

STREAMGLOBE DEVOTIONAL

A 31 day Devotional guide

Theme: Walking in the Divine Nature



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A nondenominational Christian Devotional

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Believing, a means to an end

Broadcast 3958

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3958>

John 3:3 (KJV): "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Royle gave his life to Christ in a crusade where the Evangelist preached powerfully. Moved by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, Royle was among the multitude that rushed forward in surrender to Jesus Christ. Initially filled with joy and zeal, he fervently preached to all his friends and visited bars where he once indulged in drinking, now preaching instead. However, over time, his zeal waned, and the joy faded, leading him back to alcoholism and fornication as if he had never been born again.

Like Royle, many have had similar experiences because they did not realize that being a believer is not the end; rather, it is an initiation into the kingdom of God, a means to an end. Believing is akin to being admitted into an institution; once admitted, you are recognized and treated as a member, and an identity card is issued. However, admission alone does not guarantee graduation. To graduate and obtain a certificate of completion, one must follow instructions, attend classes, complete assignments, and obey rules they did not create.

Similarly, when you become born again, you are admitted into Christ (John 3:3), given the Holy Spirit as your identity card (2 Corinthians 1:22), and referred to as a child of God (John 1:12). However, this is not the end goal; these are intended to lead you to a place where you will live with Jesus eternally. This can only be achieved when you "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12). The seed of salvation planted in your heart when you believed must be nurtured and cultivated for it to yield eternal life.

Today, resolve to steadfastly continue in the apostles' doctrine (the Word of God), fellowship (attending and serving in a Bible-believing church), breaking of bread (maintaining good relationships with other Christians), and prayers (Acts 2:42 KJV). By doing so, you will nourish the seed of salvation planted within you when you believed.

Obedience and Sacrifice: The Obedient Sacrifice

Broadcast 3959

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3959>

Philippians 3:8 (BBE) Yes truly, and I am ready to give up all things for the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, which is more than all: for whom I have undergone the loss of all things, and to me they are less than nothing, so that I may have Christ as my reward

In the Old Testament, we learned about the story of Saul who disobeyed under the guise of sacrifice. To whom Samuel rebuked saying, "Obedience is better than sacrifice and to heed than fatted rams". However, to hear this and disdain sacrifice will be to miss the point.

To sacrifice usually involves giving up something of value. The call of discipleship in God's kingdom requires sacrifice, Jesus said that anyone who must be his disciple must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow him. Have you ever thought about what it means to deny oneself? It calls for great sacrifice.

The key to extracting the gem of God's wisdom here is to ask what is being addressed here. What was Prophet Samuel rebuking? What is the wisdom of God to be drawn from here? One thing you must get is this: The sacrifice of disobedience is abhorrent to God. You can even rephrase that to say 'The sacrifice of the disobedient is unacceptable to God', Cain's story is a good footnote to this point.

However, this does not negate the fact that the obedient sacrifice. In fact, the sacrifice of Obedience is a delight to the Lord. Firstly, the call to discipleship calls for a total abandonment of one's own personal agenda in total resignation to and complete adoption of God's own agenda. The disciple loses his life (a life of living to please oneself) and only then does he find true life; eternal life in Christ Jesus.

This call implies that he recognizes that all he has, is a function of the benevolence of God and must be kept in stewardship for the Lord and spent in line with the will of his Provider, Lord and Master. At this point, the debate of 10%(whether or not new believers are to pay tithe) becomes a non-issue to such a believer, because he has enrolled in the same class that once said "We have left all and followed you". His preoccupation is no longer to calculate a meager 10% but to seek to understand how the owner of the 100% seeks to disburse it.

The Obedient gives God his time, skill, abilities, resources, and indeed life to the cause of God and to fulfill the counsel and purpose of God for his/her life. Personal ambitions, fleshly desires, and self-propagation are all regular objects of sacrifice at the altar of true obedience to God.

Apostle Paul standing before King Agrippa among other things recounted his conversion story to him declaring that “I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision” (See Acts 26:19), in his obedience he gave up all and followed and so must we, in line with God’s expressed will and plan for our lives.

Go into today with renewed zeal to heed the call of discipleship and to follow the Lord to the end.

—Ikechukwu Mpama

Obedience and Sacrifice: The Sacrifice of Fools

Broadcast 3960

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3960>

Ecclesiastes 5:1 (NIV) Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong.

Have you ever contemplated the story of Saul? If it were a cinema blockbuster it could well go with the title "The Rise and Fall of Saul: A King's Journey of Power, Pride, and Plunge".

Take a moment with me and consider this, what really was wrong with the supposed desire of Saul and his men to give to the Lord an offering of the fattest calves of the Amalekites? To which Samuel gave the famed response: "To obey is better than sacrifice".

This was not an attempt to disdain sacrifice, for men such as Solomon had through sacrifice gotten the attention of the Lord. The issue is this, in seeking and pleasing the Lord, the "means" is as important as the "end". How you do it is as important as what you do.

In the case of Saul, he totally disregarded the clear and explicit instructions of the Lord under the guise and excuse of giving Him sacrifices. The Lord saw through his act and cut straight to the heart of the matter, you cannot impress God with fattened rams, Samuel told Saul, and you don't sacrifice obedience to the voice of God at the altar of a gift. Such displeases the Lord and incurs his wrath.

This understanding is critical, it is often lacking which is why some youths (and even the elderly), can fathom that they can win the admiration and approval of the Lord by giving him a generous portion of their income, even when their source of income is not only questionable but is in direct contrast to the expressed and explicit will of God. An income of iniquity cannot be washed by an offering from same.

I mean that monies made from internet fraud can never be found acceptable by God, even if a supposed Pastor convinces you to the contrary. You can't awe God with your gifts, nor woo him with your giving. He owns all things. Consider the words of Apostle Paul, "If I surrender all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames and have not love, I gain nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:4),

juxtapose this with the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching” (John 14:24a).

In our text today, we are admonished to draw near to the Lord to hear, so as not to play the fool thinking we are pleasing God. What is your mindset concerning fellowship and the gathering of God’s people? Do you see it as an opportunity to learn more of the Lord? Have you learnt yet what it takes to please the Lord?

Go into today with renewed zeal to know the Lord and to walk in a manner that is pleasing unto him.

—Ikechukwu Mpama

The Fruit of the Spirit 1

Broadcast 3961

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3961>

Galatians 5:22 (NET) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness

From when Lanre was a little boy, he knew his mother did not love him like she did his brothers and sisters. He also wondered why his father was so mean to him and to every one of his siblings. It wasn't until he turned 12 that he realized that neither his mother nor his father were his biological parents. The woman who was raising him was his mother's younger sister. The man he grew up to call daddy was her husband, and neither he nor her three other children were his biological children.

As Lanre grew older and became a believer, he stopped being angry and bitter with the fact that he was not loved by the woman he called mother. He got to a point where he could understand that she was just a human being. She did not have enough love to extend to anyone who was not her biological child.

When we speak about the fruit of the spirit, it is the nature of God that is sown in our spirits when we believe and abide in Christ. It is a nature that has attributes we find in Galatians 5:22-23 and 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Normally, the more a believer grows spiritually, the more his life should manifest the fruit of the spirit.

We were born with a nature that is hostile to God. This nature is called "flesh" in scripture. But when we become believers in Christ Jesus, God's goal for us is that we become like Him in nature and character. The more of God's nature our lives manifest, the more fruitful we are in the sight of God.

Go into today remembering that Jesus has ordained you to bring forth fruits that will remain.

—Abraham Damilola Arigi

Be cheerful, God is your help

Broadcast 3962

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3962>

Psalm 142:6 (KJV) reads, "Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low: deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I."

This was David's desperate plea when he found himself pursued by King Saul, hiding in a cave to escape danger.

Similar to David's situation, we all have that enemy or situation that our strength cannot handle and we must acknowledge this if we want to win. It is after we have acknowledged this that we can then pray like David, "attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low: deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I."

Attempting to confront these formidable foes with our own strength leads to defeat and harm. Often, their dominance stems from legal ties, such as ancestral covenants or personal transgressions.

However, there is no need for fear or panic, as we have divine assistance. God is ready to defend us. We need only to call upon Him for help.

Remember today that, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea" (Psalm 46:1-2 KJV).

Prayer: Ask the Lord to help you remember that you have His assistance in times of need.

—Dr. Emmanuel James

The Fruit of the Spirit 2

Broadcast 3963

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3963>

Galatians 5:22 (NET) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness

When Lanre achieved success as an adult, he made a firm decision to distance himself from his adopted mother and siblings, believing they never truly loved him. He attributed his struggle with low self-esteem to their treatment of him. Interestingly, despite his financial success surpassing theirs, he remained distant.

Meeting Bridget changed his perspective. He was drawn to her kindness and genuine love— Qualities that he had not experienced in his loveless upbringing. Unlike him, Bridget's kindness was not driven by ulterior motives; she simply exuded love and kindness effortlessly.

Lanre longed to be close to Bridget because of the peace and warmth she brought into his life. However, she kept her distance, revealing later that her reluctance stemmed from her being a born-again Christian while he was not. This realization prompted Lanre to reconsider his stance and open his heart to the idea of being born again.

Upon accepting Christ into his life, Lanre realized that his previous resolve to be cold and distant towards his family was incompatible with his new nature in Christ. As he grew spiritually, he understood the importance of forgiveness and treating others with love and compassion.

Lanre's initial attitude stemmed from his Adamic nature, not from malice. He was simply trying to protect himself. However, he learned through his faith in Christ that the world's standards of love differ from Christ's teachings. In Christ, love extends even to enemies, meaning one wishes them well and prays for their salvation.

Remember today that love is a nature that cannot be switched off if it exists within you, especially the love that is a fruit of the Spirit.

—Abraham Damilola Arigi

The Vow of Allegiance

Broadcast 3964

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3964>

Joshua 24:24 (NIV) And the people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey."

Have you ever attended a wedding ceremony? The kind where the groom would already be in the auditorium standing before the priest when the bride would walk in by her father while soft melodious music plays in the background creating quite an atmosphere. By the time the father gets to the altar, under the direction of the clergy, he hands over the bride to the groom. The moment can be so moving that many a groom have been known to shed a tear or two at this moment.

Soon after, the clergy will guide them through the vows, where they pledge their allegiance to each other for all time and in all circumstances. They usually seal the vow with the exchange of rings and also with a kiss. All so moving.

However, no matter how moving and close to tears such an auspicious occasion is, you must realize that even though the vow of matrimony is taken in an atmosphere of great emotions, it is kept by a commitment to serve and to further the interest of the other partner under God. That commitment will have to be kept sometimes under the most inconvenient circumstances, and as important as words of affirmation are, when not backed up by corresponding actions, they begin to sound hollow and devoid of weight and meaning.

In our text today, we find a critical ingredient that constitutes a vow of allegiance to the Lord. This vow, when stripped to its core is simply a response to a call to discipleship and it involves knowing the Lord, serving him, and obeying his commands. Every vow of allegiance to Jesus invariably implies a decision to serve and obey Him.

You might have been in a worship service, where the word came so powerfully and the prayer and worship that followed was so intense, and in the midst of such a glorious atmosphere, you made a vow to follow the Lord, you might have underscored that vow with a song. Just remember, should you choose to honor that vow, it must go beyond that atmosphere of worship and transcend into your daily life and living, it must show up in your quest to know him, it must manifest in your willingness and readiness to obey him.

Go into today with a mind made up to follow the Lord truly all the days of your life.

—Ikechukwu Mpama

Complete surrender

Broadcast 3965

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3965>

Nahum 1:7(ESV) "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him."

The Lord is good. He is a good God. He has good plans for His children. He is their stronghold, shield, and defense in the day of trouble. He protects His own and doesn't allow troubles and challenges to swallow them up.

However, many who call on His name are not completely committed to Him. They have alternative plans, and their attention is not completely on the Lord. In the day of trouble, the Lord is one of their options. The Lord knows those who completely trust and hope in Him.

You see, He wants to be the first and only option in the lives of His people. He knows those who depend on Him without alternative plans. He knows those whose hearts are fixed towards Him. These are the people who will enjoy the Lord's protection in the day of trouble.

Dear pilgrim, as you continue your journey towards the celestial city, let your heart be completely yielded to Him. Don't have a second option, make Him the only One you turn to in the day of trouble. This is the only guarantee that you will make it to the end.

—Ubokudom Otuekong

This Liberty of the Spirit

Broadcast 3966

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3966>

2 Corinthians 3:17 (KJV) Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

“Bro, you have to come to my fellowship, Man. You’ve got to experience koinonia at No Holds Barred Christian Centre” And so Lanre went on and on trying to get Eddy to commit to coming with him to his place of worship.

“Lanre, but I thought I had told you I’m a worker in my fellowship and might not be able to come with you?”

“I know, I know. Okay, we are having a special weekend program this Saturday, surely you can make it as it doesn’t coincide with your fellowship’s day of service”

“Alright, cool”

And so, on the said Saturday, Lanre took Eddy to fellowship and it was a wonderful time of worship and the word. On their way back, Lanre was all pumped up and was asking Eddy;

“So what do you think, was I right or what? Was fellowship not a bomb?”

“Well, I don’t know about explosives, but it was a great time of worship, I did learn a lot and was grateful for the flow of the things of the Spirit in the meeting”, replied Eddy.

“I told you man, here we are not constricted in our expression of worship, you could see the liberty of the Spirit; people were free to express themselves any way they choose in the presence of God”

“Are you referring to the blowing of whistles, the lifting of plastic chairs and running wildly while the choir sang ‘radical for Jesus’, as well as the intermittent screams of ‘Preach on Papa!’ and ‘Glory!!!’ at the top of your lungs during the sermon?”

“Well, not only that, but yeah, that included”.

“Okay Lanre, here is the thing; I think you are conflating issues here. The liberty of the Spirit is the blood-bought freedom of the believer, being administered and

administered by the Holy Spirit to remove every legal hindrance that would keep us from becoming like Jesus. This is the freedom that grants that we can hear God's word and receive revelation, experience the fullness of the presence of God by the Holy Spirit, and grow in knowledge and stature to become like Jesus.

It is a freedom to walk in righteousness rather than under the constricting hold and bond of the sinful nature, it is a freedom to cast out devils rather than be under their subjugating oppressive tendencies, it is a freedom to become all that the word of God reveals that we are to be.

It is a transformative freedom that changes us into the image of God with the help of the Holy Spirit, you'll see that for yourself when you read 2 Corinthians 3 verses 17&18. So, no Lanre, that part wasn't the liberty of the Spirit, at best it was the liberty for exuberance."

You are truly free if, through the help of the Holy Spirit, God is consistently and continually finding expression in your life in increasing measures. Are you free? Go into today rejoicing that Christ has purchased your freedom and now you have the liberty to live for and serve him.

—Ikechukwu Mpama

Fruit of the Spirit 3

Broadcast 3967

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3967>

Galatians 5:22 (NET) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness

Lanre's adopted mother didn't expect him to attend her birthday party due to their strained relationship. To her surprise, not only did Lanre show up, but he also presented her with the most valuable gift of the celebration. Having forgiven his family, Lanre experienced liberation from the psychological wounds inflicted by his emotionally toxic upbringing. No longer shy and awkward, he now exuded the joy and confidence of the Lord, thanks to the transformative power of Christ. Lanre's ability to manifest these divine attributes stemmed from his willingness to let go of his pride and desire for revenge.

Many believers today fail to fully manifest the fruit of the Spirit because remnants of their fleshly nature remain active within them. While they may avoid overt immorality, feelings of envy and pride persist, hindering the expression of divine attributes such as patience and kindness in their lives.

Remember today that to bear the fruit of the Spirit, one must crucify the flesh and its works. The old must die before the new can emerge.

—Abraham Damilola Arigi

Where is My Fear?

Broadcast 3968

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3968>

Malachi 1:6 (BBE) A son gives honour to his father, and a servant has fear of his master: If then I am your father, where is my honour? And if I am a master, where is the fear of me? Says the Lord of armies to you, O priests, who give no value to my name. And you say, How have we not given value to your name?

There was an interesting encounter in the book of Genesis between Jacob and his in-laws. After spending a total of 20 years with his in-laws, 14 of which he had spent working for the bride price of Rachel, his beloved, and Leah, Rachel's sister. It came to a point that Jacob began to observe that the disposition of his in-laws toward him had changed for the worse. And so one day, Jacob upped and absconded with his family away from his in-laws, ignorant of the fact that Rachel had also confiscated the family idols of her father. As soon as the in-laws realized what had happened, they chased him. And when they caught up with him, they were wroth with Jacob and said they would have harmed him if not for a warning issued to them by God.

When Jacob was responding, of particular interest was how he referred to the Lord God. While Laban had described him as 'the God of your father', Jacob referred to Him as 'The fear of Isaac' (See Genesis 31:42). This is a curious but instructive description. It basically meant that Isaac ordered his life in such a way that anyone who knew him well knew that there was One whom he feared and revered (above all) and that this shaped his life.

Again, in Malachi, the Lord was basically saying, if indeed I was your Master, you would fear me. The proof that they did not fear Him included their audacity to disdain Him by offering to Him What they wouldn't dare offer to their governors, by so doing, the Lord said they by their actions were saying that 'the table of the Lord was of no importance' (See Malachi 1:7-8).

The fear of the Lord is a critical ingredient in following the Lord as a servant follows his master. Without it, a man cannot begin to walk in the wisdom of the Lord. Friend, there is a force that is motivating your life choices, Apostle Paul spoke about knowing the 'fear of the Lord' and the constraining power of God's love. A man might be motivated by the fear of poverty, fear of rejection, fear of failure, the list is endless, but hear the admonition of the Lord by the Prophet Isaiah, 'Sanctify

the Lord of hosts himself, and let him be your fear and let him be your dread'
(Isaiah 8:13)

Go into today determined to walk in the fear of the Lord all life-long.
—Ikechukwu Mpama

Fruit of the Spirit 4

Broadcast 3969

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3969>

Galatians 5:22 (NET) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness

Love speaks of the native nature of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you have His nature, you will love, and when thoughts, and imaginations that are contrary to love enter your heart, you will get a check in your spirit against it. This love is unselfish and does not seek its own. It is so secure that it may seem foolish to those who still operate with the Adamic nature, a nature that is comparable to the nature that Satan and his demons have. This Adamic/satanic nature is a product of severance from the life and nature of God. It is a nature that is hostile to God. It does not submit to the law/nature of God nor can it (Romans 8:7). It lacks the power to do so because it has been severed from the life of God.

Those who are not born of God cannot have the divine nature of love(1 John 4:7), nor can they practically walk in its attributes, as seen in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. After receiving this divine nature through faith in Christ, it is important to allow this nature to dominate us because the old Adamic nature will still try to dominate us even after we have received the divine nature. We have to train ourselves to walk in the divine nature because the more we walk in it, the better we get at it(see 1 Timothy 4:8).

Go into today remembering that because of your faith in Christ Jesus, you have the divine nature of love. Determine to let this nature rule your every moment.

—Abraham Damilola Arigi

My Rock, My Fortress, My Deliverer

Broadcast 3970

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3970>

Psalm 18:2(KJV) "The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

Amid life's challenges, let us find solace in these words from Psalm 18:2. The imagery of God as our rock, fortress, and deliverer paints a powerful picture of His unwavering strength and protection. When the storms of life threaten to overwhelm us, we can take refuge in the Lord, our unshakeable foundation.

Moreover, one thing we can observe from this verse is the way the Psalmist personalized his relationship with God. This declaration by the writer is born out of a life of intimacy with the Lord and if we're going to have these divine expressions in our experience, it will be born out of intimacy with the Lord.

As we face the uncertainties of each day, let us pour our lives into God and we will soon know experientially that in times of weakness, He becomes our source of strength. When we feel surrounded by troubles, He is our shield, guarding and shielding us from harm. Our salvation is not contingent on our might, but on the mighty hand of our God, as we continue to look up to Him and obey His bidding.

May we build our trust upon the unchanging character of God, knowing that He is our stronghold. In Him, we find a secure dwelling place, a refuge that stands firm against the challenges of life. Let Psalm 18:2 be a declaration of faith, a reminder that in God, we live and move and have our being.

—Ubokudom Otuekong

The Foolishness of Preaching

Broadcast 3971

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3971>

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NET) For since in the wisdom of God the world by its wisdom did not know God, God was pleased to save those who believe by the foolishness of preaching

My father was a book-binder, I observed as I grew up watching him that he prefers to do the work of mending bad books without the observation and supervision of the customer and I always wondered why. Soon enough, I realized why. You see, to mend a bad book, you don't just apply band-aid as such, to do a thorough job, you have to first dismantle the whole book and then put it together again. Many a time, when an unwitting customer observes this process, they get alarmed thinking that you are doing more harm to their book rather than good. As they watch the bookbinder rip their books apart, it makes no sense to them, I'm sure they have a better idea of how they think the bookbinder should have gone about it, the whole thing appears unnecessary and maybe even foolish to them.

Our Bible verse of today speaks about two kinds of wisdom, the wisdom of God and the wisdom of the world. From the passage from whence this verse was drawn, one thing is evident, the wisdom of God runs contrary to the wisdom of the world. The subject matter here happens to be salvation, and here the Bible speaks about the wisdom of God in the work of salvation through the instrumentality of preaching, which sounds foolish to the world. I mean, how can mere words undo the effect, hold, and power of sin over a sinner and transform him into a saint? He would rather expect that the man does penance and carry out all kinds of self-flagellation perhaps to impress God or to prove his qualification or deservedness of God's mercy. To the world's mind, the gospel seems too good (and simple) to be true.

However, the wise believer must be comfortable following the Lord's plan and pattern even when the world in its wisdom tags such as foolishness. In particular, will you make up your mind this year to engage more and more in the foolishness of preaching in your neighborhood and social circle, and not to take it for granted? Eternal destinies are at stake. You are participating in shaping eternities as you lend God your voice. Here is how Apostle Paul expressed this,

13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in

the one whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news! (Romans 10:13-15 NIV)

It is truly wise and beautiful to engage the foolishness of preaching under the power of the Holy Ghost. Will you?

Go into today full of zest and renewed zeal to tell men about the saving power of Jesus Christ and to win souls for the Lord

—Ikechukwu Mpama

Fruit of the Spirit 5

Broadcast 3972

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3972>

Galatians 5:22 (NET) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness

Before Lanre believed in the Lord Jesus, he was a very insecure, awkward and unhappy young man. But after he gave his life to Christ, he got filled with the Holy Spirit and the joy of the Lord filled his heart. He was no longer the unhappy, insecure person that he used to be.

His adopted mother couldn't help but notice. This was the most remarkable thing about his faith in Christ that drew her attention. This was the reason why she ultimately gave her life to Christ.

Heaven is a very very joyful place. Scripture reveals that there is a lot of singing in heaven. The mood of heaven reflects the nature of God. When we have the divine nature, joy will be part of our nature. The joy of the Lord is our strength. Joy engenders the flow of the divine life.

The devil understands this very well, and one of the duties of evil spirits is to send thoughts and imaginations that are calculated to keep us heavy and unjoyful.

Being heavy and depressed is an attribute of old Adamic nature. Sorrow and depression weaken our spirits and strengthen the flesh. Since we now have the divine nature, we have to be deliberate and intentional about being joyful. Do not let thoughts and imagination that bring sorrow and depression dock in your heart and mind. When such thoughts and imaginations of evil reports come, replace them with God's promises that are contrary to them.

Another secret of joy is thankfulness. When the flesh or the devil wants to make you heavy because of things happening that are not going your way, remember to get yourself out of the black hole of heaviness by remembering all the benefits of God in your life and giving Him thanks. You always have reasons to be thankful because you are in Christ. Being in Christ is heavier and more valuable than any other thing you could ever have in this world or in the world to come.

Go into today remembering that rejoicing in the Lord always is not a suggestion. It is a commandment (Philippians 4:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:16). Believers who flirt with heaviness and depression are walking in disobedience.

—Abraham Damilola Arigi

Take A Dip: Learning to Obey the Leading of the Spirit

Broadcast 3973

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3973>

2 Kings 5:13-14 (NET) Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!" 14 So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

Are you familiar with the story of Naaman? That great Syrian general who was plagued with leprosy but at the instance of his slave-girl was told that the God of Israel could heal him and after consulting with his King was referred to the King of Israel and ultimately to Elisha the prophet. Do remember his seeming dilemma when all he was instructed to do was to dip 7 times in the Jordan River? He thought to himself, is it for a lack of fitting and befitting bodies of water in Syria that I came here? Do I need a bath or a healing? However, when he gave in to the voice of reason from his servants and did as the Prophet had instructed, he came out whole.

Many times, believers want to trust God for his intervention (for healing, for direction, etc.), but they have a fixed expectation of how it is supposed to play out. They would be willing to trust God for bread for as long as the bakery remains open. However, God is committed to keeping his word not to meeting our fanciful self-generated expectations. In receiving from the Lord, it is important to listen to the instructions of the Lord, for the believer, it might come as a leading, a perception, or an inspiration. It would be a mistake to simply weigh such instructions or leading by mere reason, trying to extrapolate the connection between the leading and the expected divine intervention.

I mean, water does not routinely turn to wine just by conveyance, yet the disciples obeyed Jesus and took the jars of water to the chairman of the feast who received from them water-turned-wine. The miracle occurred as obedience was activated. Same thing when Jesus commanded them to distribute the bread and fish among the multitude, the miracle occurred as obedience was activated. What about the 10 lepers? It was as they left, in obedience to Jesus' instruction, to show themselves to the priest, that they discovered that they were clean at which point the one returned to express thanks.

The key is this, the Spirit of God within the believer administers the things of Christ in the believers' lives, He will never lead him contrary to the revealed will and word of God. When you are impressed in your spirit to pray for a person, simply pray; when you are led to give to someone, just give; when you perceive the Lord asking you to preach to a total stranger, buck up and do it... It is as we obey that the miraculous intervention of God unfolds. Take that dip, do it promptly, walk in the leading of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of Mary re-echo in your heart always, "Whatever he says to you, do" (See John 2:5).

Go into today determined to experience the miraculous as you hear, listen and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

—Ikechukwu Mpama

Casting your burdens

Broadcast 3974

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3974>

Psalm 55:22 (ESV) "Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved."

In the hustle and bustle of life, hearts laden with burdens naturally long for a place of comfort and peace. Psalm 55:22 extends a profound invitation to cast our burdens upon the Lord. The act of casting implies a deliberate and conscious action, releasing the weight that we carry onto the capable shoulders of our Creator.

For many, it's easier to carry the burdens of life, trying to figure out the solutions to every problem using scientific methods that one can relate with, than to hand over those issues to a God that one cannot see physically. You see, dear pilgrim, the verse under consideration today is more than a promise, it's a command.

God not only encourages us to cast our burdens on Him, but He also promises to sustain us. His sustaining power goes beyond mere support; it is a continuous, unwavering provision. As we entrust our concerns to Him, we find strength and endurance for the journey.

The assurance that "He will never permit the righteous to be moved" adds a layer of security to our trust. In moments of uncertainty, when life's winds threaten to uproot us, God stands as our immovable anchor. He anchors us in righteousness, granting stability to our faith and confidence in His unchanging character.

As you go into your day, actively cast your worries, fears, and struggles onto the Lord. Embrace the promise that He will sustain you through every trial, and ensure that you remain steadfast and unshaken in His love and care.

—Ubokudom Otuekong

Fruit of the Spirit 6

Broadcast 3975

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3975>

Galatians 5:22 (NET) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness

After Lanre's adopted mother gave her life to Christ, she became very sorry for the way she treated Lanre all his life. He was a very little boy when he lost his Mom, her younger sister, and had to come live with her. No one knew who his dad was. But that was not the reason she nursed resentment in her heart towards Lanre. The real reason was because of the way her husband died. Her husband died in a car crash, and he was with Lanre's mother on that trip. Rumors abounded as to why the two of them were together on that trip. It was rumored that they were having an affair and they were going on a weekend getaway when they got in that fatal crash.

Lanre never knew this. He was just a year old when he lost his mom. He was living with his grandma when this happened. The trauma of his mom's passing was the reason his grandma was no longer able to take care of him. He now had to be raised by his mother's sister. The wife of his mother's alleged lover.

It wasn't until after Lanre's adopted mother received the Holy Spirit that she was able to get over the hurt of what happened to her first husband and sister 28 years ago. Because of the hurt and insecurity that she inherited from her first marriage, her second marriage was a colossal failure. She never knew real peace until she made Jesus the Lord of her life. This peace wasn't the result of the situation of things around her, it was the product of a change of heart and nature.

The understanding that all things are under God's control is the key to our peace as God's children. Nothing can happen to you by accident. God is in control of your life and times if you are in Christ.

Go into today asking the Lord to help you abide in Him and comprehend all the practical ramifications of what it means to be in Him.

—Abraham Damilola Arigi

Love is the greatest

Broadcast 3976

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1 John 3:18 (NIV) Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

It has always been said that actions speak louder than words. It is particularly so when love is the subject matter.

All Christians are members of the same family. We are to love each other in actions and truth. We are to care for each other sincerely and genuinely. And we are to show charity to people we come in contact with. For Christians, Love among us is a direct command from the Lord. And this is the most important of all commandments. Love is God's most domineering attribute and anyone who loves is born of God and knows God (see 1 John 4:7). There are many other great attributes of being born of God. They include power, might, etc. But one attribute that is exclusive to those who are born of God is love. Satan's children can have power too, but they can never love. They don't have access to the power that produces love.

Go into today determining to walk in the Love of God by walking in the Spirit. There is a degree of power that walking in love would release to your spirit that not even your faith can release. Love is indeed the greatest (see 1 Cor 13:13).

Prayer: Ask the Lord to help you to sincerely love His brethren in action and in truth. Amen.

—Abraham Damilola Arigi

Light shines in darkness

Broadcast 3977

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3977>

Isaiah 60:1-2 (KJV), "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee."

Oyinye received a prophetic word from her Pastor during a meeting, revealing a generational history of occult involvement in her family. Her great-grandfather, a grandmaster in the occult, initiated her grandfather, known for his wickedness, who in turn covenanted all his children to serve the same god. Despite her family's heritage, Oyinye chose to follow Jesus, leading to hardships she couldn't comprehend.

Many born-again Christians face similar battles, contending with covenants they didn't enter into. They question why God would allow them to be born into such circumstances.

God's strategy to overcome darkness is through light. John 1:5 (KJV) states, "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." The reign of darkness ends when light shines and continues to shine until darkness is overcome. God sends believers into seemingly dark situations to be His light, the weapon He will use to destroy the reign of darkness.

Today, remember that God is counting on you to be His emissary, shining His light wherever you are planted.

Prayer: I receive grace to shine as God's light wherever I am planted, in Jesus' name, amen!

—Dr. Emmanuel James

Fruit of the Spirit 7

Broadcast 3978

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3978>

Galatians 5:22 (NET) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness

After Lanre had given his life to Christ and was now abiding and flourishing in Christ, he was really concerned about getting married to the right person. Bridget was the first person who came to his mind. He met her when he just graduated from college and he really wanted to be close to her but she refused because he was not a believer then. He had moved to another city when he gave his life to Christ and had lost contact with her.

When he knew he was now ready to get married, the only woman he wanted was Bridget. He traveled to her city to go and look for her. He knew his quest wouldn't be so difficult because he knew the church in which she was a committed worker.

When he got to that city and found her, he was so disappointed because he saw that she was engaged and had already set a wedding date.

On getting back to his city, he wanted to marry just anyone he met. He was a very successful good-looking young man, and he knew getting a sister who would be interested wouldn't be hard. But the Holy Spirit spoke to him to "be patient. I have prepared a wife for you". Ever since he got back from seeing Bridget, there was a spirit of haste that came upon him to get married to the next available sister. That spirit of haste would have led him to marry the wrong sister. But because he had received the divine nature, the word that the Holy Spirit ministered to him made him patient in the hope that God was going to do what he said.

Impatience is a vice that can make people stray out of God's plan for them. It was responsible for Abraham bringing forth Ishmael, a seed that would be a thorn in the flesh of the promised seed. Impatience is an attribute of the Adamic nature and an inhibitor of faith. It causes undue delays for believers who are waiting to receive the promises of God.

Go into today remembering that Impatience is a spiritual cancer that saps the power of faith, introduces undue delays, and leads to undesirable outcomes in the journey of the believer.

—Abraham Damilola Arigi

You are the light of the world

Broadcast 3979

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3979>

Isaiah 60:1-2 (KJV), "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee."

Matthew chapter five has been tagged "the beatitudes", it describes the blessedness of the life a child of God. Worthy of note however is the description of the life of a believer in this chapter; they will hunger and thirst after righteousness, be meek, merciful, be peacemakers, and be hated and maltreated. This, according to Jesus is how to be the salt of the earth and light of the world.

From Jesus' description of who light is, it is not unfair at all. It is not a license to enjoy the riches of the world, rather, it is a call to death; death to self and personal ambitions. While it is true that many claim to be Christians today, there are only a few who qualify as the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

Are you one of the lights? God is still looking for men and women who will be his light in the dark places of this world, will you be one?

Read through Matthew chapter five today and compare your life with what was described. If you really want to be God's light, confess whatever area of fault you have discovered and ask God for help.

—Dr. Emmanuel James

Fruit of the Spirit 8

Broadcast 3980

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3980>

Galatians 5:22 (NET) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness

When Lanre was little, his younger sister was a very spoilt child. Lanre received a beating for the things she did wrong, and she was very badly behaved.

One evening, they were expecting an important visitor, and Lanre's mother didn't want Stephanie to be her normal self. She called all the children aside and said "I want you all to be on your best behavior. Stephanie, if you're good and well-behaved tonight, I'll give you 5000 Naira.

That night when the visitors arrived, Stephanie who wouldn't normally greet visitors was the nicest and most charming child in the house. She offered to carry their bags, was so. Respectful and nice, because she wanted to collect the 5000 Naira her mother promised her.

Even bad people know how to be good when they want to get something out of you. They know how to be nice and friendly when there is something in it for them.

A person who has the divine nature is not only good when there is an incentive, he is good and kind at all times because that is his nature.

Go into today remembering to be good and kind because that is your nature as a child of God. Wish people well and do good to people not because you want anything in return but because doing so is walking in your nature. There is a depth of wholeness and satisfaction that can only be reached by believers who actualize their new Divine nature.

—Abraham Damilola Arigi

Get up, fight!

Broadcast 3981

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3981>

Genesis 27:40 (NIV) reads, “You will live by the sword and you will serve your brother. But when you grow restless, you will throw his yoke from off your neck.”

Jacob had cunningly stolen Esau's birthright and blessing, leaving Esau feeling cheated and oppressed. However, amidst this apparent curse, there was a glimmer of hope: “But when you grow restless, you will throw his yoke from off your neck.” Esau had the power to break free from servitude by fighting back whenever he felt restless or uncomfortable.

No yoke is too strong to break free from. If Esau, without the aid of Jesus Christ, could break free, then you, with the better promises found in Jesus Christ, can certainly do the same. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Fight to claim your freedom!

Do you see generational curses or personal struggles in your life that seem insurmountable? While such situations may exist, their duration depends on your response. Remember, only what God does lasts forever (Ecclesiastes 3:14). It is within your power to cut short the reign of evil in your life. Rise up and fight!

Today, determine to confront whatever has limited you using the weapons of the Word of God and prayer.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I receive grace to fight every battle before me and to never retreat until I have won all.

—Dr. Emmanuel James

The Ministry of Angels

Broadcast 3982

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3982>

Psalm 34:7 (KJV) states, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."

In 2 Kings chapter 6, the king of Syria confronted Prophet Elisha, accusing him of spying. When Elisha's servant saw they were surrounded by angry soldiers, he cried out in fear. However, Elisha remained calm and prayed for his servant's eyes to be opened. When the servant saw the host of angels surrounding them, he gained boldness.

Why was Elisha not afraid, and why did the servant suddenly become bold? Because they knew they were surrounded by a host of angels.

Are you, like Elisha's servant, afraid of the enemy and life's challenges? I pray that the Lord Jesus opens your eyes to see the help you have in God.

Hebrews 1:14 speaks of angels as "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation." Angels continue to minister for the heirs of salvation, always with you and attentive when you call upon them in the name of Jesus.

Today, remember that the ministry of angels is one of the advantages you have as a child of God. Will you maximize this?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, open my eyes like you did for Elisha's servant, to see that I am not alone. Father, let your angels minister for me henceforth, in Jesus' name, amen!

—Dr. Emmanuel James

Your family needs a godly priest

Broadcast 3983

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3983>

Ezekiel 22:30 (KJV) states, "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."

Abraham was born to pagan parents and was initially named Abram. His upbringing could have led him down the path of idol worship like his family, but he encountered God, followed Him, and everything changed (Genesis 12). Despite his family's traditions, Abraham initiated a new movement, worshipping the true God and becoming the father of the faithful (Galatians 3:8-9). Though he couldn't alter his past, he became a trailblazer and a beacon of light for future generations.

Similarly, you didn't choose your family, and you can't change the past, but you can shape the future. Do you long to be born into a different family, perhaps a godly, wealthy, or more comfortable one? By assuming the role of a priest of God for your family, future generations will praise God because of you.

Darkness, hardship, and wickedness may have persisted in your family because no godly priest has arisen. Will you step up as the priest of God for your family and, like Abraham, become a beacon of light for future generations?

Don't claim to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world while your family is engulfed in darkness. "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

Prayer: Today, I rise as the priest of God over my family in Jesus' name, amen!

—Dr. Emmanuel James

The most powerful force in your life

Broadcast 3984

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3984>

Rev 12:11(NET) But they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.

Dare had a very bad dream. In this dream, he saw he was poisoned. As soon as he woke up, he started physically feeling the effect of the poison. For days Dare prayed and trusted God to heal him and deliver him from the effect of that spiritually applied poison that was now affecting every area of His life.

Dare got his freedom when he remembered to use the word. In faith, he started declaring the word of God concerning himself. He did this with the understanding that the word of God in his mouth was the most powerful force in his life, much more powerful than any demonic poison in His system. This is how Dare annulled the effect of the demonic spell and received his total freedom.

Today's Bible text shows how and why we overcome the devil.

With the power of sin and guilt pulling us down, we don't stand a chance against Satan. But the blood of Jesus cleanses us and takes this power [of sin] away. It takes away Satan's legal right over us and gives us victory over Satan.

The word of your testimony is the word of God that has become Rhema to you. It is the word of God in your mouth. This was how Jesus conquered Satan on the mount of temptation.

As you go into today, remember that the word of God in your mouth is the most powerful force in your life. It is much more powerful than any spell, curse, or pronunciation of darkness against you. The universe came into existence by the word, and all creation is commanded by it.

Ask the Lord to help you use the sword of the Spirit always.

—Abraham Damilola Arigi

Quit struggling, cry out for help!

Broadcast 3985

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3985>

Matthew 14:30-31 (KJV) reads, “But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?”

As the disciples sailed across the sea, they saw Jesus walking on water. Amidst their fear, Jesus reassured them, saying, “Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.” Upon hearing this, Peter boldly asked to come to Jesus on the water, and Jesus bid him to come.

Initially, Peter walked on the water as commanded, but when he saw the strong wind, fear and doubt crept in, causing him to sink. Yet, he didn't remain silent; he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Likewise, you may encounter situations that cause your faith to falter, leading to doubt and sinking. How do you respond? Do you strive to improve your skills and knowledge, or do you rely on God's help?

While it's commendable to persevere, it's futile to struggle alone when you have a Helper by your side. Cry out to God for assistance!

Remember, your faith doesn't have to be perfect to receive help. God's faith is available to all who call upon Him for aid.

Prayer: Identify your areas of struggle and ask God for help. Don't cease asking until you receive His assistance.

—Dr. Emmanuel James

God's promises must be appropriated

Broadcast 3986

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3986>

Deuteronomy 2:24 (KJV) states, "Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess it, and contend with him in battle."

As Moses neared the end of his life, he imparted God's guidance and laws to a new generation of Israelites, who hadn't witnessed the miraculous events of their ancestors' exodus from Egypt. The book of Deuteronomy aimed to reiterate God's ways and laws to this fresh generation. Today's focus verse highlights one such instruction.

Though God had promised the land to the Israelites, its possession required contention and battles. Similarly, Paul advised Timothy, "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare."

Just as God gave Israel the land but required them to fight for it, and prophecies were given to Timothy as weapons of spiritual warfare, what will you do with the promises and prophecies God has given you? Will you let them languish, or will you rise up and contend for their fulfillment?

Satan and his demons will resist God's word, actively opposing its fulfillment. Therefore, you must engage in the spiritual battle to appropriate God's promises in your life.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, grant me the grace to contend for all that You have given me. Help me persist in the fight until I possess all in Jesus' name, amen!

—Dr. Emmanuel James

God will do it

Broadcast 3987

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3987>

1 Thessalonians 5:24 (KJV) Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

When Yetunde saw God's plan for her and how unworthy she was to fulfill it, she was disheartened and did not truly believe that she would fulfill God's vision for her.

She received strength and power for destiny when she attended a Bible study session and was asked to read today's Bible verse. After reading it, her understanding was enlivened and she now knew that God was the one who would bring His visions for her to fruition.

The devil is happy when God's children feel disheartened and incapable of fulfilling God's will that God reveals to them. God wants us to grow in faith and begin to walk in the reality of what He has given. He wants us to know that He is still in charge, and He controls all things according to His will. Let's not hinder Him by our unbelief and doubts.

It's time to stop taking sides with the devil and begin to take sides with God concerning your destiny. When you continue to believe that 'I cannot do it', you are not taking sides with God concerning your destiny. The devil says 'You cannot do it', but the Lord says 'You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you'. Whose report will you believe?

Go into today remembering that that vision was not your idea, it was God's idea, and God will do it. All you need to do is 'trust and obey'.

Prayer Confession: Faithful is the Lord who has promised, He will surely bring it to pass. So I will trust in Him, and depend on Him. Amen.

—Abraham Damilola Arigi

Walking in the Divine Nature

Broadcast 3988

Click here for the audio version: <https://streamglobe.org/aud3988>

2 Cor 5:17 (KJV) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Yetunde realized that her new nature as a child of God was really different from what it used to be. Unlike before, she now had a true nature of righteousness, and it was now a real struggle for her to walk outside this nature. It was a real struggle because she knew she was violating something precious each time she committed a sin.

For the unbeliever, the opposite is the case. It is a real burden when he tries to walk in righteousness. He is comfortable living in sin, while a believer is uncomfortable living in sin.

The sign that you have been fathered by God is that you no longer have a sinful nature. This doesn't mean that you may not fall into sin. This means that if you fall into sin, you are not comfortable until you are forgiven and cleansed from the unrighteousness (weakness) that produced it.

One reason why many Christians continually violate their new righteous nature is that even though they have a regenerated spirit, they still have an un-renewed mind. They have not changed their way of thinking, but still have the same thought processes as when they were not yet saved. This is why discipleship is very important. Its purpose is to help change the mindset of people to conform to that of Christ.

Go into today remembering that you are a new creation. Ask the Lord to help you renew your mind to this reality.

—Abraham Damilola Arigi