, YE SHALL ASK WHAT YE WILL AND IT SHALL BE DONE UNTO YOU" (see John 15:7).

Go into today deciding to always feed your spirit with the word of God and make conscious effort to follow the precepts therein.

Prayer: My Father in heaven, thank You for Your word today. I ask for the grace to always study Your word and to obey it always. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

-Bishop Karo

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: John 13-15

September 9

THE LOVE OF GOD

Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, 5 even though we were dead in transgressions, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you are saved [NET]

It is important that we always remember God's great love for us as we go through life. This would help us remain in His love and walk always in faith and consciousness of God's presence. One of the Devils biggest tricks against us is to bring us to a point where we begin to doubt God's love for us. He does this because he understands that our love for God is our most powerful spiritual resource; it is a function of faith, and this love is inspired by our knowledge of God's love for us (see 1 John 4:19).

Christians become spiritually vulnerable when their faith begins to diminish because faith is a spiritual shield. The easiest way a person's faith can begin to diminish is if he allows himself to shift his trust in God's love. That is what the devil was trying to make job do, to 'curse God and die'. He wanted to turn job's love for God to hatred.

That is still what the devil tries to do against us today, he tries to manipulate situations and deceive us to start believing God does not love us as much as He does so that we too would stop loving God as much as we should.

Go into today remembering that all things walk together for good to them that LOVE GOD (see Romans 8:28).

Prayer: Ask the Lord to open your heart to grasp how wide and long and high and deep the love of Christ is. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: The book of Titus

September 10

YOU WERE BOUGHT AT A PRICE

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body. [NET]

Ladan got into a confrontation with a sorcerer who felt he had spiritual authority over him. This man wanted Ladan to give him money for regular family rituals and sacrifices for protection. Ladan refused this time and said he no longer would participate in idol worship. The sorcerer threatened Ladan and said Ladan should know that he belongs to the family, and because he has refused to do what is required, he was going to suffer serious consequences. Ladan responded by saying 'I have been bought with a price. I now belong to Jesus and you can do me no harm'. The sorcerer angrily left Ladan's house and told Ladan to expect to hear from him soon. On his way back to the village, the sorcerer was involved in a ghastly motor accident. He was unconscious for several months. Ladan never heard from him again.

What are the consequences of your being bought with a price? You are no longer your own and God who bought you now takes responsibility for you. You are now God's responsibility. God bought us with Christ's precious blood from the bondage of darkness into His glorious kingdom.

Do not use your body to do anything that displeases and dishonors God. One way people dishonor God is by participating in idol worship or sexual immorality. When you give money for sacrifice or rituals to other gods, you have participated in idol worship and dishonored your God.

Go into today with the confidence that you are not your own and God jealously watches over you.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to help you to always live in the consciousness that He owns you and you are His responsibility. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Numbers 17-20

September 11

HONOR GOD WITH YOUR SUBSTANCE

Proverbs 3:9

Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase [KJV]

Adaobi's Parents were billionaires. But each time she traveled to visit, she would buy them clothes, fruits, foodstuff and anything she felt they would like. She would also give them money. Even though her parent's house was usually full all kinds of assorted fruits and foods, anytime Ada bought fruits for her parents, they claimed the fruits tasted better. Her mother would proudly wear the dress Ada buys for her as if she didn't have better ones. Ada's gifts always brought joy to her parents because they felt honored by them.

Our God owns all things, but it gives Him joy when we honor him with what we have. Unfortunately, I have found that some Christians in Africa dishonor God by still honoring some household idols. They do so whenever they give money for idolatrous purposes and rituals, even though they don't directly participate.

When you give your money for idolatrous practices, you are doing so to honor a demon that is most likely seeking to regain dominion over you. Whether it is during burials or any other kind of ceremony where money is to be given for rituals, Christians are not to be involved in such. It is a dishonor to God for you to give to another god anything, no matter how small. You cannot honor God and honor a village god at the same time. Doing so exposes you to demons.

Go into today determined to honor God with your substance. Remember that Our God is a Jealous God. Do not give to another what belongs exclusively to Him.

Prayer: thank you father for your word today. I pray you help me truly honor you with my life. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Chronicles 25-29

September 12

ESTEEM THE WORD

Proverbs 3:11-12

My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: 12 For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth. [KJV]

Demola was about to travel and leave his wife who was very mean to him. He had meticulously planned everything. He had his 'righteous' reasons. He had secured a job in another city and even chose the house he was going to rent. He told his 'wicked' wife that he wanted to travel briefly, but in reality he was leaving her because he wanted peace in his life again.

The last Sunday service he attended before traveling, there was a guest minister who spoke on marriage. The minister spent a lot of time discouraging separation and divorce. He spoke as if he knew all Demola's plans. Demola immediately knew the Lord wasn't happy with his plans to leave his wife. He repented from them and decided to make things work with his wife. He and his wife ended up very happy together. The Lord blessed them with Children and made them very wealthy.

Whenever you see an instruction like the one in today's Bible text, the reason is usually because the more likely thing for most people will be to despise the chastening and correction of the Lord. Most times the Lord corrects, He rarely physically appears to us to do so. He rather uses the words of His servants and leadings in our spirits. And because the words are usually not pleasant to the flesh, most people find it convenient to despise them and deceive themselves that the word is not for them or from the Lord.

Go into today determined to regard the word of God above all else in your life. This is the ultimate key to the blessing.

Ask the Lord to create in you a heart that praises and honors His word above all else. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 108-110

September 13

WHY I BELIEVE IN JESUS

Ezekiel 36:26

“And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.” [NLT]

I understand from the Bible that I was shaped in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me. I didn't need to learn how to lie or steal, it came naturally, I was born that way. I tried to correct this crooked condition of my heart through education, but, you see, education is too weak to change the heart of man. That is why you can see professors who are drunks and immoral. I felt helpless and hopeless until I met Jesus.

Jesus is the only one who is big enough to change the condition of my heart and your heart. Education alone cannot do it. Do you know why it is only Jesus who can do it? Because He is the only one that died and rose again, therefore, he can go into your life and deal with the limitations of your past thus setting you for a more glorious future.

This is how Ravi Zacharias explained it: What is the condition of your heart? Only Jesus describes it in His word. We don't like the description and we fight against the description, but every day we prove the description: that your heart and my heart are desperately wicked. God alone provides for this malady, and He has made a way to change our hearts.

Friend, this is why I believe in Jesus.

Go into today knowing that God gives you a new day; He gives you a new chance; He gives you a new hope; He gives you a new heart.

Prayer: Dear Lord, please give me a new heart and a new spirit, give me holy desires as I come into this day, amen.

-Otuokon, Ubokudom.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 23-24

September 14

THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
[NET]

Konrad Adenauer, chancellor of Germany after the fall of Hitler once asked Billy Graham while on a visit to Germany, “Do you really believe in the resurrection of the dead?” Mr. Graham answered that if he didn’t believe in the resurrection of Jesus, he wouldn’t be there to preach. Walking across the room and looking over the ruins of Germany, Adenauer said to Billy Graham “outside of the resurrection, I know of no hope for mankind.”

The cross of Jesus Christ stands as the centerpiece of the gospel message of Christ because it recognizes the dastardliness of what sin is and the beauty and the love of forgiveness. There is no religion in the world that offers the hope of redemption except the cross of Jesus in the Christian worldview. The eastern religions talk about karma, the Muslim says that his good deeds must outweigh his bad deeds for him to make paradise; these are not pejorative statements, but doctrinally proven conclusions. The Cross of Jesus is the only answer in the world that offers you a savior.

In understanding the message of the cross, you will understand the message of forgiveness, because in learning how to receive forgiveness, you will also learn how to forgive. At the cross, Christ offers you forgiveness.

Friend, outside of the cross of Jesus, there is no hope for mankind. Not saved? If you believe that Jesus died for you, confess Jesus as Lord today.

-Otuokon, Ubokudom.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Amos 1-4

September 15

OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART LORD

2 Kings 6:17

“And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.” [KJV]

If there is anything we need this season, it’s that the Lord would open our eyes. In light of this need, there are four kinds of sight we need this season:

1. HIGH SIGHT: David in Psalms 121:1 cried out “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.” This season, learn how to look up. In the midst of all the economic hardship, ethnic and religious crises, insecurity and so on, our help will come from heaven alone. Don’t look at man, lift up yours to God and learn how to look to Him for help.

2. FORE SIGHT: God has great plans for your life. Jeremiah 29:11. You may not look like it right now, but learn how to trust God with your future in spite of the present circumstances. If you have foresight, you will value people more than things.

3. HIND SIGHT: This is the ability to remember what God has done for you in the past. Never forget those blessings, miracles and answered prayers, because, when things get tough, these will remind you that God is still faithful.

4. INSIGHT: God created you in His image and deposited in you all that you would need to fulfill your purpose here on earth. Don’t look down on yourself. If you take time to look inwards, you will see that there’s something good in there.

So, friend, as you go into this day, let your heart cry and desire be that the Lord will open the eyes of your heart that you may see.

Prayer: Dear Lord, please help me to understand that you’re always with me and that your power can do all things, Amen.

-Otuokon, Ubokudom.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: John 16-18

September 16

HIS ANOINTING TEACHES YOU

1 John 2:27

Now as for you, the anointing that you received from him resides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, it is true and is not a lie. Just as it has taught you, you reside in him. [NET]

The dictionary definition for the word anointing means the act of applying oil or an oily liquid. Today's Bible text is referring to the spiritual Anointing that God gives to our spirits through the presence of the Holy Ghost.

Have you ever tried to open a stiff padlock or lose a stiff bolt? You will agree with me that applying oil would make it much easier, so much so that one might later find it difficult to believe that the padlock or bolt was once so difficult to open. That is what the Anointing does to our spirits, it makes pleasing God possible. Things we found impossible to do becomes easy because of the anointing. One way the Anointing does this is to teach us.

Now, to be taught you have to trust and listen to the teacher. Many of us are not walking in God's ease because we are not listening to the Holy Spirit and following His leading.

Go into today determined to walk in the Anointing by listening and obeying the Holy Spirit. If you are not yet baptized in the Holy Spirit, let that be your new topmost priority. Ask the Lord to baptize you with the Holy Ghost. You can also seek impartation through the laying on of hands of someone who is filled with the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: thank you heavenly father for your word today. I pray you help me listen for your voice and always obey it, in Jesus name I pray. Amen

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: The book of Philemon

September 17

INVITING GOD THROUGH THANKSGIVING

John 6:11

Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed the bread to those who were seated. He then did the same with the fish, as much as they wanted. [NET]

I once heard the story of a powerful servant of God who had a cook that was heavily possessed with unclean spirits. Each time she cooked for him, she would cast a spell on the food. But before he ate his food every time, he would give thanks and the spell would be removed. Unknown to her, the man of God knew all she was doing, but never fired her.

When her day of deliverance came, she was the one who confessed all she had been doing and how she would see her demonic spell leave the food each and every time. His secret was thanksgiving.

Have you noticed that Jesus gave thanks each time he broke bread? Have you noticed that He also gave thanks before he raised Lazarus from the dead? (See John 11:41). One of the easiest ways to usher God into a situation is to give Him thanks. When you acknowledge God by thanking Him, you are inviting His presence into whatever you are thanking Him for.

As you go into today, determine to magnify God in your life by being thankful in all things. This is the easiest way to invite God and see His mighty power at work in your life. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and Psalm 22:3 in KJV.

Prayer confession: from now henceforth, I will thank the Lord in all situations; I will experience a greater dimension of His power and glory in my life. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Numbers 21-24

September 18

FAITHFUL IN LITTLE

Luke 16:10 (NET)

The one who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and the one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.

Chief Ola wanted to know which of his many children would be able to control his vast estate. He loved all of them dearly, but he wanted the most faithful ones to take charge of the company. He decided to give them tasks and watch how faithful and productive they would be. He created small businesses for them, and he gave them guidance about how to effectively and successfully run the businesses.

One of the things God is achieving through time is to select his children who would be worthy of wielding His great authority over the entire universe for all eternity. Jesus brought not only salvation, but the Kingdom. Salvation is not an end; it is a means to an end-inheriting the kingdom of God.

God made us in His image and after His likeness because He wanted us to rule the universe with Him. Sin came to abort this agenda, so God had to come in the form of flesh to rescue man [from sin] and bring him back to the kingdom. He did this because of His great love. God has given you assignments on this earth; He has also given you gifts and resources to help you accomplish these assignments.

Your eternal kingdom ranking will be determined by how faithful you are in your kingdom assignment here on earth. Your assignment in this realm of time may look really big, but the Lord calls it the little things that will determine your eligibility to the great things of His eternal kingdom.

Go into today remembering that God has ordained you to bring forth fruits (see John 15:16). He will reward you according to your work (see Rom 2:6, Rev 22:12). -Pst SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Chronicles 1-5

September 19

THY KINGDOM COME

Matthew 6:10

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
[KJV]

I have been wondering why many Christians in our time have not been able to walk in power (the kind of signs and wonders we read about in the Bible).

I recently got an understanding from God's word that the reason is because we Christians are not making the will of God our ultimate priority.

The Lord mentioned it in the Scriptures that he was here on earth to do the will of God (John 4:34).

We know and understand God's will as it is in heaven. There is no sickness in heaven, that's why Jesus healed the sick. There is no oppression in heaven, and there are no devils, so He delivered the oppressed. All He did was to establish heaven in the lives of those He came in contact with. We too should do as our Lord did.

Go into this week focused on doing the will of God and expecting to walk in signs and wonders.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me to touch heaven and change the earth in your name. Amen.

-Lanre Tobi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 111-113

September 20

THE HOLY SPIRIT 1

John 14:17

the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. [NKJV]

The simple fact that you believe in Jesus is proof that the Holy Spirit dwells with you.

What really makes the difference between the Christian and the moral unbeliever is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one that makes us Christians. He is the administrator of the kingdom of God in our lives. This means He is the one who supplies grace to our spirits and connection with the realities of heaven.

We are of God and we have overcome the dark powers of this world, because greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world (see 1 John 4:4). The only hope we have against Satan and his whiles in this world is the Holy Spirit. He is the one who helps us overcome the devil and all his tricks. The reason is because He is the one who created the devil. He is so much greater and wiser than Satan and his demons.

Many Christians don't enjoy the full benefits of having the Holy Spirit because they don't understand the extent of His power in their lives. They magnify their problems and fears and not the Lord in their lives.

As you go into today, remember that God wants you to be filled with the Spirit more than you want to be filled with the Spirit. It is His good pleasure to give you the kingdom (see Luke 12:32).

Prayer: Ask your heavenly father to fill you with the Holy Spirit (see Luke 11:12-13). If you are not yet truly born again, ask the Lord to forgive you and come into your heart.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 25

September 21

THE HOLY SPIRIT 2

John 14:17

The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. [NKJV]

Someone said to me: ‘you Christians have been deceived. You believe that the Holy Spirit came down after Jesus left, how about in the Old Testament. Wasn’t He in the world then?’

I began to explain to him how God is omnipresent and does not need to come to a place to be in that place. Just like the sun is in space, but its light is present in the earth. I also explained to him how the Holy Spirit can be with anyone while He is in heaven.

What happened when the Holy Spirit came down is that He now operates in the earth from the hearts of God’s people. He is resident in your heart and mine. This is a mind blowing privilege.

We see from our test above that the Holy Spirit was with God’s people and not in them. In the new covenant, because He is now actually present on the earth and operating from the earth, He now dwells in God’s people. We are now one body with Lord because His Spirit dwells in us. No prophet of old had this awesome privilege.

If you yield to the Spirit and let Him work in you, you will be a brand new person. This is the reason why we can defeat Lucifer and his angels in this earth where they dwell; because He that is in us is so much greater than they.

Go into today thanking God for the undeserved privilege of being filled with His Spirit.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Amos 5-9

September 22

HE THAT LIVES IN YOU

1 John 4:4

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. [NET]

It was the third day now and Mary's mother couldn't sleep. It came to her knowledge that her arch enemy, Mama Memunat, bragged among her friends that Mary will soon fall very ill and die. Mary had unknowingly stepped on a powerful charm specially prepared with her name. Mary refused to worry or do anything about this; it surprised her mother who fruitlessly ran from pillar to post.

Six months later, Mary was back in the village to visit her mother. Mary now explained to her mother why she was not afraid of the envious woman's charm or spell, and why it could not work against her; she told her mother that she was now a child of God, that the Holy Spirit in her was infinitely greater than the greatest power they feared in their village, so no charms could ever hurt her. Mary's mother now believed in the Lord Jesus because of this.

Mary was immune to demonic attacks because she walked in the reality of God's word.

There are many Christians today who still experience demonic attacks because they still fear what the world fears; and these fears ultimately lead them to do what the world would do. Consequently, they end up having the same experiences as people of the world.

Go into today knowing that the power that works in you is the greatest power in the universe. You are to fear no evil because Christ lives in you.

Prayer Confession: I am walking in the fullness of what Christ has paid for; I am growing from glory to glory; from power to power. Amen

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: John 19-21

September 23

GOD'S ETERNAL LOVE

1 John 4:9

By this the love of God is revealed in us: that God has sent his one and only Son into the world so that we may live through him. [NET]

For twelve years Gabriel had lived under constant fear of death even though he was a Christian. He believed in Christ Jesus but he also believed he received protection from God because of his righteousness. He feared that one day he would sin and lose God's protection, and since this happened a lot, he lived under a constant fear of the unknown.

Gabriel suffered from the fear of death, something that the Lord particularly came to save us from (see Hebrews 2:15), because he based his relationship with God on works and not on faith in the finished work of Christ Jesus.

Unfortunately, many Christians are like Gabriel; they live in constant fear of the unknown because they have not fully rested in the finished work of Christ for them on the cross. Our text today shows that God loves us so much that He gave us His only son so that we may not die but live through Him. Any kind of separation from God is death, and that is exactly what a mindset of 'works for salvation' produces. If your works could save you in the first place, Christ would not have needed to die for you.

Go into today remembering that the righteousness that pleases God is the one that is born out of faith in Christ Jesus. Christ receives you, forgives you, cleanses you, and continues to cleanse and teach you till you become just like Him. Be rested in God's perfect love for you and cast away all fear from your heart.

Prayer: Father, I thank you for your grace that has made me your own. I pray you help me always walk in the consciousness of your eternal love for me, in Jesus name I pray. Amen.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Hebrews 1-4

September 24

THE HOLY SPIRIT 3

John 14:26

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. [NIV]

Gloria was doing business with some people, but she noticed that there was a particular man her spirit wasn't comfortable with. One day, he informed her of an investment opportunity that would further enlarge her business. But she just wasn't comfortable. She decided to pray about it before committing her funds to the investment, it was a lot of money. As she prayed, it became clear to her that she shouldn't invest, even though it was a great opportunity that everyone was jumping at. Everyone who made that investment lost their money. It so happened that this man who was a trusted supplier turned out to be a fraud.

Because of the Holy Spirit, Christians are never to be disadvantaged in life. As a child of God, if you allow your heart to be led by the Holy Spirit, you will never make certain mistakes. The Holy Spirit will guide you from such because He is our counselor.

The problem is that many Christians are not calm enough to sense the Holy Spirit's leading. Another problem is that their consciences with which they get signals from their spirits have been seared with hot iron. This means because they have continued to violate their consciences through sin, it has become deadened and no longer pricks them when they are doing something wrong. You see, the sensitive part of your heart (containing the conscience) is the part that also gets accurate signals from the Spirit.

Go into today deciding to always be meek in your dealing with the Lord. Avoid doing things that violate your conscience.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to teach you to be led by His Spirit.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Numbers 25-28

September 25

THE GIFTS OF GOD

Romans 11:29 (KJV)

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

When Kemi was baptized in the Holy Ghost, she was so excited because she received the gift of tongues. She could now pray in tongues.

But she did not realize that the gifts of God are without repentance. There was a time she walked in the flesh and outside the will of God, and she thought she had lost the gift and the ability to pray in the spirit. But she was wrong. The devil told her that lie because he did not want her praying in the Holy Spirit and building up herself (see Jude 1:20).

Because she believed that lie, it appeared that she could no longer pray in tongues. But when her eyes opened and she understood that God is not one to give you a gift and then collect it back, she knew she had not lost her gift from the Holy spirit.

There are some that have been deceived to believe that they have lost their salvation because of something they did or something they did not do. Your salvation is a gift; it is not something you earned. Ephesians 2:8 says: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD.

The devil deceives people to think they have lost the gift of salvation so that they will lose the faith that makes them saved. If you see anyone who left the faith, it was not because God rejected them, it was because they rejected God and stopped believing (see John 6:37).

Go into today remembering that your salvation and any other gift you have received from God is eternal. Ask the Lord to help you use your gifts for the purpose He gave them to you.

-Pst SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Chronicles 6-10

September 26

FAITHFUL IN LITTLE 2

Luke 6:10 (NLT)

"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities".

Some of Chief Ola's children were faithful and very productive in the business entrusted them, but some of them were lazy and unfaithful. The unfaithful ones were content that they had access to their father's trust fund, and they wouldn't lack anything for the rest of their lives. But the faithful one were interested in increasing the family fortune and doing more good things in this world through their family's great wealth.

The unfaithful children were proving to their father and everyone that they were not worthy to be made the controllers of their father's great estate.

Today, some Christians are only content that they are now saved and citizens of heaven. They do not care much about God's assignment for them in the earth, they only care about their needs. This is the reason why such people do not advance in the kingdom of God. They are the ones simply satisfied that they are going to heaven. They do not care about the fate of other people.

The truth is that as you advance in God's eternal kingdom, it will affect even your life here on earth. Those who are great in God's eternal kingdom begin to experience the first fruits of their greatness here on earth. They are the ones that command God's great power and authority. They are the ones who have great power with God and are privy to God's operations on the earth.

Go into today remembering that promotion and greatness in God's kingdom is a result of faithful and obedient service. Those who are conscious and obedient to the heavenly calling are the ones who can be faithful servants in God's house.

-Pst SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 114-116

September 27

BLESS AND DO NOT CURSE

Romans 12:14

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. [NIV]

When armed robbers entered the apartment of the Akande's, at some point, they attempted to spray everyone with acid. The acid spilled on some of the children and wounded them badly. What people in the other apartments wondered was where the armed robbers got the acid they used. It so happened that the Akande's had a gallon of acid in their apartment, and the armed robbers found it. 'What were they doing with so much acid in their home?' One neighbor frantically asked?

Curses are like spiritual acid. Even though Christians have the power to invoke them, we are not to use them. We are to bless instead of curse. The reason is because God has taken upon Himself the awesome responsibility to judge all wickedness. Let's leave judgment to God because the Lord's judgment is the most just. Even though people may escape human justice, no one can escape God's judgment. When a person is accustomed to pronouncing curses, curses may not be too far from his dwelling place. When a person is one who blesses, his life would be full of blessings. An African adage says you cannot rub oil on someone's hair and your hand left without oil.

I believe there would have been no Apostle called Paul if Stephen were like many Christians today that pronounce curses on their enemies. Paul was one of those who sanctioned the murder of Stephen, but instead of pronouncing doom on all who murdered him, Stephen interceded for their souls.

Go into today, deciding to yield to the spirit of Christ within you. This Spirit blesses even when cursing would have been justified. (Read Luke 9:52-55). Pray, Father, please help me use the Authority you have given me to advance your Kingdom agenda. Amen.

- Pas SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 26-27

September 28

DIVINE NATURE

1 John 4:10

In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. [NET]

"You need to get out there and walk more in love; this is the solution to your problem. You are a child of God now". This is what Pastor Ross told one of his members who came complaining about diminishing spiritual strength and fears of demonic attacks.

We can never say this too much "God loves you". His love for you is not because you loved Him first or because you have chosen to serve Him. He loved you first and sent Christ to die for you and save you from your sins. Your sin gave Satan power and control over you. God is love and He wants you to also walk in love because this is the way to activate His nature that you have now received through faith in Christ Jesus. This new nature is characterized by power and it always overcomes and cannot be conquered (see 1 John 5:4); it cannot be limited by any power in heaven or on earth. It is the divine nature that never dies or sees decay; it is the nature that brings life and strength even to your mortal body; causing you to live above sickness and disease.

Go into today knowing that your new divine nature is activated by love because God is love. When you love, you are manifesting God's primary attribute, and this gives rise to manifestations of his other attributes of might, power, glory, etc.

Prayer: Thank you heavenly father for giving me opportunity to share in your divine nature. Please help me to always walk in this nature, in Jesus name I pray. Amen

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: The book of Obadiah

September 29

FAITHFUL IN LITTLE THINGS

Luke 16:10 (NLT)

"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities".

The Lord called Gloria into the ministry and she knew she would do great things on the earth for the Lord, but she was not patient with the little beginnings.

She was made an usher in the church, but what she really wanted was to be a Bible study facilitator. God's plan for her was for her to grow in service and overcome impatience as an usher because she was a very impatient person.

It takes patience to be faithful in the little things. Many people have walked out of their destiny in God because they were not patient. Many others have made their road very complicated because they were not patient.

There are levels you can only reach in God's kingdom when you are patient and consistent. Patience is one of the biggest signs of faith. Because of impatience, most of the people of Israel that left Egypt could not enter the Promised Land. Because of impatience, Esau lost his birthright. Because of impatience, Saul lost his place as God's appointed king.

Go into today remembering that patience is a virtue that is produced by faith. God uses our faithfulness in the little things to determine whether we are ready for the bigger things.

Prayer: Dear Lord, please help me to be faithful in the little things you have entrusted in my hands. Amen.

-Pst SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Acts 1-2

September 30

WALKING IN GOD'S LOVE

1 John 4:11-12

Dear friends, if God so loved us, then we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God resides in us, and his love is perfected in us. [NET]

Love is what proves that God dwells in you. What makes the difference is our ability to love as Christians. To love the way God loves is impossible except you have God living in you and empowering you to do so.

Any man walking in the flesh cannot love because anyone walking in the flesh is naturally selfish and self-seeking. The God kind of love is characterized by selflessness. This kind of love can only be manifested by a man who knows God. This is the true kind of love (1 John 4:7).

If you truly know God, you will also know that He is all-powerful and all you will get in life comes from Him. This knowledge also empowers you to love others selflessly because you know that what you get in life comes from God and you don't need to be selfish because your portion in life is secure in God.

Go into today with a desire to know God more. Determine to live a love filled life inspired by a growing knowledge of God.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me so much. I pray you help me truly love others too, in Jesus name I pray. Amen

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Hebrews 5-7

October 1

GRACE 1

Romans 6:1

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? [KJV]

In order to properly understand this Bible verse, we would need to examine a verse in the previous chapter. *Romans 5:20 (NET) but where sin increased, grace multiplied all the more.* What does this mean? The first time grace was mentioned in the Bible was in Genesis 6:8. Understanding the context in which it was mentioned will help us.

In Genesis 6, there was great corruption and wickedness on the earth. This was the product of sin, and it repented God that He created Humankind. The Lord said “I will wipe humankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth – everything from humankind to animals...” You must understand that when God says a thing, it has become law in the realms of creation. There was now a new order, humankind was to be destroyed on the earth because of iniquity. BUT Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

The reason why Noah and his household were spared was because of grace. We are all descendants of Noah. The reason why humankind keeps sinning and does not experience total destruction is because this grace keeps increasing to accommodate for the sins. Just think of grace for a moment as a quantitative measure, if Noah and his household needed five measures, how many measures do you think the entire human kind needs today?

So as sin increased, grace also had to be multiplied on the earth so as to keep humankind from destruction. This is the connection between sin and grace... .

Go into today remembering that the grace of God is the reason why you are still alive and born again.

Thank the Lord for making you a partaker of His grace.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Numbers 29-32

October 2

GRACE 2

Romans 6:1-2

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? [KJV]

Sin attracts destruction against us; grace repels this destruction which is rightful consequence for sin. The more there is sin, the more there is grace needed to repel the consequence. This (grace) is all because of God's great love for us. He loves us who don't deserve His love. How do we respond to this great love? We respond by loving God with all our hearts.

If a man is drowning in the middle of the ocean and someone he doesn't know comes with a boat to rescue him, that person has saved his life. If the man jumps back into the ocean because he knows there is now a boat, he is an unreasonable man. The sharks may be waiting the next time he jumps into the water.

A man who has been saved by grace but later continues to sin because he knows there is grace is an unreasonable man. He is playing with danger.

Sin is not just disobedience against God, if it was, God would simply have forgiven us and Jesus wouldn't have to die. Sin is a transgression of the law of spiritual life; it is a toxic spiritual force that has to be atoned for (cleansed). That is why Jesus needed to come and die to atone for our sins. Your salvation is free but it is not cheap; it cost God His only begotten son.

Go into today determined to Love God more than ever before. This love will keep you from sin.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to open your eyes to see the depths of His love for you. Ask for more grace to live above sin.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Chronicles 11-15

October 3

RIGHT BELIEVING

Romans 6:11

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. [KJV]

When Eleojo was thirteen years old, he was introduced to smoking. As he grew older, he became addicted to other drugs. He received Christ when he was on campus at the age of 22. But he had a big struggle overcoming his addictions: he believed it was impossible to conquer them and certain sins. His victory started when he fully understood Romans 6:11.

Our Bible text today says we should consider ourselves dead to sin but alive unto God through Christ. Many times, Christians are defeated because they still consider themselves alive to sin: they still believe in their hearts that they cannot conquer certain sins.

You see, everything we do with God is done by faith. Our faith is based on God's word and not on our experiences or our feelings. What today's text reveals to us is that we should change the way we see ourselves; we should begin to see ourselves as dead to sin. We should believe this and say what we believe. This is how we cooperate with God to allow his transformation.

As you go into today, determine from this moment to believe and say only the things that God says concerning you. You should no longer believe according to your weaknesses or your past experiences but according to God's word. Meditate on this: 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. You will act right when you start believing right.

Prayer Confession: I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. I am walking in the divine nature and pleasing God in all respects. The grace of God is empowering me to do this, in Jesus name.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 117-118

October 4

OVERCOMING TEMPTATIONS

Proverbs 24:10

If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. [KJV]

As an undergraduate university student, Sola never read except for tests or exams. He passed his exams none the less. At a point he became so confident that he boldly told his friends that 'I am good with emergency reading'. In his third year he fell sick two weeks before his exams, he therefore could not do his emergency reading and for the very first time, he failed.

Sola did not fail because he couldn't cope; instead, he failed because he wasn't prepared for the exam. Likewise, children of God have to be prepared always, we must not wait until we are tempted before we begin to prepare. Failure to prepare is preparing to fail.

How then do we prepare?

- By watching and praying. Not at certain times but always. Matthew 26:41a (KJV) "watch and pray, that you enter not into temptation".

- By taking heed to God's word. Psalms 119:9, 11 (NLT) "how can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word 11)I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Go into the day knowing that not being fervent in watching, praying and studying the word of God diminishes your strength against the devil.

Prayer: Pray for the Holy Spirit's assistance to watch, pray and study.

-Dr James Emmanuel.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 28

October 5

ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITH

Matthews 9:29

Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you"; [NIV]

Looking at the works of Jesus in Matthew chapters 8 and 9, you would quickly observe that for everyone that believed Him for a miracle, He operated to the tune of their faith. For the synagogue leader who believed that if Jesus would come to his house and lay his hands on his daughter she would come alive, he had it that way (see Matthew 9:18). For the woman with the issue of blood who believed she could touch the hem of his garment and be made whole, she also had it according to her faith (see Matthew 9:21). And for the centurion whose faith Jesus commended, he believed Jesus needed only to speak the word and his servant would be made whole, and yes! He was made whole (see Matthew 8:8).

God's resources are inexhaustible, the Bible says He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we can ask or think (see Ephesians 3:20). There is no need in heaven or earth too great for God to meet. We need to take off our "myopic goggles" and start seeing God for who He really is- the Omnipotent God.

Go into today believing God for great things in righteousness, knowing that He is well able to bring them to pass.

Prayer: Lord, forgive me for every time I doubted you. Right now I believe you are able to deal with every situation in my life, and I know you will. Thank you Lord. Amen.

-Utieyin Uduaghan

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: The book of Jonah

October 6

INSTRUMENTS FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 6:12-14

Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. 13 Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God [NLT]

When Ronke felt a little tired at the office, she would go to Ugo's office and they would both 'discuss' about what is going on in the office; and what is going on in people's houses. Ugo seemed to know everything about everyone in that office.

After this continued for three weeks, it dawned on Ronke one day that she was now a professional gossip, and yet she knew better than that. She realized that she had been using her mouth as an instrument serving sin. She repented that day.

The reason why many Christians give their bodies to sin is because they enjoy it. It wouldn't be tempting if it were not enjoyable to the flesh. But since we are not to walk in the flesh but in the spirit, it is our responsibility to remind our minds that we are dead to sin but alive to righteousness.

The mind needs constant reminders because it has been trained to walk in the flesh since you were born. But you are now born again, so your mind needs to be reminded to walk in your new nature.

Go into today reminding yourself that you are now a new creature with a new nature. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk in your new nature.

Prayer confession: I am dead to sin but alive towards God. I am walking in the divine nature: I am walking above greed, fear, pride and all forms of lusts, in Jesus name. Amen. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Acts 3-4

October 7

WASHING AWAY FEARS 1

Psalms 34:4

I sought the Lord's help and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. [NET]

Sometimes, fear is an evidence of a negative spiritual reality that is on its way to becoming physical, just like faith is an evidence of a positive spiritual reality that is on its way to becoming physical. We experience these because we are spirit beings. When we have dealt with our fears, it means the issues generating those fears have also been dealt with. We deal with fears by seeking the Lord. He is the one we have in heaven (the spirit realm) and He takes care of us (see Psalms 73:25).

We seek the Lord by praying to Him and telling Him about our fears. We can sometimes fast because fasting is a spiritual exercise that helps us better concentrate on seeking God's face.

In today's Bible text, did you notice that David did not say the Lord delivered Him from all his troubles but he said the Lord delivered him from all his fears? I believe he understood that the secret to sustained victory is overcoming your fears.

Fear is more dangerous than many people think; it is the vehicle through which darkness usually invades. People require faith to deal with God and receive from Him, but fear is a negative force against faith. Many times, when the Lord speaks to His people, he usually begins by saying 'fear not' (see Gen 15:1, 21:17, 26:24)

The Lord is telling you today to FEAR NOT because He is with you. He has promised to never leave you nor forsake you (see Deuteronomy 31:6, Matthew 28:20b).

Prayer: Thank the Lord for being there for you in heaven and on earth (See Psalms 73:25). Mention all your fears to the Lord. Ask Him to take them away. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Hebrews 8-10

October 8

WASHING AWAY FEARS 2

Proverbs 10:24

What the wicked fears will come on him; what the righteous desire will be granted. [NET]

Terna was afraid he might lose his job. He was a marketer and was consistently failing to meet his targets. A routine appraisal had just been concluded and he had performed very poorly. “If I lose this job now, I don’t know what I’m going to do” he thought. He sought the Lord in prayer and fasting concerning this fear and other fears that were lurking in his heart. The Holy Spirit comforted him and his fears started to fade away.

A month later, Terna was transferred to another department. His work there was said to be outstanding; he was so good that the managing director got to know him personally. He later got a big promotion. Terna’s desires came to pass instead of his fears because he sought the Lord concerning them.

In life, there are fears and cares that we face. The Lord wants us to cast all of them upon Him because He cares for us (see 1 Pet 5:7). One way you will know that you have successfully transferred your cares and fears to the Lord is that those fears and anxiety in your heart will begin to fade away.

God’s word for you today is that your desires will be granted, not your fears.

Go into today knowing that your desires will be granted because Christ Jesus has made you righteous by His blood, and His grace empowers you to walk righteously.

Prayer: Thank the Lord for the opportunity to seek Him. Ask the Lord to wash away every fear from your heart and increase your faith.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Numbers 33-36

October 9

OVERCOMING FEAR

Mark 4:40 (KJV)

And he said unto them, why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?

Terry realized that when he is fearful it is because his faith is low. He noticed this when one day he had a bad dream concerning his family. He woke up from that dream crying and he spent the following weeks in fear because of that dream.

Someone gave him a book for his birthday and the book was a faith building book. After reading the book, he realized that the great fear in his heart vanished. He prayed a simple prayer and canceled that evil dream he had, and that was it.

We can see from today's Bible verse that the disciples of Jesus were fearful because they had no faith. Fear provides the atmosphere for demons to operate, but faith provides the right atmosphere for angels to operate in your favor.

Many times, before the enemy can strike, he first sends fear through words, dreams, visions, thoughts and imaginations or even demonically orchestrated events. The enemy knows that when a child of God is walking in fear and making his decisions because of fear, he cannot walk in faith at the same time. And what gives us victory as God's children is our faith - "... this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith" (see 1 John 5:4).

One effective way to be delivered from fear is to seek the Lord. We do this through prayers, fasting, and meditating on God's word. David knew this secret. He said "I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears" (see Psalm 34:4)

Go into today remembering that the way to build faith and multiply grace is by spending time with God [through His word and Prayer] daily. Read 2 Pet 1:2. -Pst SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Chronicles 16-20

October 10

PUT ON YOUR NEW NATURE 1

Romans 6:8-11

If we get included in Christ's sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection. [TMB]

OMEIZA: Pastor, I have been struggling to live a Holy life. After I try so hard, I will later stumble and fall all over again.

Pastor John: Jesus did not call you to struggle; He called you to rest (see Matthew 11:28). I need to explain something to you:

Do you remember that no one needed to teach you how to be a sinner?

OMEIZA: Yes, it was in my nature since I was a child.

PASTOR JOHN: True, we were all born with the sinful nature. The only way to be free from this nature is by dying (see Romans 6:7). Jesus has died this death for you. You were included in Him when He died for you, and you were in Him when He resurrected (see Romans 6:3-6). You now live a new life and this life is the life of Christ. Understanding this and living the life of Christ is the secret to living above sin.

OMEIZA: I don't understand. But I was not yet born when Christ died?

PASTOR JOHN: Yes, but God knew everything about you before Christ died. Remember that God is the eternal 'I am'; He exists in the past, present, and future all at the same time. To be continued...

Go into today knowing that God does not expect you to live by your own strength, He wants you to live by faith in Christ Jesus through His Spirit (see Zechariah 4:6).

Prayer confession: I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Galatians 2:20 (NKJV).

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 119

October 11

ABBA FATHER 2

Romans 8:15 (KJV)

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Ugbede didn't know that his relationship with God as Father was affected by the bad relationship he had with his biological father. Whenever he thought about God as his father, he didn't get the right signals in his mind concerning the way God loves and cares for Him. Ugbede's father never really loved and cared for anyone but himself.

Ugbede received his spiritual breakthrough when he started allowing the Holy Spirit to lead in His relationship with God. He started seeing God through the perspective of the Holy Spirit and no more through the perspective of his experience. This was when he began to understand that God chose him to be His child from before the foundation of the world; that God's plan for him are only good and never evil. He started understanding the love of God, and each depth of understanding he received made him stronger and holier.

The devil delights in giving children of God a false idea of who God is. If our relationship with God is defined by what the devil suggests and no more by what the Holy Spirit reveals, we are playing in dangerous territory and can get hurt. This was what happened to Eve in the garden of Eden (see Gen 3:4-5).

Go into today remembering that the Holy Spirit is the one who should give us perspective [through the word] for the way we see God, the way we see ourselves and the way we see the world. Never forget that God loved and chose you to become His child from before the foundation of the world (see Eph 1:4). There is nothing that the devil can do about God's love for you.

-Pst SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 29-30

October 12

PUT ON YOUR NEW NATURE 2

Romans 6:10-11(NLT)

When he (Christ) died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. 11 So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

Pastor John explained to Omeiza that everything Jesus did, He did for us. Jesus lived for us, died for us and resurrected for us. His glory is also for us (the Church).

Think about it, what glory do you think Jesus was exalted into after his death that He did not have from the beginning of creation? He striped himself of His glory and became flesh so that we too might have life and glory through His resurrection.

It is interesting how many Christians believe that Christ died for them, but they stop there; they fail to believe that He also resurrected for them and is glorified for them. Christ died for us to deliver us from our sins; His death put to death our sinful nature; His resurrection brought to life His godly nature within us, and His glorification guarantees our glorification.

Somebody reading this is receiving a healing today because Jesus has already paid for it. There is another person reading this devotional that is receiving a miracle of provision and abundance today.

Go into this day with renewed assurance that God's grace is available for you. He has made all things you need available for you through Christ Jesus (see 2 Peter 1:3).

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I thank you for your grace. I pray you help me walk more in the reality of it. Amen. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: The book of Micah

October 13

PUT ON YOUR NEW NATURE 3

Ephesians 4:24 (NLT)

Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

Growing up for Jerry was very rough, he'd lost both parents at age two and grew as a teenager wearing torn cloths, sleeping on the street and sometimes eating from the waste bin. An elderly rich woman had pity on him and took him in. She gave him a room; wardrobe filled with new cloths and a big bed. This was the first time in years he saw a bed.

Jerry wasn't used to this new life and would still sleep on the bare floor; he even still wore the same old torn clothes. This became an embarrassment to the wealthy old woman who took him in.

Just like Jerry, a good number of Christians today still live in their old life even when Christ has given them new life. Today's Bible text reads "put on your new life". This life is yours once you've accepted Jesus as your Lord. You simply need to make the resolute decision to put on your new nature; trusting in the Holy Spirit to help you- He always does.

Go into today knowing that the new nature (life) is already yours but you have to put it on and this is only by the help of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you put on your new nature.

Declare: I put on the nature of Christ in its fullness in Jesus' name. Amen.

-Dr James Emmanuel.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Acts 5-6

October 14

RIGHTEOUSNESS BY GRACE

Galatians 2:21

I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain. [KJV]

Sharon: Now that I'm a Christian, How can I be truly righteous and free?

Evelyn: that is a very good question. You see, holiness is something that without it you cannot see the Lord. If you want to be righteous, keep the Ten Commandments, read and understand the laws of God, and follow the laws of our church. When you do these things, you will be righteous before God.

Even though Evelyn had a good intention, she couldn't be more wrong. She was not showing Sharon the way of righteousness, she was showing her the way of legalism and bondage to laws.

Evelyn should have said something like this: 'accept Jesus as your Lord and savior, and be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Walk and live in the Spirit; study God's word and pray regularly to enhance fellowship with God who is your father. Come to church and hear God's word- it is able to renew your mind and make you become like Christ because the hearing of the word transmits grace'.

Our Bible text today's shows that it is possible to frustrate the grace of God in your life by trusting in rules and regulations as a means to accomplish righteousness. The grace of God transforms us from within and empowers us to be righteous naturally.

Go into today renouncing every form of legalism that seeks to frustrate the grace of God in your life.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to cleanse you from every mindset that hinders grace. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Hebrews 11-13

October 15

HOW TO PUT ON YOUR NEW NATURE

1 Corinthians 1:30 (KJV)

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

A young ruler asked Jesus what he'll do to have eternal life; Jesus told him "keep the commandments". Very excited he said "I've kept all the commandments right from my childhood days." Jesus then said, "sell all that you have, give it to the poor, then come and follow me." The ruler walked away sad. He still loved his riches a little more than he wanted to follow Christ.

Some Christians are comfortable when they're told to observe certain rules and commandments, but like the young ruler, they walk away whenever the truth is told; they are not really ready to follow Christ.

Living a righteous life is not by the keeping of rules, regulations and commandments. Even though a righteous person is a moral person, righteousness is not morality; it is more than what the mind can produce. Righteousness is God's gift and only He can make a person righteous.

1 Corinthians 1:30 shows us that Christ is the one who make us righteous before God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin by dying on the cross for us". But you have to believe in Him and follow Him in order to activate this in your life.

Go into today remembering that God is the one who makes you righteous because you now follow Christ. Put on your new righteous nature by loving God above everything else

Prayer: Thank you Jesus for making me righteous. Amen.

-James Emmanuel & Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Deuteronomy 1-3

October 16

SEEKING GOD

Psalms 63:1-3

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; to see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. [KJV]

The reason for depression and inconsistencies in our joy and peace as Christians is because we are, many a time, trying to use God as a means to get our needs met, rather than making Him the core of our lives, the center of our joy and the desire of our hearts. Jesus Himself should be the greatest pursuit of our lives.

This was the continuous desire of David. He said in Psalms 42:1 'as the hart panteth for the water brooks so panteth my soul after thee, O God'. Little wonder God called David a man after His heart.

God is the reward of being a Christian and not just the blessings He gives (see Genesis 15:1 in KJV); for the reward of being in a relationship is the person you are in the relationship with and not what the person can give. Our walk with God is measured not by how much 'blessings' we have, but by how much of God's presence we carry. God wants us to derive our happiness and joy from Him and not from the blessings He gives.

Go into today desiring to know God more. In His presence there is fullness of Joy and at His right hand there are pleasures forevermore (Psalms 116:11).

Prayer: Father, I ask for grace to desire and seek you daily. Help me to always know that you are the source of my joy, in Jesus name I pray. Amen.

-Bishopkaro

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Chronicles 21-24

October 17

ENSLAVED BY SIN?

Romans 6:16

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? [KJV]

Dare got to a point that he started to wonder whether he was still born again. He had literally been enslaved to certain sins, and it's looked impossible for him to come out of them.

Dare had been enslaved by these sins because he yielded himself to them from time to time. The unclean spirits responsible for those sins had enslaved him and he was now demonized even though he was a Christian.

He received deliverance when he opened up to his pastor. His pastor prayed for him and delivered him in the name of Jesus. He maintained his deliverance by living a disciplined life and avoiding appearances of His past sins.

As we can see in today's Bible text, spiritual slavery to sin is real, and when a person is delivered from such, he must yield himself to righteousness and become a slave of righteousness, or else, he will end up being a slave of sin all over again.

When by the help of the Holy Ghost you chose to walk righteously in all you do, you are yielding yourself to righteousness.

As you go into today, remember that it is those who please God that see His face. Righteousness pleases God and sin displeases Him.

Prayer: ask the Lord to make you a slave of righteousness and deliver you from every bondage of sin. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 120-121

October 18

YOU HAVE AUTHORITY

Luke 10:19 (KJV)

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Linda had phobia for dogs. Because of this she found it difficult to visit her sister who had two trained German shepherds. One day she went visiting her sister, the trained dogs happily came to welcome her because she was a familiar face, but she almost fainted and was so terrified that she couldn't speak. She wanted the dogs to leave her alone, and later managed to tell her sister to 'please drive the dogs away'. Her sister told her to simply instruct the dogs to 'go away' and they would obey promptly because they know her to be close to their owner. This she did and the dogs obeyed promptly. She couldn't believe it.

Demons know the Lord Jesus and tremble at His voice and the mention of His name. Anyone who is in Christ carries the image of Christ, and because demons tremble at the voice of Christ, they will tremble at yours if you walk in the faith of Christ. Demons will never obey the command of people who are not related to Christ, but they have no choice but to obey the voice of Christ. That is the voice they hear when you command them in Jesus' name. Christ lives in you and they hear the voice of Christ when you command them.

Go into today remembering that absence boldness is usually the problem with Christians, not the absence of power. One of the reasons the lion is greatly feared in the jungle is not just because of its strength, but because of the boldness with which it exerts its strength.

Prayer: Father, please fill my heart with boldness, in Jesus name. Amen.

-Pst SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Proverbs 31

October 19

THOSE WHO TRUST IN THE LORD

Psalm 34:10 (NLT)

Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the LORD will lack no good thing.

Strong lions represent the strong in this world, they represent those who people revere and look up to when it comes to the things of this world. They are the ones who will be the last to be hungry even when there is farming.

The word of God to you today is that even when strong lions are hungry and suffer lack, you will not lack any good thing if you trust in the Lord. The Lord shall provide your every need according to His riches in glory (see Phil 4:19). You will live in divine health and not be afflicted like the people of this world.

Strong lions of this world have their needs met according to the economy, but your own needs will be met according to the riches of heaven. The riches of heaven have never experienced a recession, there are diseases the riches of this world cannot cure, but there is no disease the riches of heaven cannot cure. It is always increasing. Of the increase of Christ's government and peace, there shall be no end (Isiah 9:7). This means you will only know promotion and never demotion as you keep your heart stayed on the Lord in trust because His ever increasing government is your source of supply.

Go into today remembering that all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory (2 Cor 1:20). You receive these great things from God because of Christ, not because of you. The key is faith in Christ alone.

Prayer: Lord, Help me to believe your word concerning my life and trust in you always. Amen.

-Pst SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: The book of Nahum

October 20

THE 'FORGOTTEN' PROPHECIES

Matthew 2:6

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are in no way least among the rulers of Judah, for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.' [NET]

Today's Bible verse was a long forgotten prophecy concerning Bethlehem. It was so forgotten that the king needed to first consult the scholars before knowing about it. But, it came to pass in the fullness of time.

There are certain words that God may have said concerning you, and yet time has passed, many waters have passed under the bridge, but the prophecies did not seem to come to fruition. Today's mediation is to you that may feel hope is lost; you have expected and expected, but your delivery didn't seem to come. God's word for you this season is that your day is about to dawn. The prophecy concerning your greatness is being fulfilled from this day. You are walking into the great days of your life in Jesus name.

Go into today remembering that the Lord watches over every of His word to fulfill it (see Jeremiah 1:12). Though it may tarry, it will not fail. It will come to pass, If you faint not (see Habakkuk 2:3). Go into this season looking out for your testimonies.

Prayer Confession: I know that God will make a way for me. He is my provider and my portion in the land of the living. Every word He has said concerning me will surely come to pass in Jesus name. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Acts 7-8

October 21

THE GIFT OF GOD

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. [KJV]

Wages are different from gifts. You work to earn a wage, but a gift is received not because you worked to earn it, but because of the benevolence of the person giving it.

When a gift is given to you, all that is required is that you receive it.

Today's Bible verse shows that the wages of sin is death. The payment for living a sinful life is death. Unfortunately, every human being born into this world was sentenced to living a sinful life. But praise God! He has given us the gift of eternal life so that we might inherit life instead of death. All we have to do to receive this gift is to believe in Christ Jesus the Son of God. God has indeed given us eternal life, and this life is in His son (see 1 John 5:11).

A wage is different from a gift. Death is different from life. The wage is death, but God's gift is eternal life. Isn't it great to find out that God has given us the gift called eternal life instead of the wage called death that we all worked for while we lived in sin?

Go into today thanking God for His gift of eternal life. This gift contains all things pertaining to life and Godliness: it contains all the things you need to live a Godly and fulfilled life (see 2 Peter 1:3).

Prayer confession: I receive eternal life. I receive all things I need to live a blessed, fulfilled, Godly life in Jesus name. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: James 1-3

October 22

THE GIFT OF GOD 2

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. [KJV]

Chief Mmehie was a very powerful and wicked slave master. It so happened that everyone born into the Uwa village was now born into his compound, and this meant slavery. He was so wicked that by the time a person served him for a lifetime, he would reward that person with a delicious meal that has been poisoned. He paid his slaves with death.

King Idimma was infinitely more powerful than Chief Mmehie. He sent his son to go and save all the villagers of Uwa village from Chief Mmehie's slavery. King Idimma's son first infiltrated the slave compound like a slave, but later revealed his true nature when he permanently destroyed the great gate of Chief Mmehie's compound. He announced to all the slaves that they were now free to go; that his father had built houses and Vineyards for all of them and they were now going to live in freedom as princes. Some of the slaves believed and followed him but many of them did not believe. They were deceived by Chief Mmehie's lies and remained in his compound as slaves.

This story illustrates the reality of the human condition. God has given us the gift of eternal life, but many are still under the deception of the devil. They are still slaves of sin working for death. The only way out of this slavery is to believe in Jesus.

As we go into today, let us determine to follow Jesus all the way. Let us also pray for all those we know who are still under the slavery of Satan through sin.

Prayer: Heavenly father, thank you for your grace. I ask that you send saving grace to my loved ones who have not yet accepted your salvation, in Jesus name I pray. Amen. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Deuteronomy 4-6

October 23

SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

1 John 1:8

If we say we do not bear the guilt of sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. [NET]

A man prayed like this: “Lord, you know that I am no sinner. I have lived righteously before you all these years. Unlike that man there, I pay my tithes and offerings, and I always do what is right...”

The man he looked down upon was crying to God for mercy and grace. He was the one whose prayer was acceptable before God (see Luke 18:9-14).

Even though we are to have unshakable assurance of salvation, Christians are never to be self-righteous. A self-righteous person thinks he has done enough to deserve God’s grace and goodness. He uses his own standards to compare himself with others and gives himself a pass mark. He does not know that God does not judge according to human standards.

A person who has been saved by grace is never self-righteous. He realizes that his righteousness comes from the Lord; that his ability to do what is right is credited to the grace of God that is at work within him (see Philippians 2:13). He admits his imperfections because he walks in ever increasing grace that continually reveals higher dimensions and standards of light and righteousness.

As you go into today, determine to walk in the grace of God and not in self-righteousness- the two do not work together.

Prayer confession: I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. My sins are forgiven because of Christ’s precious blood. I am walking in the light and pleasing God in all respects, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Chronicles 25-28

October 24

LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY

Matthew 24:12 (KJV)

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

Tade was cheated time and time again by fake believers who sought to take advantage of his brotherly love and devotion to the body. It got to the point he now found it hard to love people who claimed to be brethren. He didn't know that the enemy's game plan was to make his love wax cold and quench his faith.

You see, it is the same heart with which you love the Lord that you also love His brethren. If your heart has taken up the attribute of love for the Lord, it will be impossible for you not to love His brethren and even other people created in His image. Walking in this kind of love is a product of faith in your heart, for faith working through love is the fruit of the renewed heart. Waning love ultimately leads to an eroding away of the faith in your heart. The victory that overcomes the world comes because of your faith (1 John 5:4).

The prince of this world tries to steal your faith by proliferating iniquity in the world. He knows that if your love [for the brethren and for other people created in the image of God] waxes cold, your faith will also wax cold, and you will no more be able to be an overcomer.

The Lord has forewarned us that the love of many will wax cold because iniquity will abound. One reason He gives us this warning is because He does not want you to be among the 'many' whose love waxes cold.

Go into today remembering that you have been given the grace to walk in the divine nature. This nature is one that loves unconditionally.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to help you love unconditionally. -Pst SD Abraham

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 122-124

October 25

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

Luke 8:22

Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. [KJV]

I am particularly interested in the life story of a mad man who caught the attention of heaven. He was insane for years, every effort to help him failed and he could not be chained, it was so bad that he harmed himself regularly. It was in this helpless state that Jesus found him and he was healed.

Luke 8:26-27

And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee.

And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. KJV

If God remembered this mad man forgotten by everyone, know that He has not forgotten you. If He cares for the birds and lilies; He cares even more for you (see Matthew 6:26-29). Do not give in to despair, help is on the way.

There is someone reading this devotional today: You want to begin to engage in something you know is evil because you are tired of hoping and waiting on God. This is the word of the Lord for you today "help is on the way, hold on."

Go into today knowing that God has not forgotten you. He crossed the lake and calmed the storm just to reach a mad man. He will do same and even more for you. He will come and save you, just lift up your eyes to Him.

Prayer: Lord, let your help locate me in Jesus name. Amen.
-Dr. James Emmanuel

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ecclesiastes 1-2

October 26

IT IS BY GRACE: OVERCOMING STRONGHOLDS 1

2 Corinthians 10:4-6

We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. 5 We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ. [NLT]

There was a time Folu was very sick, and it appeared he was going to die. Ola was with him all through that period. He prayed for Him but also perceived that Folu trusted in the doctor's skill more than he trusted in the Lord's divine healing power. This thought pattern was a strong hold that had hindered Folu from accessing God's grace for divine health and healing all his life. Unlike Ola who was never sick and never even had to take drugs, Folu spent a lot of money and time on sickness and disease. He did not enjoy God's grace for divine health because there was a strong hold in his mind.

There is a strong hold hindering many Christians from enjoying God's grace for divine health and healing. The devil builds this strong hold by showing them examples of people who remained sick or died, despite the fact that they claimed to have faith for divine healing. They forget that many people too have died despite the fact that they went to the hospital, and many others died particularly because they went to the hospital.

This is not to demonize medical healthcare, but rather to emphasize the efficacy of God's healing power. He gives supernatural health and healing that human wisdom cannot explain. Divine health should not be scarce among God's Children. Healing is the Children's bread (see Matthew 15:22-29, Mark 16:18).

Go into today knowing that divine health is for you. The salvation package also includes your health and healing (see 1 Peter 2:24).

Prayer: Lord, please cast down every stronghold in my life. Amen.
-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: The book of Habakkuk

October 27

OVERCOMING STRONGHOLDS 2

2 Corinthians 10:4-6

We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. 5 We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ. [NLT]

If someone tells you that a particular food is bad for your health, but you don't really believe it, you will most likely continue eating that food. But if you believe that the food is really bad for your health, you may discover that you even lose appetite to eat it. What makes the difference is that you believe the information.

We saw previously that strongholds are thought patterns in the minds of people which hinder an entrance of God's grace into their lives. The word of God that enters your spirit activates faith when you absolutely believe and accept it. It is by faith that you can connect with God's grace. Strongholds are those arguments in our hearts that keep us from totally believing and accepting God's word, thus, we retain the old appetite for sin.

Answers through God's word destroys strong holds in the minds of people, but answers come when questions are asked. From my personal experience, I have noticed that Christians who grow also ask questions. And believe me, there is an answer in God's word for every question of life. The Lord expects us to ask questions, that is why He gave us the Holy Spirit to be our teacher and guide; He answers our questions.

Go into today determining to engage the word of God for answers to life's questions.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to destroy every strong hold and abolish every appetite for sin in your heart.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Acts 9-10

October 28

NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

Proverbs 14:34

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.
[KJV]

Most of the top desired destinations of the world today are nations that have experienced the transforming power of Christ at some point in their history. The western world originally drew its homogenous identity from Christian values. The devil is currently orchestrating a gradual eroding of these values.

Many Africans that live in Africa grew up in a culture that magnifies the powers of darkness. So much so that it is very hard to truly convince them that all power in heaven and on earth belongs to Christ. Many believe this in their head, but they don't really believe it in their heart. That is why in many parts of Africa, we have found a version of Christianity that lacks real power to transform lives.

Any Christianity that does not absolutely magnify Christ in the hearts of men is not true Christianity. It may be filled with apparent displays of power and lots of activity, but it lacks the real power of God that transforms sinners into saints. This is the reason so much religion has not brought real national transformation into certain African countries. Real Christianity brings positive desired national transformation. When this transformation happens to a nation, that nation will be exalted above other nations in the world. For righteousness exalts a nation.

Go into today praying for your country. Ask that the transforming power of God's kingdom will envelop your nation.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I ask that you send your angels to minister towards the salvation of my nation. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: James 4-5

October 29

OVERCOMING STRONGHOLDS 3

2 Corinthians 10:4

We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.
[NLT]

Mr. Eze's Children thought he was very strict, they didn't understand what was really going on. In their village, Mr. Eze had many envious wicked enemies who wanted to harm him at all costs. They controlled the commerce of their little village. Mr. Eze knew they would try to poison his children at every opportunity. Therefore, he gave them very strict instructions to never eat or drink anything outside the house. One day, his daughters disobeyed by buying water to drink on their way back from school. When Mr. Eze found out, he punished them severely. He did this because he wanted all his Children to understand the gravity of his instruction.

One day, his first son missed the school bus back home. He didn't eat breakfast that morning and was very hungry. He decided to buy food from a nearby cafeteria. Actually, the owner of the cafeteria was the one who persuaded him to buy the food at a cheaper rate. As he disobeyed his father and ate the food, he said "daddy would understand". Two hours after he got home, he died because he had eaten a meal that was heavily poisoned.

"God understands" is what many Christians say when they want to break His precepts. They don't realize that God's precepts were given to protect our spirits from the corruption that is in the world. This corruption is a product of the death force produced by sin.

Go into today knowing that every precept the Lord gives is for your own good. Cast down every stronghold in your heart that says "God will understand". Know that it is your divine life that is at stake when you disobey God's will.

Prayer: Heavenly father, please help me cast down every stronghold in my life. Amen. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Deuteronomy 7-9

October 30

PRACTICING LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:1,4a

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 4. Love is patient and kind.
[ESV]

Love is the major distinguishing factor between believers of Christ and unbelievers. This was the commandment that Jesus laid down for us, to love one another just as He loves us.

Apostle John explicitly stated that he who does not love does not know God because God is love. (See 1 John 4:8). This kind of love is not the one shown only to our immediate family members and friends, but the one shown to all, including strangers. Every born again child of God has the love of God shed abroad in His heart by the Holy Ghost. (See Rom 5:5)

One of the proofs of love is patience. Someone once said that the reason why we need patience is because the other person is not perfect. We expect people to forgive us and overlook our excesses, but we find it difficult to do same when they hurt us. Patience is a good-natured tolerance of delay or incompetence of another.

Another proof of love is kindness. Kindness means having a tender and considerate and helpful nature to others. One way to show that we love others is to be kind to them, irrespective of what they had done to us.

Go into today, allowing the love of God find expression in you by being patient and kind to others, even to those that seem not to deserve it. God loved us even while we were yet sinners, do same to others. By so doing, they will see Christ in you.

Prayer: Father, cause your love to find expression in me. Help me to be patient and kind to others, in Jesus name. Amen,

-Bishopkaro

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Chronicles 29-32

October 31

PRACTICING LOVE 2

Romans 12:9-11

Love must be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil, cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another with mutual love, showing eagerness in honoring one another. [NET]

All Tolani had left for the week was \$15. She had decided that she would manage it till she got her pay at the end of the week. She ran into Bernice and observed that Bernice really needed help; she had not eaten for two days. Tolani did not even think about it when she immediately brought out all she had and gave half of it to Sister Bernice. When she thought about what she did later in the day, she realized that it was her faith in God that provoked her to act that way. And she saw God working in her life and supplying all her needs.

The kind of Love that pleases God is the one generated by faith in God. “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision carries any weight - the only thing that matters is faith working through love” -Galatians 5:6[NET].

Anyone who does acts of love that is not inspired by faith in God will be doing so in hypocrisy. Note that the kind of Love God recognizes does not help others in expectation of anything in return. It helps others because it wants the best for them.

Go into today asking the Lord to build up your faith so that you can truly love His brethren. Remember that God is the one who takes care of you. Everything you get in life comes from Him.

Prayer: Heavenly father, I trust you for my sustenance in life. Help me to walk in this reality daily and manifest your love. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 125-127

November 1

FORGIVE

Ephesians 4:32 [AMP]

And become useful and helpful and kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding, loving-hearted), forgiving one another [readily and freely], as God in Christ forgave you.

Bimbo had six siblings. They were all living outside the country. She was the only one in the country. This meant that she was particularly expected to check on her parents from time to time.

But each time she went to visit her parents, her mother would say things to make her feel inferior to her younger ones who are outside the country. This really offended Bimbo, but she would always find a way to forgive her mother and still show her love.

I've found that it is easy for us to forgive our family members who offend us, but many of us find it more difficult to forgive members of our eternal family- members of the body of Christ. Could it be because we have not understood that what joins us as brethren in Christ is even stronger than flesh and blood that joins us to our earthly family members?

Jesus makes it quite clear that many will be rejected because they did not love their Christian brothers and sisters (his brethren). See Matthew 25:31-46. Those truly born of God would love His children (see 1 John 4:7-8).

Go into today knowing that you have one body, one spirit, one hope, one calling, one Lord and one eternal destination with your Christian brothers and sisters.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I John 4-5

November 2

WALK IN THE LIGHT

1 John 2:11 [NKJV]

But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

In the spirit realm, there are two kingdoms seeking to dominate men. The first is the kingdom of light, and the second is the kingdom of darkness.

Anyone walking in the light is under the control and influence of Jesus the Light of the world. Anyone walking in the light is walking in constant fellowship with God because God is light (see 1 John 1:5), this also means the person is walking in God's nature. The most domineering attribute of God is love. God is love (see 1 John 4:8). He that walks in the light walks in love.

Anyone walking under the influence of the kingdom of darkness is still subject to the control of Satan and the spiritual rulers of the darkness of this world. Such a person does not walk in God's nature because his life is not ruled by God. One of the domineering attributes of Satan is hatred. When hatred has fully matured, it produces murder. That is why he that hates his brother is a potential murderer (see 1 John 3:16). Satan was a murderer from the beginning because he is filled with hatred (see John 8:44).

Many Christians are still partly under the influence and dominion of darkness because they have not allowed the love of God to take root in their hearts. They have not accepted their Christian brethren as their family but still have the ability to nurse hatred towards them. Walking in love ensures that we walk in the light.

Go into today knowing that anyone that is born of God and knows God walks in love for God's children. Ask the Lord to help you do this.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Deuteronomy 23-25

November 3

LOVE NOT THE WORLD

1 John 2:15-17 [NLT]

Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father but are from this world.

Bankole wanted to love God and serve Him with his life. But he also loved the world. And this made it impossible for him to love God. He loved the world because he lived his life for this world and not for God. He was controlled by cravings for physical pleasure, greed, and the need to prove to people that he was not a failure.

What does it mean to love the world? It means your pursuit in life is to get the things of this world. It means your first priority in life is not the kingdom of God.

If we spend our lives trying to get only what the world offers, it means we love the world. But if we spend our lives living for the kingdom of God, it means we Love God. God will then cause all the things we need to come to us.

It may seem that a man who does not spend his life pursuing after the things of this world is losing out. It may appear that he is unambitious and even foolish. But the man who seeks first the kingdom of God is a very wise man. He has chosen to seek eternal riches rather than temporal earthly riches that are worthless in eternity.

Go into today knowing that if your pursuit in life is to please and serve God, God will take care of every other need in your life.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Nehemiah 5-9

November 4

CONSTANTLY RENEWED BY THE WORD

Ephesians 4:23 [AMP]

And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind

Bankole was once a thief, a liar, a fraud and a drug addict. He had nine girlfriends, and each of them thought she was his only girlfriend. He was so bad and deceptive that even he did not believe it was possible for him to change and become a sincere good person.

When he received the gospel, the first thing that exited him was how the gospel had the power to make him become good from within(see Rom 1:16). And this became his experience after he accepted Christ. He now became an honest businessman who was faithful to his one wife. He was now free from all drug addiction too.

One thing Bankole realized as he walked with the Lord was that he constantly needed to keep renewing his mind with the word of God. He experienced the word of God as the water that washed away the filth that ever so often tried to dwell in his mind.

Many Christians fall because they don't realize that they have to constantly consciously use the word of God to remove thoughts and imaginations that are contrary to the righteousness of God.

Every sin that a man commits is the product of a seed of unrighteousness that was allowed to grow in his heart. Every fruit of righteousness a man produces is the harvest of the seed of God's word allowed to grow in his heart.

We are to watch over the garden of our hearts and use the sword of the spirit (the word of God) to cut off and uproot the weeds of fear, anxiety, anger, hatred, malice, lusts and pride.

Go into today remembering to be constantly renewed in the attitude of your mind. Ask the Lord to fill your heart with His word.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 140-142

November 5

LIVING FOR GOD

Mark 12:15-17

Should we pay them, or shouldn't we?" Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, "Why are you trying to trap me? Show me a Roman coin, and I'll tell you." 16 When they handed it to him, he asked, "Whose picture and title are stamped on it?" "Caesar's," they replied. 17 "Well, then," Jesus said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God." His reply completely amazed them.

Jesus said 'give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar'. Caesar's image was on the coin in question.

We know that we have been created in the image of God. This means we should give ourselves to God because we belong to Him. God's image and seal is on us (see Ephesians 1:13).

The most important thing in life is to serve the Lord. The way life is, if you're not serving God with your life, you are serving mammon. Those who serve mammon will end up under the control of Satan, but those who serve God are ruled by God and are known by Him.

It is very important for Christians to know their calling and know what their assignment in the kingdom of God is. Your assignment doesn't have to be something pertaining to preaching from a pulpit (and it could be), it could be to build a business and influence your clients and workers with the righteousness of God. It could be to raise your children to know and serve the Lord. In whatever you do, make sure you are spending your life for the purpose of Christ and the advancement of His kingdom. Do all things in the name of the Lord, because you are His representative here on earth (see Colossians 3:17).

Go into today remembering that your greatest joy and fulfillment will be realized when you are found in the center of God's will. Ask the Lord to help you serve Him and please Him with your life. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Song of Solomon 1-2

November 6

A WAY OUT

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 [NLT]

If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. 13 The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

Femi: Pastor, you don't understand. My father had the same problem. All my brothers have the same problem. This kind of temptation is impossible for me to overcome.

Pastor John: this is the thinking that has made it impossible for you to conquer your temptations. You feel because you tried and failed a couple of times, it is impossible to overcome. God doesn't feel that way. His word says you can overcome and so it is. You are now a new creation in Christ. You are not bound by the limitation of your family anymore.

Many Christians have been deceived to think that their temptations were tailored for them such that it is impossible to overcome. They keep falling into the same sins because they have not truly believed that they now have the power to overcome the temptations. Many others have fallen because of overconfidence that makes them careless with sin.

Today's Bible text shows us that God will not allow us face temptations that we cannot handle. He will always provide a way out.

Go into today knowing that you have the power from God to walk in the divine nature and overcome every temptation. What you believe is very important, it is time to start believing that you have God's power.

Ask the Lord to open your eyes to see the escape from every temptation you will face in the future. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Revelation 1-6

November 7

LIVING FOR THE CALL

2 Peter 1:10 [NET]

Therefore, brothers and sisters, make every effort to be sure of your calling and election. For by doing this you will never stumble into sin.

Lara's mother was an anointed gospel singer. Lara learned to play the piano at age 5. She also had an exceptionally beautiful singing voice.

When Lara started walking with the Lord and growing, she was concerned to know her kingdom assignment because she did not want to waste her time doing what didn't correspond to her calling. As she grew in her knowledge of the Lord, her spiritual understanding increased and she realized that it wasn't a coincidence that she was born with singing skills into a family where she learned music from a tender age. She now knew that God planned the family she would be born into from before the foundation of the world. It was now clear that God used the circumstances of her life to equip her for her kingdom assignment of being a music minister.

Many Christians want to serve the Lord, but do not know what exactly their assignment in the kingdom is. "Am I an apostle, or am I a prophet? Maybe God is not even calling me to the fivefold ministry. Maybe he wants me to minister his reality to the world through my business". These are questions serious Christians may ask at some point in their walk with God.

As a Christian grows spiritually, he would grow into his calling. As this happens, you will find out that your renewed mind loves and desires to do what God is calling you to do. The problem is differentiating the desires of the renewed mind from that of the flesh. This is where spiritual growth comes in.

Go into today desiring to grow in the knowledge of the Lord daily. -
Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Acts 21-22

November 8

LIVING FOR THE CALL 2

2 Peter 1:10 [NET]

Therefore, brothers and sisters, make every effort to be sure of your calling and election. For by doing this you will never stumble into sin.

Uche knew that he had the calling of God upon his life. But he was not sure of what it was and didn't care much about it. He, therefore, lived as if he had no calling. He wasn't careful to walk in the divine nature and please God in all respects because he didn't live with the consciousness of God's call upon his life. This was the reason it appeared he could never conquer his sins.

Everyone born again has been called by God into His divine kingdom. Our calling as children of God is for us to become saints; conformed to the image of Christ and walking in the divine nature. Apart from this general calling, every christian has a specific call to do the work of ministry. We are all ministers of the grace and life of God. Some have been called to minister to the body of Christ. These are the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Their primary job is to equip the saints for the work of the ministry (see Ephesians 4:11-12).

Other saints have been called to minister the reality and glory of God to the world. Some are empowered by God to build very large multinational companies, using kingdom principles, and having the agenda to be agents for the advancement of Christ's kingdom. Others have smaller businesses or ventures. Some are in politics and governance, others in the medical field, or in the academia, or anywhere they find decent jobs. All working as agents for the furtherance of the kingdom of God; establishing righteousness and exalting the name of Christ in their respective designations.

Go into today knowing that when you always live your life for the purpose of fulfilling God's calling in the place He has placed you. -
Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: The book of II John

November 9

NOT UNDER ANY GODS

1 Corinthians 8:6 [KJV]

But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

Many Christians don't know that they actually have more spiritual authority than gods in their village. The village principalities are gods, but we too are gods.

Even among gods, there is ranking. They are ranked according to their spiritual elevation. We have been elevated by Christ. We are seated with Christ in the highest heaven, far above principalities and powers (see Ephesians 2:6, 1:21).

When our bodies have been redeemed, then our real nature as sons of God will be revealed (see Romans 8:23). For now that we are still in this limiting body of flesh, the only way we can walk above its limitation and manifest the first fruits of the glory to come is by walking in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit quickens our mortal bodies and empowers us to walk in the divine nature while in this body of flesh.

The reason why many Christians do not walk in the authority of the sons of God that gives them power over demons and gods is because they have not separated themselves unto God. They are still mingling with unbelievers and are still like unbelievers, even though they are now born again with a different nature on the inside. Because of this, they do not walk in their higher divine nature as sons of God, and thus do not experience the fatherhood of God like they should (read 2 Corinthians 6:17-18).

Go into today asking the Lord to help you separate yourself unto Him and walk in His divine nature.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Deuteronomy 26-28

November 10

NOT UNDER ANY GODS 2

1 Corinthians 8:5-6 [KJV]

For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) 6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

Odogwu was very afraid of the demons and gods in his village. Even though he was now a Christian, he found it difficult to believe that his village gods no longer had power over him. This belief in his heart made it very difficult for him to walk in spiritual liberty. He was indeed still under the fear of demons, and this gave them power over him.

What you believe is very important. Even your salvation is received because of what you believe: you believe that Jesus is Lord, and you confess this. In today's Bible text, Apostle Paul acknowledges that many gods and demons exist. Some of them operate from this earth, and some of them operate from the heavenly bodies. But what Paul is saying is that to us Christians, there is but one God.

A god is a being people revere as having great spiritual power and physical influence through their power. We Christians are gods (see Psalms 82:6), and are not under any god, nor do we fear any gods. We only have one God above us; He is the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord has authority over all gods, and we share in this authority as members of His body.

Go into today knowing that you are not under the authority of any god if you are a Christian living under the authority of Christ.

Thank God for His divine nature that he has given you through Christ. Ask God to bring you into the revelation of who you are in Christ.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Nehemiah 10-13

November 11

ESTEEMED IN HEAVEN

1 Corinthians 8:2-3[KJV]

And if any man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.³ But if any man love God, the same is known of him.

Dare was very impressed with himself because of his profound knowledge of the things of God. Indeed, he knew much more than the people around him.

He felt that because he had more understanding than the people around him, he was more regarded in heaven. But experience showed him that some of them were more intimate with God than he was.

He knew this because there was a situation they were praying to God about for instant results. As soon as bro Gideon showed up, it was as if the whole of heaven stood at attention to honor him.

Because of Dare's diligence in gathering knowledge, it wasn't long for him to realize that Gideon commanded more spiritual authority than he did. Whereas he was filled with wisdom and knowledge, Gideon was filled with love, and was more known and esteemed in heaven.

Wisdom and understanding are very good and powerful in the realm of the spirit. God wants us His children to be filled with all spiritual wisdom and understanding (Colossians 1:9). But never forget that what impresses God is when wisdom helps us walk in His nature of love. God is more interested in our fruits than in our leaves.

Go into today knowing that the knowledge and understanding of the love of God fill us with it and causes us to walk in it. A man's kingdom ranking increases as he sows more to the spirit by walking in love.

--Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 143-145

November 12

TRUE SECURITY

Luke 12:15-20 [NLT]

Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

16 Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. 17 He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' 18 Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. 19 And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"'

20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'

In the story above, the rich man believed that if he could store up enough resources, he would have all he needs for years to come. But he was not wise because he failed to realize that life is not just about money, there is more to life than what money can buy. If it wasn't clear to him before, it was clear that night his money could not save his life.

It is very offensive to God when someone begins to think that because of his savings, he has what it takes to sustain him for a season of his life. Many Christians have been plagued with incurable diseases when they got the point in their lives where they started to feel secure because of some money they have saved up somewhere. This mindset shifted their security from the covering of the Lord to the covering of mammon. But there are so many things money cannot protect you from. Any Christian that does not yet understand this truth cannot be free from covetousness.

Go into today remembering that there is more to life than money. It is God who keeps you alive, protects you, and meets your every need. Let your hope and security be in God alone.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Song of Solomon 3-4

November 13

UNWAVERING FAITH

Romans 4:21-22 [NLT]

He was absolutely convinced that God was able to do anything he promised. And because of Abraham's faith, God declared him to be righteous.

Gideon was sick and his situation only became worse. He kept on believing according to God's word that he has been healed by the stripes of Jesus from the incurable disease that plagued him. But as time went on, he did not see improvement in his health. He knew that the devil wanted him to stop believing that Jesus has healed him. It was more than a battle for his health; it was a battle for his faith. But Gideon was determined to keep trusting the Lord and not waver in his faith.

During this period, because of his unwavering faith, Gideon grew in fellowship with the Lord like he never knew was possible. He became gallant in his faith and knew his ranking in the kingdom of heaven had greatly increased. Slowly but surely, Gideon became healed completely. It took about seven months. During this period, Gideon never changed his confession and conviction.

I don't know why in some cases, the Lord does not bring the results he promised us immediately. But one thing I know is that when we continue believing in Him regardless of what we see, our faith pleases Him and edifies us spiritually. This produces a result better than what the mind can even explain.

If you read the previous verses of today's Bible text, you would see that Abraham kept trusting God even though he did not see any reason to keep on trusting God. He and his wife were now physically unable to have children, yet he still continued to believe because God has spoken.

Go into today knowing that God loves it when you have faith just because He has spoken. This kind of trust creates opens heavens in unusual ways. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Revelations 7-11

November 14

WALKING IN THE BLESSING 2

Psalms 1:1-3[NKJV]

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

Blessing is spiritual, but the manifestation should be physical for all to see. There are many Christians who know that they are blessed, but they have not started seeing the manifestations of the blessing. When we became born again, it happened literally to our spirits. But it is as we allow the Holy Spirit use God's word to change the way we think that there will be the physical manifestation of the righteous nature we received in our spirits when we became born again.

In the same way, the blessings we have received are spiritual blessings in heavenly places (see Ephesians 1:3). It is as we allow the Holy Spirit change our outlook on life (from that of the ungodly), and let Him change our thinking patterns through His word (as we meditate on it day and night), that we will see the physical manifestation of our spiritual blessing.

Psalms 1:3 describes these manifestations: we are like trees planted by the rivers of water, and whatever we do shall prosper. These are manifestations of the blessing. These manifestations come as we allow the word of God change the way we think and see life.

Go into today knowing that you are blessed with ALL spiritual blessing in heavenly places where Satan has no power to steal.

Confession: I am constantly transformed by the renewing of my mind. Everything I do shall prosper in Jesus name. Amen.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Acts 23-24

November 15

WALKING IN THE BLESSING

Psalms 1:1 [NKJV]

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful

From when Kalu was a teenager, he had become born again. He was very committed to youth fellowship from his teenage years.

When he was now married many years later, he noticed that he did not enjoy the blessing of God like he should. He found out through prophecy that it was because He was not living his life according to Psalms 1. He wondered because he did not have any unbeliever friend, nor could he recall ever sitting with sinners to discuss.

But as he examined his life closely under the light of God's word, he realized that even though he never consulted ungodly people for counsel, he was now living his life according to their counsel and judgments.

When a Christian has the same value system and world view as that of the ungodly, he is walking in their counsel. For example, the world believes that getting money is the most important thing in life, that a man's life is defined by the abundance of the things he has. If a Christian believes this too, that Christian is living his life according to the counsel of the ungodly, whether he sits with them or not.

Having the same mindset as that of the ungodly is a hindrance to the manifestation of your blessing.

Go into today asking the Lord to deliver you from every mindset and outlook to life that is contrary to His will.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: The book of III John

November 16

LOVE NOT THE WORLD

1 John 2:15-17 [NLT]

Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.

Bankole wanted to love God and serve Him with his life. But he also loved the world. And this made it impossible for him to love God. He loved the world because he lived his life for this world and not for God. He was controlled by cravings for physical pleasure, greed, and the need to prove to people that he was not a failure.

What does it mean to love the world? It means your pursuit in life is to get the things of this world. It means your first priority in life is not the kingdom of God.

If we spend our lives trying to get only what the world offers, it means we love the world. But if we spend our lives living for the kingdom of God, it means we Love God. God will then cause all the things we need to come to us.

It may seem that a man who does not spend his life pursuing after the things of this world is losing out. It may appear that he is unambitious and even foolish. But the man who seeks first the kingdom of God is a very wise man. He has chosen to seek eternal riches rather than temporal earthly riches that are worthless in eternity.

Go into today knowing that if your pursuit in life is to please and serve God, God will take care of every other need in your life.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Deuteronomy 29-31

November 17

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1 John 2:13 [NKJV]

I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.

Yesterday, we saw that proper knowledge of God can only be experienced as we grow more and more into the fullness of the stature of His nature (see Ephesians 4:13-14).

A little child may not know much about his father, but he knows his father as daddy. His father may be a lot of great things like a king, a great inventor, a great artist, but the child simply knows him as 'daddy'.

There are so many aspects of God that we can only access as we know Him in those dimensions. Some have come to know the Lord as their healer, but have not come to know Him as their provider. So even though they have enjoyed divine health for years, they still owe their landlord house rent and cannot pay essential bills. This is not God's will.

The first revelation of God every Christian must grasp is that God is Father. He is our source and provider. He takes responsibility for us.

As we grow in our walk with God, we discover that He has empowered us to overcome the wicked one. We no longer come crying to daddy every time the wicked one raises his ugly head, but we resist and overcome him. We know we have been given the power to take kingdom responsibility and increase our kingdom's territory, overcoming the wicked one every step of the way.

Go into today knowing that God is your Father who empowers you to become like Him in this world. Ask the Lord to help you continually grow in your walk with Him. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Esther 1-5

November 18

ACCORDING TO WHAT EACH PART SUPPLIES

Ephesians 4:16 [AMP]

For because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, grows to full maturity, building itself up in love.

Debo was gifted with technical and media skills. Because of him, the sound system of their church auditorium was excellent. Sometimes, he would have to arrive 3 hours before service to make things work properly. And he would have to wait till after everyone leaves.

But because he was not recognized and honored like the singer who would 'work for just seven minutes on stage', he started getting offended and started to draw back in commitment. Because of this, the sound system of the auditorium progressively went bad. There were service days that Debo wouldn't even show up, or he would come very late.

There came a time that because of bad sound, almost half of the church congregation struggled to hear what the preacher said. Even though the church kept spending so much, very little was achieved in that regard because the person gifted to help in that area was now offended. But unknown to Debo, it was the work of God that he neglected, work for which he would be eternally rewarded.

We see from today's Bible text that it is as everyone in the body does his part that the church grows to full maturity. No matter how unappreciated your assignment is in the body, God recognizes your labor of love, and He will reward you (see Hebrews 6:10).

Go into today knowing that you have an important role to play in contributing to the growth of the church. Ask the Lord to help you do this accordingly.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 146 -148

November 19

WE HAVE POWER FOR TRANSFORMATION

Ephesians 4:22 [AMP]

Strip yourselves of your former nature which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts and desires that spring from delusion

When you become born again, so much power and spiritual authority is now available to you (see John 1:12). You now have the power to strip off your former nature of sin. The power to do this cannot be understood by the unbeliever because it is only available to those who believe (see Ephesians 1:19-20). The unbeliever may have power for external transformation, but not true transformation from the heart. The power for true transformation is only available to them that believe.

One very popular deception of the devil is to make a Christian think that he does not have this power and is still a slave to sin. If a Christian agrees with the devil, he will indeed be continually held bound by the power of sin. But if a Christian knows that he is now free from sin, and has the power to strip off the old nature and walk in his new righteous nature, he will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and please Him in all respects (see Ephesians 1:17-18).

Go into today knowing that all power in heaven and on earth has been given to Christ. You have access to this power because you are now a member of His body (see 1 Corinthians 12:27).

Prayer: thank the Lord for saving you and giving you His mighty power

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Song of Solomon 5-6

November 20

CONSTANTLY RENEWED BY THE WORD

Ephesians 4:23 [AMP]

And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind

Bankole was once a thief, a liar, a fraud and a drug addict. He had nine girlfriends, and each of them thought she was his only girlfriend. He was so bad and deceptive that even he did not believe it was possible for him to change and become a sincere good person.

When he received the gospel, the first thing that exited him was how the gospel had the power to make him become good from within (see Romans 1:16). And this became his experience after he accepted Christ. He now became an honest businessman who was faithful to his one wife. He was now free from all drug addiction too.

One thing Bankole realized as he walked with the Lord was that he constantly needed to keep renewing his mind with the word of God. He experienced the word of God as the water that washed away the filth that ever so often tried to dwell in his mind.

Many Christians fall because they don't realize that they have to constantly consciously use the word of God to remove thoughts and imaginations that are contrary to the righteousness of God.

Every sin that a man commits is the product of a seed of unrighteousness that was allowed to grow in his heart. Every fruit of righteousness a man produces is the harvest of the seed of God's word allowed to grow in his heart.

We are to watch over the garden of our hearts and use the sword of the spirit (the word of God) to cut off and uproot the weeds of fear, anxiety, anger, hatred, malice, lusts and pride.

Go into today remembering to be constantly renewed in the attitude of your mind. Ask the Lord to fill your heart with His word.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Revelation 12-17

November 21

GIVE NOT ROOM FOR THE DEVIL

Ephesians 4:26-27 [AMP]

26 When angry, do not sin; do not ever let your wrath (your exasperation, your fury or indignation) last until the sun goes down.

27 Leave no [such] room or foothold for the devil [give no opportunity to him]

Kenny discussed Dozie's problem with his wife. His wife told Mrs. Anderson, and Mrs. Anderson told sis Kemi. After a very short while, the entire church knew of Dozie's problems.

Dozie was very angry because he felt Kenny had betrayed his trust and confidence. When Dozie called Kenny to ask how everyone in the Church knew about something he told only him, Kenny didn't seem to understand the gravity of the situation. Dozie became angrier.

He went home and deleted Kenny's number from his phone and blocked him on all social media platforms. He composed a very toxic text message to send to Kenny, but then he remembered that he was now tending towards sin. He knew that if he didn't deal with the way he felt, he would end up sinning against God by saying and doing hurtful things against his brother, or worse, he would start hating his brother.

One way people give the devil room is by nursing anger and rage in their hearts. This is what the devil uses to deceive people into hatred, and a man that hates his brother cannot have fellowship with God.

Go into today remembering that when you hate your brother, you are saying you don't appreciate what God did in saving you through the death of His son. There is nothing anyone can do to you that is as bad as your sin for which Jesus had to die. A person who hates his brother is seen as a murderer in the kingdom of heaven (see 1 John 3:15). Ask the Lord to help you walk in true love. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Acts 25-26

November 22

THE RIGHT PRIORITY

Romans 8:32-33 [NLT]

Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?

Fela realized that he did not have the ability to know to ask God for all the things he would need before the needs show up. He found out that there was a way to live life without having to ask God for things before God supplies them.

Many people think God finds it difficult to bless them and give things to them because of their imperfections. That doctrine is not correct. If God could give us Christ Jesus while we were hopeless sinners, He would give us anything if we ask by faith in Christ Jesus. The most important thing you need in this life is grace to empower you to live a life pleasing to the father. Focusing on this is what it means to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. You would not need to ask for things before God supplies them if you live for Christ.

Anyone that has faith in Christ has right-standing with God. This right-standing is not based on his works but on the person of Christ. Walking in righteousness means you are walking in God's divine nature of love and holiness. This is the fruit that God expects to see from all who have obtained right standing with Him through faith in Christ.

When a person focuses on the more important things in life [like manifesting holiness], God would see to it that the less important things [like money] come to him without him asking or even thinking about it.

Go into today asking the Lord to help you always get your priorities right.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: The book of Jude

November 23

ONLY POSSIBLE BY GOD'S POWER

Mark 10:27 (NKJV)

But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

Read Mark 10:24-26

One reason Freud found it difficult to accept the gospel was because he did not think it was possible for him to be saved. Being extremely intelligent, he had done his calculations and seen that salvation for him was practically impossible. (He only factored in human willpower). He knew that truly believing in the Lord Jesus meant he would forsake his life and livelihood-- a life he had spent very many years building. His biggest accomplishments in life were things done in direct rebellion to the kingdom of God, and he knew he would have to forsake all that if he wanted the salvation of Christ.

When Jesus said that those who trust in their riches cannot inherit the kingdom of God (Mark 10:24), it was such a revolutionary statement that He had to encourage His disciples by making the statement in today's Bible verse--Salvation is only possible with God's help (Grace). Before anybody can enter the kingdom of God, he must put his trust completely in the Lord Jesus (even this is done through the help of God). Have you seen the way little children completely trust their parents and have no other option but their parents? That's how we must trust in God in order to partake in His kingdom and power (see Mark 10:15).

One sign that a person has truly received God's kingdom is that they would walk in the power of Christ (Mark 16:17-18). The most remarkable and powerful thing this power does is to free us from the power of sin. This power also performs miracles and solves problems, etc.

Go into today remembering that because of faith in Christ and Christ alone, you will inherit God's Kingdom for all eternity. Hallelujah! - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Deuteronomy 32-34

November 24

HEALING IS THE CHILDREN'S BREAD

Matthew 15:26 (KJV)

But he answered and said, it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

Joel accepted the Lord Jesus when he was fifteen years old and got Baptized in the Holy Ghost when eighteen. He, however, suffered a skin infection until he was thirty. While preparing for his thirtieth birthday, he asked God for a birthday gift. That night, he saw a man in his dream who told him that "healing is the children's bread". When he woke up, although he couldn't remember the other things that happened in the dream, "healing is the children's bread" kept ringing in his head, so he got out of bed and searched for that phrase in the Bible.

Joel continued to confess those words and decided no longer to be bothered by the skin infection anymore. A few days later he discovered that the infection was gone. "It is not meet to take the children's bread and to cast it to dogs", says Jesus. Yet, there are many children of God today who are presently suffering from sicknesses and infirmities.

Are you a child of God but sick in your body? Ask God (your father) for the bread of healing. He already gave His word when he said, "ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you". Take Him by His word.

If you are sick in your body, pray this prayer: I am a child of God and healing is mine in Christ Jesus, I, therefore, command you sickness (mention the name) to leave me now in Jesus name, Amen. Share your testimony.

—Dr. Emmanuel James

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Esther 6-10

November 25

INNOVATIONS AND DISCOVERIES

Job 32:8 (KJV)

But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

Growing up in Nigeria, I was told that the reason the Americans had so many innovations and discoveries was because they had used their witchcraft to do well. This made me believe that there is a level of greatness that can never be achieved except by the assistance of the devil and I have seen this mindset play out with other African brothers who often consult Witchdoctors for power, popularity, and acceptance. Most of them are cut short in the prime of their lives.

A story was told of a young Nigerian musician who became so popular and rich in his early twenties because he had consulted some magical powers for fame and wealth but died before he was thirty. In his case, the inspiration to sing came from God, the discipline of practice and rehearsals were his personal role in his success but because of wrong believes, he allowed the devil corrupt the good that was in him and he eventually killed him. Read John 10:10

All good innovations and discoveries are from God. The ability to create is God's and never the Devil's. Every good and perfect gift comes from the Lord, the devil has no good in him and nothing good can come out of him. If it is good without an attached evil to it; if it is perfect, then it is God's.

Read and meditate on Joel 2:28 considering the words 'dream' and 'vision' and ask God for them. Ask God to inspire your spirit unto understanding. The world is waiting for the revelation of the innovations and discoveries locked up in you.

—Dr. Emmanuel James

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 149-150

November 26

HE FORGIVES ALL YOUR INIQUITIES

Psalm 103:3 (KJV)

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases

If someone ran into my parked car and destroyed my bumper and the back lights, but then he comes to beg me to forgive him. If I say 'I forgive you, you can go' what that means is that I will use my money to pay for the repairs of the damage he had done.

Many do not realize that when God says 'I forgive you' it is because he has paid for the sin and is repairing the spiritual damage the sin has caused. Forgiveness is not cheap, it cost God the death of His only begotten son.

Many Christians are not as thankful as they should be to God for the forgiveness of their sins. This is why they are not as fruitful as they should be.

The reason why there are diseases in the world is because there is sin in the world. The wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23). Receiving the forgiveness of sins is the beginning of receiving your lasting healing. That's why Jesus would sometimes see a sick person, and before he would say 'you are healed', he would say 'your sins are forgiven' (see Luke 5:19-21). James 5:15 says: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and IF HE HAVE COMMITTED SINS, THEY SHALL BE FORGIVEN HIM.

Go into today knowing that if God is able and willing to forgive your sins, He is also willing and able to heal your every disease. If He is able and willing to keep you righteous, He is also able and willing to keep you physically and spiritually healthy all the days of your life.

Prayer: thank the Lord for forgiving your iniquities and healing your diseases. Ask for His grace to be healthy all the days of your life.

-Pst. SD Abraham.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Song of Solomon 7-8

November 27

MEMBERS OF ONE BODY

1 Corinthians 12:15-16 (NKJV)

If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?

On social media, Ugochukwu was very fond of criticizing church leaders. Even though he was a believer, because he was not called into the ministry of teaching or preaching (all five-fold ministry offices involve teaching and/or preaching), he did not properly reckon himself as a part of the body but felt it was OK for him to stand apart from the church and criticize it publicly. Through his actions, he was saying 'I am not of the body'.

One of the loudest ways a believer can say 'I am not of the body' is by joining unbelievers and enemies of Christ to publicly malign and criticize the church and its ministers. This post is in no way giving leeway to ministers who err, but is a reminder to believers that many [trumped up] attacks on erring ministers have an underlining agenda to destroy the credibility of the body of Christ as a whole. It is foolishness to be part of this as a member of the body.

Not being a preacher, Ugochukwu didn't feel like a part of the body of Christ the way he should, but this didn't change the fact that through faith in Christ, he was indeed a part of the body. It took him time to realize that his habit of publicly criticizing ministers of the body of Christ was a major limiting factor in his walk with the Lord. He could not walk in divine health and healing because of this.

Go into today remembering that through faith in Christ Jesus, you are a member of the body of Christ. Do not be tempted to feel you are less a member than those who are at the forefront of ministry. Some of the unseen parts of the body are the most important.

Prayer: Ask the Lord the help you rightly discern His body and draw from all the benefits that His body provides.—Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Revelation 18-22

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Song of Solomon 7-8

November 28

SALVATION IS OF THE LORD

Jonah 2:9

“But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.” [KJV]

All that we are is because of all that Christ did. Have you ever thought about this? Salvation is truly of the Lord. Look at the way Spurgeon described this: “If I am prayerful, God makes me prayerful; if I have graces, they are God’s gifts to me; if I hold on in a consistent life, it is because He upholds me with His hand. I do nothing whatever towards my own preservation, except what God Himself first does in me. Whatever I have, all my goodness is of the Lord alone. Wherein I sin, that is my own; but wherein I act rightly, that is of God, wholly and completely. If I have repulsed a spiritual enemy, the Lord’s strength nerved my arm. Do I live before men a consecrated life? It is not I, but Christ who liveth in me. Am I sanctified? I did not cleanse myself: God’s Holy Spirit sanctifies me. Do I grow in knowledge? The great instructor teaches me. I find in God all that I want; but I find in myself nothing but sin and misery. Do I feed on the word? That word would be no food for me unless the Lord made it food for my soul, and helped me feed on it. As a branch cannot bring forth fruit except it abide in the vine, no more can I except I abide in Him.”

Go into today making up your mind that you will live for Jesus and make this day count for Him.

Prayer Confession: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live: yet not I but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me (Galatians 2:20).

-Otuokon, Ubokudom

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Acts 27-28

November 29

YOU HAVE A PART TO PLAY

Ephesians 4:16

“From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” [KJV]

“What have you done for Jesus...” , this line from a song written by my friend Uti touches my heart whenever I listen to it. It is rather sad that many believers have a “clinical” relationship with the Lord. This is what I mean, a patient goes to the doctor only when he is sick; such persons go to the Lord only when they have problems. Why do you serve God? Why do you go to church? Is it only to have all your problems solved? Do you go to the gathering of believers only to ‘tap’ anointing?

You see, friends, God has blessed you with gifts and talents. You have something to contribute too. As a joint in this body, you too can help the body to “be fitly joined together and compacted” by what you supply. You may not be on the pulpit, but you can pray for your pastor. You have something to contribute. Here is Paul “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:6-8).

As you go into today, you can start contributing by sharing this devotional, giving out a tract, saying a prayer for a colleague.

Prayer: Thank God for blessing you with an opportunity to be contributor to what He is doing on the earth.

Pray for grace to contribute effectively wherever you find yourself.

-Otuokon, Ubokudom

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Romans 1-2

November 30

HOW GOD LEADS US

Romans 8:15

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. [KJV]

The Holy Spirit leads us in three common ways: The first is by the word of God we know. For example, If you had a choice whether to steal or not to steal, and you are praying to hear first from the Holy Spirit to know what the will of God is to do, now that would be ludicrous.

The word of God transforms our minds to the point that we know God's will by simply discerning what is right from what is wrong.

“Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God – what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.” - Romans 12:2 [NET]

The second way the Holy Spirit leads us is through His word that comes to us audibly, intuitively, through visions, dreams, trances, etc.

Now this usually happens when your mind has not been tuned enough to receive what God has for you in that season, or the message is totally not within the consideration of your mind, or the message is very crucial and God wants you to act instantly. For example, God showed Apostle Peter the trance that meant the Gentiles could be part of the church. His Jewish mind would have screened out the message if it came any other way (See Acts 10:10-16). Apostle Paul was not thinking of going to Macedonia when he saw the vision to go there; Macedonia was not on His itinerary (Acts 16:9).

As you go into today, ask the Lord to renew your mind completely, that you will have the mind of Christ in all things. Amen. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Genesis 1-3

December 1

FILLED WITH THE FULLNESS OF GOD

Ephesians 3:18 [NET]

... you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,¹⁹ and thus to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

After Terna graduated from the university and embarked on the compulsory one year youth service of his country, he didn't get a job immediately. During this period of waiting, he had a lot of free time. He decided to spend that time seeking the face of the Lord and building his relationship with the Lord. He bought some spiritual books he decided to read while doing this. As Terna sought God and developed more intimacy with the Lord, he started understanding the dimensions of God's love. He realized that every fresh encounter he had with the Lord was preceded by a fresh revelation of God's love.

The most domineering attribute of God is love. Today's Bible text tells us that we will be filled up to all the fullness of God if we can comprehend the dimensions of God's love. This is facilitated by the Spirit of Christ in us. One of the major deceptions the devil uses is to create a perception of God in our minds that is not true.

It is revelation of God's love that empowers us to love Him and walk in His love and grace (see 1 John 4:19).

Go into today meditating on God's love. Ask Christ to reveal it more to you.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ecclesiastes 3-4

December 2

LEAD A LIFE WORTHY OF HIS CALLING

Ephesians 4:1 [AMP]

THEREFORE, the prisoner for the Lord, appeal to and beg you to walk (lead a life) worthy of the calling to which you have been called [with behavior that is a credit to the summons to God's service].

When Bill told his colleagues that he was a born again Christian, many of them were confused, because there was nothing about his life that proved he was a Christian. Just the previous month, they secretly shared some money that should have been returned to the office, and Bill was scrambling for his portion.

Unfortunately, today, there are many Christians like Bill. They do not live lives worthy of their calling in Christ. They have been compromisers and have been liars. They know deep down in their hearts that something is wrong, but they have found themselves preachers that make them comfortable in their sins.

Listen child of God, you are not of this world. You have been empowered by God to live for Him in this world.

Christians should be just and honest people. We should be people of integrity and love. This is how we bring glory to our father in heaven. This is how we walk in His nature and grow in glory.

Go into today asking the Lord to help you properly represent Him in this world.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: The book of Zephaniah

December 3

THE SECRET OF SUCCESS

JOB 22:21 [KJV]

Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.

Bola had desired many beautiful things and had trusted the Lord from childhood for these things, but he achieved very little. This vexed him so much that he blamed the government of his country, his parents, and everything around him for his poor achievements.

One day as he studied the Bible, he came across a passage; one of his favorite memory verses, but it came with a different meaning this time. He found in this passage that the way to success had been spelt out. It was after this revelation that he exclaimed 'I have been responsible for my own setback!'

After confessing his ignorance, Bola has since followed that revelation into great success in life.

Here is the verse that changed Bola's life: Joshua 1:8

- This Book of the Law (God's word) shall not depart from your mouth.

(What are your confessions about yourself and your situations?)

- You shall meditate in it day and night.

(How much of God's word do you have? Which have you done best, meditating on God's word or worrying?)

- Observe to do according to all that is written in it.

(Are you true to God's word or have you adjusted it to soothe you?)

- For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Go into today, making up your mind to speak the Word, think upon the Word and do the Word. When you do these, your testimonies will be inexhaustible in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer: confess your ignorance and ask for grace to do as prescribed.

-Dr James Emmanuel.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Acts 11-12

December 4

UPRIGHT AND KIND

Ephesians 4:2 (AMP)

Living as becomes you] with complete lowliness of mind (humility) and meekness (unselfishness, gentleness, mildness), with patience, bearing with one another and making allowances because you love one another.

Daniel was reputed for being a man of integrity, but he was also harsh and impatient. He ended up earning a bad name for Christians in his place of work. Many of his students said he was a wicked lecturer.

One thing that differentiates righteousness born from faith and righteousness mingled with legalism is the love and gentleness from which the integrity, firmness, and uprightness emanates. When your uprightness is of faith, you will be loving and gentle.

When uprightness is not wrapped with patience and kindness, you will end up scaring people away from the kingdom and not attracting them to it.

We see in today's Bible text that we are to make allowances for one another's faults because of love. When you truly love someone, you will not be quick to highlight his faults, you will be quick to cover them up and make excuses for them.

Think about how much God makes allowances for your faults and forgives your many sins. Shouldn't you also be kind hearted in making allowances for your fellow Christian brethren?

Go into today, deciding to make allowances for the faults of your brothers and sisters. Ask the Lord to help you be more kind and loving like Him.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Peter 1-3

December 5

KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

Ephesians 4:3 [AMP]

Be eager and strive earnestly to guard and keep the harmony and oneness of the Spirit in the binding power of peace.

Mrs. Anderson started behaving in a way that it appeared she didn't want the brethren coming to her house any longer for their weekly Bible study cell group meeting. Chloe went around telling people that Mrs. Anderson was now tired of hosting them, that it was because Mrs. Anderson has backslidden. Amos was fast to stop Chloe from spreading this. He said: 'Yes, Mrs. Anderson has suddenly changed, but do you know what she has been going through? I heard she is even having issues at work and may lose her job.'

Mrs. Anderson was later restored when the brethren refused to react to her strange behavior. It happened that during that period, she was so depressed that she was even contemplating suicide. But the Lord delivered her through the love and prayers of the brethren.

What Amos did is a good example of how to guard and keep the harmony and oneness of the Spirit in the binding power of peace.

Where many people with different levels of spiritual understanding have to deal with each other, there has to be conscious effort put into keeping the unity of the Spirit and avoiding strife and negative emotions.

Unity in the body is very important because it engenders the flow of God's blessing (see Psalms 133:1-3)

Go into today knowing that your Christian brethren should be the closest people in your life. Ask the Lord to help you always keep the unity of the Spirit in the binding power of peace.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Deuteronomy 10-12

December 6

YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN POWER AUTHORITY 1

Matthew 28:18-19 [KJV]

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

There was a day my friend and I was praying for two young ladies possessed with the spirit of witchcraft. When the power of God came upon them, they started confessing, and saying things that they could do with witchcraft powers. I marveled greatly because as a believer, I did not operate in the dimension of mysteries they talked about. But still, they submitted themselves to me, showing that I truly have spiritual authority that is superior to theirs.

It was then that I realized that they had great knowledge of the little power that they have but I had little knowledge of the superior great power I have in Christ Jesus.

This is the case with most believers, many of us have little knowledge of the Spirit that dwells within us, and because of this limited knowledge, we can do only little exploit (see Daniel 11:32).

Many believers are ignorant of who they are and what they have. As a child of God, you have power and authority. It was given to you as part of your inheritance in Christ Jesus. Jesus secured all power by going to the cross, dying a horrible death, suffering the penalty of sin, and defeating Satan in hell.

Go into the world today knowing that Jesus has given you authority. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

-Lanre Tobi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Chronicles 33-36

December 7

ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT, ONE HOPE

Ephesians 4:4 [AMP]

One body and one Spirit--just as there is also one hope to the calling you received.

The calling we have received in being children of God has one hope, which is the adoption- the redemption of our bodies. This is what will [physically] reveal our true nature as sons of God (see Romans 8:23 in AMP). This is when we will be able to walk in the fullness of the riches of God's power that we have access to. We would have bodies that cannot be killed or grow old, bodies that cannot get sick or weary, bodies that can participate in the divine realm naturally.

If our bodies will not be redeemed and our hope is limited to this world, we are of all men most miserable (see 1 Corinthians 15:19). But thanks to God, we have the guarantee and proof of this already with us: The Holy Spirit of promise that empowers us to walk in a foretaste of the powers to come.

Because we have this common hope, we are not bound by what binds the world. What moves the world does not affect our reality. We are seen as aliens in this world because we are not moved by what moves them.

This is what makes us able to appreciate our oneness as Christians, no matter how physically different we may be. We have been made one by the blood of Jesus. We are different from others and the same with one another because we have the same hope and are members of the same body.

Go into today knowing that you have more in common with a believer in Christ than your kinsman who is still an unbeliever.

Ask the Lord to help you discern His body appropriately.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 128-130

December 8

ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM

Ephesians 4:5 [NKJV]

One Lord, one faith, one baptism

I have heard some people say that all Roman Catholics will not go to heaven. I want to advise Christians reading this devotional to desist from such divisive talk.

There are over one thousand Christian denominations in the world, and there is nothing wrong with denominations, as long as they don't divide us but help make us individually stronger. People have different temperaments and appeals, and that's why we can't all fit into one single denomination.

What makes a person a Christian is his faith in Christ Jesus. Does he believe that Jesus is Lord? Has he accepted Christ as his savior and Lord? Is his faith for salvation in Jesus alone?

The next very important thing to consider is his baptism. Every Christian should receive the water baptism of repentance, and the Holy Ghost baptism of power (see Luke 3:16). Water baptism is the [spiritual] public announcement of your new status as a disciple of Christ. Baptism in the Holy Ghost is your initiation into the power of God. The Holy Spirit is the one who administers the grace of God to your spirit.

When I see Christians who are still struggling with their old lifestyle of sin, one of the first questions I ask is 'has he been baptized in the Holy Ghost?' because I know that without the power of the Holy Ghost, no one can conquer the power of the flesh.

Go into today knowing that your faith in Christ Jesus, and your baptism in His Spirit, makes you a member of His body. Ask the Lord to help you live a life that is filled with His Spirit.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ecclesiastes 5-6

December 9

YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN POWER & AUTHORITY 2

Matthew 16:19 [KJV]

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Often times, we pray to God to do what He has given us the power and the authority to do. We pray to God to heal the sick, but Jesus said we should go heal the sick in His name.

Matthew 10:7-8: And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

I have never come across any Scripture where Jesus was praying the father to come down and cast out a devil, rather he took authority and commanded them to leave

At the gate called beautiful, Peter told the man lame from his mother's womb: "...in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

You must know what you have, you have power and authority. The Scripture says; resist the devil and he will flee from you (James 4:7). Speak to the mountains in your life (Mark 11:24).

Authority cannot be exercised with a closed mouth. You may have been praying and begging God to do something about your situation. But God is waiting for you to make a declaration.

Go into today with faith in the word. Take authority over every situation that is against the knowledge of God in your life

-Lanre Tobi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: The book of Haggai

December 10

REVELATION OF THE FATHER

John 14:6 [KJV]

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

There was a time I fasted and prayed for many days because I wanted more revelation of God. My prayer was that God the Father should reveal Himself to me. I had spent many days praying this prayer until one day, I got a revelation from John 14:6. There Jesus says HE IS THE WAY. This means if you want to see the Father, you must go after the Son (Jesus).

In Matthew 11:27, Jesus says "All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; NEITHER KNOWETH ANY MAN THE FATHER, SAVE THE SON, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him".

As mighty and powerful as the Old Testament saints were, they did not know God as father. They did not reveal the father to us, only Jesus the Son did.

No man under the law had a (perfect) revelation of The Father (God). You cannot look at the Old Testament saints and prophets to get a picture of The Father, where you must look is the SON. He is the express image of God's person (see Hebrews 1:3).

Readers, Go after Jesus and let Him reveal The Father to you. Grace is multiplied to you more as God is revealed to you more(see 2 Peter 1:2). Jesus makes this possible: For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17).

Go into today knowing that because of Christ Jesus, God is your loving Father. Thank God for making you His child.

-Lanre Tobì

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Acts 13-14

December 11

FATHER OF ALL, IN US ALL

Ephesians 4:6 [NKJV]

One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Some people claim to believe in God. But they don't believe in Him as Father. They also don't believe in His indwelling spirit within His people.

What makes us Christians is our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and our relationship with God as our father, through Christ Jesus. Also, Christians do not go about believing that Satan has power that is relevant to them. We know there are gods and powers in this world, but they are dead gods when compared to our Lord and savior Jesus Christ who has all power (see Matthew 28:18). God is our father that loves us. He loves us so much that He has sent His Holy Spirit to dwell in us permanently. He is indeed above all, and dwells in us all (who believe in the Son).

Go into today knowing that a true Christian has the spirit of God dwelling in Him. Every Christian on the face of the earth has the same Holy Spirit dwelling in them. This is God's way of uniting us. Also know that the devil has no power over you, because God that now fills you is the one who created him.

Pray that God will make the reality of His presence in your life more evident from this day.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I Peter 4-5

December 12

HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN

Ephesians 4:8 (NET)

Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he captured captives; he gave gifts to men."

Gifts and callings usually go together (see Romans 11:29). God gives us gifts to help us fulfill our calling or assignment. For example, there are prophetic gifts, and any child of God could have them. But anyone with the calling to be a prophet will definitely have certain prophetic gifts operating in his life consistently.

What then is the assignment of a prophet? It is to profess, declare and allow the counsel and will of God over people and territories. The ability to tell the future is a gift that a prophet usually possesses, but that is not the primary calling or assignment of a prophet. A prophet brings deliverance to people and to territories, and a prophet ushers in the agenda of God into territories. It is possible to have the calling of a prophet and not walk in all of the popular prophetic gifts. A calling is an assignment, but gifts are simply given to help you fulfill your assignment. Notice that John the Baptist, the great prophet of the old covenant, never walked in many of the prophetic gifts some would expect (see John 10:41). But he was the great prophet because he fulfilled one of the greatest assignments in the Old covenant. This calling was to make way for Christ the Lord-The greatest (see Matthew 3:1-3).

What is most important in life is that you fulfill your kingdom assignment. Your assignment should direct the use of your gifts, and not the other way round.

Go into today knowing that for your calling in life, God gives gifts that will help you fulfill it.

Ask the Lord to help you fulfill your calling and assignment in this side of eternity. Ask Him to help you activate the gifts that may be lying dormant in you (see 1 Timothy 4:14). - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Deuteronomy 13-15

December 13

GOD RESISTS THE PROUD

1 Peter 5:5 [KJV]

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Daniel had served God for years, but there came a serious challenge in his life that seemed to defy all prayers. When he discussed it with his friend, his friend suggested that the problem was caused by some strong demonic power somewhere. But Daniel knew better, he knew that Satan didn't have that kind of authority in his life. He knew it was time to seek the Lord to know what exactly was going on. He had done this twice already, but this time, he chose to simply spend time listening to the word of God. He found a sermon by a pastor he despised and felt he knew much more than. But something made him play the sermon. As Daniel listened, he broke down in tears because he realized that he had been walking in pride for a very long time without even knowing. He now knew his pride was the reason heaven seemed not to respond to him. Daniel received answers to all his prayers one week after he repented.

God is so true to His word that He exalts it above even His name (see Psalms 138:2). That is why God was about to kill Moses, even though Moses was going on God's mission (see Exodus 4:24-26), but Moses had disobeyed a clear word from God concerning his children's circumcision.

If the Bible says the Lord resists the proud, it means the Lord will resist the person consistently walking in pride, no matter who he is.

Go into today examining yourself under the light of God's word. Ask the Lord to help you obey Him in everything and love Him more.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ezra 1-5

December 14

HE LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE

Ephesians 4:9 (AMP)

Now what can this, He ascended, mean but that He had previously descended from heaven into , the lower parts of the earth?

The unbelieving scribes and Pharisees wanted Jesus to give them a sign or miracle. But Jesus said the following:" For even as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth"[Matthew 12:40 (AMP)] .

Jesus descended to the lower parts of the earth. This is also known as the heart of the earth, where hades is said to be (Many call this the underworld). Jesus descended there when he died. He was there for three days and three nights. While he was there, He conquered Satan and all his principalities and powers, and made a public show of them as he ascended (see Colossians 2:15). They are now His captives, and He is now ruler over them. That's why they must tremble at His name. This is why after He resurrected, He said all 'authority in heaven and on earth has been given unto me'.

Christians that are still oppressed by the power of Satan usually suffer because they lack spiritual knowledge and understanding of the current day spiritual reality.

Jesus descended to conquer the power of Satan over mankind. This means Satan has no power over any man in Christ.

Go into today knowing that your Lord has plundered the depths of darkness. That same spirit that was at work in Him dwells in you right now.

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into the truth of who Jesus really is. Thank the Lord for His glorious grace.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 131-133

December 15

JESUS WILL FILL ALL THINGS

Ephesians 4:10 [KJV]

He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.

Because Sunday was sensitive in the Spirit, when he arrived at the city of his new posting, he sensed that there was a demonic principality in that territory. And he also sensed that that principality was one that propagated its nature of immorality. Because of this, even the little children in that city were given to immorality in a very unusual way. Sunday knew it was time to displace that principality because he knew God sent him to that territory.

Territories usually exhibit the nature of the principalities that rule them in the Spirit realm. These principalities control the heaven (spirit realm) above such territories. They do this with the aid of their human agents on the ground.

Jesus has ascended above all heavens so that he might fill all things with himself. We are His agents on the ground. We take authority over territories by preaching the gospel and promoting the kingdom and righteousness of God. That's why we pray "thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven". Prayers by human beings give spirit beings license to operate in the physical territory of the people who pray.

We are agents for the propagation of God's kingdom. We live for this. Because there can be no vacuum in the Spirit realm, when the rightful kingdom [of God] has not yet dominated a territory, it will still be under the control of the kingdom of darkness.

Go Into today knowing that you are an agent for the propagation of the God's kingdom and righteousness.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ecclesiastes 7-8

December 16

KNOWING YOUR CALLING

Ephesians 4:11 (AMP)

And His gifts were some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers.

Eze realized that he had the ability and the anointing to teach God's word. But he didn't want to rush to be a teacher because he wanted to be sure he was called to do so. He now knew he was called when he became restless and felt unfulfilled because he was not teaching. He also had encounters with God and sensed the Lord instructing him to teach His people.

Any student that has been properly taught will also be able to teach. If you grow up under a prophet, his prophetic gifts might rub on you. This is because of a transfer of grace, and because you will naturally desire to walk in the gifts you see in the life of your teacher. And we can receive spiritual gifts by simply desiring them and asking God. But the fact that a Christian has prophetic gifts does not mean he is a prophet. The fact that he is well taught and can also teach does not mean he is called to be a teacher.

One of the ways you discern your calling is discerning the grace of God upon you to operate in a particular office. This grace will come with a conviction and a knowing that you are to operate there. And may become restless and feel unfulfilled if you don't. The gifts accompanying that calling will also be present in your life consistently.

A man with a calling is hardly persuaded and encouraged to do the work. The fire burns in his bones to do the work. He creates opportunities if the opportunity has not been created for him.

Go Into today asking the Lord to help you fulfill your calling in Him.
- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Zechariah 1-7

December 17

GIFTS AND CALLING

Ephesians 4:12 [AMP]

His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church)

Daramola realized that she had the ability to make a business grow where others have failed. She also realized that no matter what she did, she would prosper financially. She used to think that she was just a lucky person, but as she grew in God, she realized that her unusual ability to make huge honest financial profit was the manifestation of a gift from God.

Because she was well taught, she knew that her gift was supposed to be for the edification of the body of Christ. So she started making definite commitments to further the cause of God's kingdom with her financial resources.

She realized that as she became committed to using her resources for the furtherance of the Gospel, God increased her in ways she never imagined.

Whatever gift you have, know that it was given by the Lord, and you have a mandate from the Lord to 'do [kingdom] business with it till He comes' (see Luke 19:13). Let your gifts be used for the furtherance of the kingdom of God on this earth.

Go into today deciding to use your gift more than ever before for the furtherance of God's kingdom on the earth. If you have not discovered your gift, that does not mean you don't have one. Every child of God has been given a gift. Ask the Lord to help you walk in the fullness of His gifts and grace in your life.

Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Acts 15-16

December 18

ADVANCING THE KINGDOM IN THIS WORLD

Romans 14:17 [AMP]

The kingdom of God is not a matter of food and drink, but instead it is righteousness (that state which makes a person acceptable to God) and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Because of her remarkable business management success, Daramola was appointed into a very coveted political office in her country. She was foretold about this through prophecy. The first question she asked herself when God told her she would be appointed was ‘how can I use this influential position for kingdom advancement?’

Daramola learnt that one way you can advance the agenda of the kingdom of God is by advancing righteousness and justice, peace and harmony, and doing everything within your power to make people within your influence joyful and fulfilled. Righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost are signs that the kingdom of God is reigning in a place. As time passes, people will realize that the greatest improvement they see is because a child of God is in charge.

Christians should always ask this question: 'how can I use the influence I have right now for the advancement and the agenda of the kingdom?' Many times, Christians unknowingly separate themselves from God's kingdom agenda because they do not realize that they have been called to be co-owners of the kingdom (see Romans 8:17). They do not understand that they have a portion in God's kingdom that increases with their faithfulness (see Luke 16:10).

When we have this mindset of seeking the advancement of God's kingdom above our fleshly interests, we will find that the things that the world runs after will now run after us (see Matthew 6:33).

Go into today knowing that you are an agent for the advancement of God's kingdom. Ask the Lord to help you do this in every place you find yourself. - Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: II Peter 1-3

December 19

GIFTS AND CALLING 2

Ephesians 4:12 [AMP]

His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church).

We see in today's Bible text that the reason Jesus gave gifts to the body (the Church) was because he wanted the saints to be fully equipped and made perfect. Perfection is the degree to which we are conformed to the image and stature of Christ.

People with the callings to be Apostles, prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and teachers, are given to the body (the Church) for the edification of the body. They are the established channels through which the body receives from the Lord directly.

The purpose of your calling is not for personal edification [and enrichment]; it is for the edification of the body. If you have a gift and your goal is not to edify the body with it, you will end up dividing the body with it.

There are many gifts (people) that have not started walking in their calling because they have not started to edify the body. They are only directly edifying themselves and dividing the body as a result.

If you have gifts corresponding to the calling in the kingdom, the purpose of your gift is for the edification of the body.

Go into today knowing that God's gifts in your life are to help you fulfill His calling to build up the church.

Pray that the Lord will help you be a profitable servant. That you will not cooperate with Satan to hide your gift.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Deuteronomy 16-19

December 20

YOUR COMPANY MATTERS

2 Corinthians 6:15 (NKJV)

And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

Jake really loved to serve the Lord with his life. But he found it unusually difficult and almost impossible to live a life worthy of his calling in God. He tried to convince himself that God didn't care about the things he did. But he found that he couldn't have fellowship with God because of his unholy lifestyle.

One day, he decided he'd had enough with the unending struggles with the flesh. He spent two hours narrating his spiritual ordeal to his pastor. His pastor asked him one question and found out where the problem was. The question was: 'who are your friends?'

The pastor realized that Jake kept constant fellowship with his old unbeliever friends. He even still maintained their old outing schedule.

When a believer constantly mingles with unbelievers, he is exposing his [precious] faith to negative forces that seek to quench it (because unbelief is not benign, it is a toxic force against faith). Because his faith has been weakened through negative communication, he will realize he is unable to overcome the smallest temptations.

As you go into today, ask the Lord to help you fight the good fight of faith and guard your precious faith jealously.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ezra 6-10

December 21

COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 [NKJV]

Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty."

Janose had a robust relationship with God. He related to God like his daddy, and the results of this were evident for all to see. Lange wondered why he did not have a robust relationship with the Lord like Janose did. This made Lange spend a lot of time seeking the Lord and asking why. It wasn't long before he realized that Janose lived a life separated to God, but he lived a divided life. He wanted the best of both worlds, but Janose wanted only the best of God's kingdom.

Looking at today's Bible text critically, it appears God's acceptance of you is conditional. It appears there is a part you have to play.

God's love for you is unconditional, but the degree of His relationship with you is conditional. Many Christians are not enjoying the evident fatherhood of God in their lives because they have not started to live lives separated unto God alone. God is too big to share you. His grace empowers you to live for Him alone.

Go into today knowing that your life now belongs to the Lord. He has bought you with a price. This also means He is now responsible for your needs and security.

Ask the Lord to help you walk under His Lordship by prioritizing His kingdom and righteousness in your life.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 134-136

December 22

JUSTIFIED BY FAITH

Romans 5:1 [NLT]

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

If you think you have been righteous without Christ's grace, compare your life to the standards of God's law given by Moses. If after doing this, you still feel you have been righteous, understand that the version of God's law given by Moses was actually toned-down because of the hardness of the heart men (see Matthew 19:8). Take a look at the laws of the kingdom Jesus gave in Matthew 5-7, where He gives commandments like 'love your enemy' 'turn the other cheek', etc. I assure you, when you look at the law in its most pristine version; you will understand that it is not possible for mere flesh and blood to meet up to the standards of God's righteousness.

We are not declared righteous because we meet up to the standard of God's eternal law, we are declared righteous because of our faith in Christ Jesus.

It is because of this justification that we have access to God's throne of grace where we can obtain mercy and find grace to help us walk in the righteousness of God (see Hebrews 4:16). Because of grace, it is now possible for us to walk in the righteousness of God. We do this because we no more walk in the flesh, but in the spirit.

Go into today knowing that because of Christ Jesus, you are righteous in the sight of God. Because of His grace, you will reach the mark for the prize of the high calling in God (see Philippians 3:14).

Ask the Lord to help you walk in the fullness of His grace for you.

- Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ecclesiastes 9-10

December 23

GRACE AND EXPLOITS

2 Corinthians 13:14 [NLT]

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Because of sound teachings on grace, Abdul now understood what it meant to walk in constant fellowship with the Holy Spirit. He started enjoying fellowship with the Holy Spirit in a way that he didn't know was possible. Also, he realized that his weaknesses were no more an issue.

Abdul was a doctor, and had to oversee the treatment of some patients with diseases that could not be cured by medical science. One of such patients already dying of aids caught his attention unusually. He felt led to pray for her, and he did. As he prayed, he knew the Holy Spirit was ministering to her. But she wasn't his patient so he soon forgot about her.

Two weeks later, Abdul was surprised to see that she was now seating up and eating food by herself. This was a woman expected to die in a matter of days, but here she was recovering. Because of this, Abdul took special interest in her case. It was later discovered that the woman was now HIV negative. The Lord had miraculously healed her of tuberculosis and cured her of AIDS.

Grace is not only empowering you to walk above the dominion of sin, it also empowers you to do exploits in this world. Grace is God's spiritual power at work in you, and it manifests in various ways including healing the sick, casting out demons, walking in unusual wisdom and understanding, walking in diverse spiritual gifts (see Romans 12:6), etc.

Go into today knowing that the grace of the Lord empowers you to do the natural supernaturally and the supernatural naturally.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Zechariah 8-14

December 24

GRACE, LOVE AND COMMUNION

2 Corinthians 13:14 [NLT]

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

One of the first things Kunle realized as he started walking in the Spirit was the deep love God has for Him. The Holy Spirit revealed dimensions of this to him daily. As he continued to walk in constant fellowship with the Holy Spirit, he was getting more secure in His relationship with God. He was now sure that God was his father who loves him jealously.

As time passed, Kunle observed that he was effortlessly walking above the sins that were once difficult for him to overcome. He also noticed that his heart was more filled with love, and the power of God now flowed through him easily.

Today's Bible text shows us three things that should dwell with every Christian. You cannot truly have one without having the other. The first is the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is what filled Jesus (see John 1:14) and empowered Him to walk in His divine nature, even though He was in a body of flesh. If you are born again, you have received the divine nature in your spirit. Grace will help you walk in this divine nature, even though you are still in a body of flesh.

The second is the Love of God. You cannot walk in the divine empowerment called grace if you are not conscious of God's boundless love for you. Walking in grace and understanding God's love is facilitated by the Holy Spirit who dwells within you and interacts with you. This interaction is called the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. (Read Ephesians 3:17-19)

Go into thanking the Lord for His abundant love, fellowship and grace. Ask the Lord to open your eyes to understand His boundless love for you. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Acts 17-18

December 25

ETERNAL LIFE IN THE SON

1 John 5:11 [NKJV]

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

There was a wise young man who discovered that his father willed all their fortune to their slave. He wondered why his father did this, but he knew the slave was still their property.

When it was time for him to ask for a last gift from his dying father, he asked that the slave be given to Him as his property. He did this because he understood that if he owns the slave, he also owns everything the slave owns.

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son (John 3:16). Christ Jesus has been given so that we would not perish but have eternal life. Eternal life is in Christ, all life proceeds from Him (see John 3:3-4). If we receive Him, we have received eternal life.

Eternal life is also very relevant in this present world. It is a superior life that can empower a person live above the limitations of the flesh and this present world.

When we receive Christ, He also receives us. We abide in Him and He abides in us (see John 15:1). And the life that He has in Himself becomes ours because we abide in Him.

This is how we abide in Him; by receiving Him and letting His word abide in us (see John 15:7). This means our lives are ruled by His word.

Go into today abiding in the Lord and expect to see the manifestation of His eternal life in your daily life.

Prayer: Ask the Lord for grace to abide in Him and be fruitful.

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: I John 1-3

December 26

GRACE AND TRUTH

John 1:17 [NET]

For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came about through Jesus Christ.

God told Adam that if he ate from the tree of the knowledge of God good and evil, he would surely die (Genesis 2:17). When Adam ate the fruit, he lost the life of God. He no longer could participate in the divine nature, and was now subject to death and corruption. We his descendants inherited this too.

Our spirits needed to be changed so we could receive the grace of God to empower us walk in God's nature (Ezekiel 36:26). The word 'born again' is not a symbolic expression; it is something that happens literally to the spirit of everyone who receives Christ. The new birth is not a product of human will but of God's will (see John 1:13).

This new birth is because of God's unmerited favor. He gives us new spirits that He can indwell and supply the grace to help us walk in His divine nature. We need this grace because we have bodies of flesh that hinder us from this nature.

The law of God that came through Moses was to help man walk in God's truth (the reality and realm of God), but it failed because man was not able to obey it from his (corrupted) heart. Grace and truth has come through Jesus. Grace empowers us to walk in truth (God's reality).

Go into today trusting in the grace of God to empower you walk more and more in the divine nature.

Thank the Lord for His love that makes you a partaker of His divine nature (2 Peter 1:2-4).

-Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Deuteronomy 20-22

December 27

GRACE AND RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

John 1:17 (NET)

For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came about through Jesus Christ.

Mr. Ade wanted to have his closest friendship with His child, but this could only happen when his child grows up. He was willing to wait.

Why is the law and grace put side by side in today's Bible text? Because they came for the same purpose of making man walk in truth. But the law could not do this because man did not have the ability to keep it. The law ended up leaving man with the burden of guilt. This made him know he could never be righteous by his own strength.

Grace was given to help us walk in the righteousness of God. This righteousness is revealed as we walk from faith to faith, not from law to law. Because there are those who want to walk in grace, but fail because they try to do so with the old consciousness of law and sin. What God wants in man is a relationship. One filled with mutual love. That is why I believe that before Adam and Eve sinned, God usually came to fellowship with them in the cool of the day (see Genesis 3:8).

When you truly know and love God, you cannot but trust in Him, Love Him, and obey Him. Using laws in your relationship with God only proves that you have not (grown to) truly know and love Him. Those who know and love God relate with Him in love, not with laws. Believers who continue walking in the flesh do so because they are still spiritual babies who don't care much about communing with the Father; they only care about what they can get.

Go into today knowing that the grace of God empowers you to walk in the love of God. Prayer: Ask the Lord to help you know Him and walk in His love. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Nehemiah 1-4

December 28

GRACE PRODUCES GOOD WORKS

Ephesians 2:10[NIV]

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. We have been ordained by God unto Good works. We are not to continue in the dead works of the flesh.

What are good works? Good works are manifestations of the life of God within you. Don't forget that there is no good outside of God. Jesus pointed this out when a man called Him 'good master' without understanding this (Luke 18:19).

Of your own accord and from the resources of your flesh, you can never do good works. You need to depend on the grace of God- the power of God at work within them that believe.

Who are those profitable servants in the kingdom? They are those who take advantage of the grace of God to do good works. There is someone reading this devotional that God has given grace to help build a global brand that will improve the lives of millions in the coming years. That grace is given to enable you do good works, but you can chose to walk in it by depending on Christ and glorifying Him.

We access and walk in grace by faith. We insist that our lives are tailored according to God's word and nothing else. We hold onto God's word and act according to it against all odds. Many times this is a fight; it is called the good fight of faith (see 1 Timothy 6:12).

Go into today determining to let the Holy Ghost empower you to good works.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to help you overcome every doubt and unbelief inhibiting good works. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Psalms 137-139

December 29

RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

Romans 1:17[NKJV]

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Banke was now born again, but still told lies regularly and really wanted to stop. She had read about God's grace that empowered people to overcome their weaknesses and sins. She was now going to be taught by that Grace (see Titus 2:11-12).

Banke realized that the reason she sinned was because her faith was very weak. Because of this, she was not conscious of God's presence and great love. She often told lies because she felt she needed to protect herself by doing so, and many times she was afraid of the outcome the truth would produce. Her little faith kept her from realizing that God would take care of her and keep her secure in His love, so she didn't need to lie.

As she grew in faith, she grew above lies. The gift of righteousness she had received in her spirit was revealed as she walked more and more in faith- from faith to faith. Father Abraham could please God and obey God because he had faith in God. Among all the people in Abraham's time, Abraham was the most conscious of God. God consciousness is a product of faith. The more conscious you are of God's presence in your life, the more you will walk in His righteousness. Our walk with God was initiated by faith. It is also sustained by faith.

A person living without the consciousness of God cannot please God (see Hebrews 11:6). Most of the sins you've committed; you committed them because you lost the consciousness that God's presence was with you and within you. Faith creates this consciousness and keeps you in fellowship with God. This fellowship multiplies your grace and power (see 2 Peter 1:2).

Go into today asking the Lord to help you have better fellowship with Him. -Pst. Abraham Damilola Arigi

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Ecclesiastes 11-12

December 30

TOTAL SECURITY

Isaiah 54:14[KJV]

“In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.”

Whenever I read a scripture like this, I feel very much at peace. God has promised that He will keep us in total security. But for us to enjoy total security there is a condition. From today’s bible text, we see that shielding from oppression and terror is dependent on our being established in righteousness.

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21) It is only God that can establish us in righteousness, but we must be willing to yield our lives to Him in quietness and obedience. If you are in Christ, then you are the righteousness of God. Therefore yield your members as instruments of righteousness to God for His service and glory. It is God’s will to keep us from oppression and terror.

When you are established in righteousness, God has promised to keep you in total security.

Go into today believing His word, and say like the Psalmist “The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” (Psalms 118:6).

As you yield yourself to the Lord today, be rest assured that He will keep you far from oppression and terror and deliver you from all your fears, you will find total security in Him alone.

-Otuokon, Ubokudom.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: The book of Malachi

December 31

CREATED FOR HIS PLEASURE

Revelation 4:11 [KJV]

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

What is the purpose of life? Paul writes that we will all be held accountable for what we are doing with our lives (see 2 Corinthians 5:10), you know why? Because life is a sacred trust. Your life, work, relationships, possession and everything God has blessed you with is sacred and you are to use them to bring God pleasure, because you and I were created for His pleasure. When all you are and all you have are directed towards giving God pleasure then you are fulfilling your purpose.

Dear friend, the question is; is your life giving God pleasure? Think about it. I believe that deep down, there is a longing, an intense desire to please God. God created you with that desire which can never be satisfied by anything else except Him. But all too often we turn to other things for satisfaction then stumble and fall.

You see, nothing will ever satisfy you except God, and you can only find your sense of worth and fulfil your life purpose in Him alone. So, how can you bring Him pleasure? Here are my suggestions: Love Him. Seek Him. Live your life for Him. Throw off the chains of guilt and discouragement. Bask in His grace, love and glory. And as my friend would say, take it one day at a time.

Prayer: Dear Lord, may my life bring you pleasure today, amen.

-Otuokon, Ubokudom.

YEARLY BIBLE PLAN: Acts 19-20