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# MUSINGS OF AN INSPIRED MIND

THOUGHTS FOR VICTORIOUS LIVING

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# **Musings of an Inspired Mined Vol. 1**

Thoughts for Victorious Living

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For Aan...you make me a better person.

## **Introduction to Vol. 1**

Sometimes last year, after a period of protracted prayers, I started waking up to thoughts, random yet unique. They would come at quiet moments of my day, famously in the mornings. I started out writing them in my notes but felt a strong leading to post them at that time.

This would culminate into months of posts made daily with testimonies from each day. I have learnt over time not to come under a spirit of performance, so I never made a post I was not led to do. The experience radically changed my life and that of others around the globe.

I must appreciate my wife, Aan, for trapping these musings. One must always do everything to document divine inspiration, else they are lost forever. I will also appreciate Engr. Tosin Ishola who kept requesting for this compendium and Charity Eke, who compiled the manuscript.

I believe this musings will be a blessing to you as you go through them and glean from the wisdom that has profited many around the world.

“Truth is what we seek for when we are at our wits end”  
~UMA

## **IDENTITY**

When we don't know who we are, we walk through life hoping we are on the right track, constantly feeling we are missing something. When we know who we are and who we belong to, the path of life loses its mystery and we can know better what to do, and what not to do.

## **FUNCTION**

Any time a human organ ceases to function in the way that it was designed to function, it affects the rest of the body. It may kill or damage other organs, put added strain on other organs, or kill the body altogether. Organ malfunction is serious business within the body, malfunctioning of a believer within the body of Christ is just as serious.

## **INTERESTS**

Get someone that enjoys the same stuff as you do. Aan shares my love for travel. She bought that dress in Sokoto when we went visiting the Sultan of Sokoto. We even went to the tomb of Uthman Dan Fodio together.

You can't travel together and then come and say "we are no longer together."

All I'm saying is put the work in, it's not every time you send scriptures and prayer points. Create experiences that you can relive even in your down moments.

## **SACRIFICES**

*Learn to let things go.*

I once had a kitten I had adopted, and Aan didn't like cats (I doubt she likes pets at all). We dragged the matter till it was like "it's either me or the kitten." Children of God, I borrowed wisdom. Now the kitten is in a good place and I'm also happy. Happiness is key.

## **CONVICTIONS**

If your relationship is hanging only on conviction, there's bound to be issues; problems will always come for that conviction. Problem proof yourself by layering your convictions with experiences.

Layer your convictions with:

1. Mentors
2. Family
3. Friends
4. Shared experiences

### **Mentors**

Have mentors, people you can report each other to, not just "yes men" or "supporters" that rubber stamp your stupid actions. Preferably get someone with spiritual oversight, who can see the effects of your decisions beyond the ordinary. Agree to report each other without consequence. If Reverend Ogundare calls me for Aan, it is equal to premium tears.

The very thought of my mentor takes away foolishness from my life and actions. Before I can say "we are no longer together," I'll have to scrutinize and ask myself "what is doing me?" People daily engage and disengage like automatic gears because they don't have a "clutch" in their life. I almost spoilt uncle Bisi's vehicle that year changing gear without clutching.



## **Family**

Involve family, yes! It may mean extra responsibility of being "nice" and "buying gifts," but add this early on. Don't mind the "let's just be doing it, I'll tell them later." It's not when it is quarter-to-go, her dad will say he doesn't like Esan people from Ekpoma. If you need to "fight" family battles start early.

I personally had a rule to involve family from the start. As far as I was concerned, you are not engaged till both families are aware you are seeing each other.

Even if it is one parent, for the situation's sake, let family be involved. Before I tell my mum "I no dey do again," I'll first think about what exactly I will tell her, and how she would go "And she's a nice girl o", "Omo daada in omo yen", "You want to turn heartbreaker"

Especially if your parents have grown fond of your partner...their resistance may be emotional, but you will have to cater for that in your reasons.

## **Friends**

Have friends...most breakups start from "words" and "suggestions."

If you do not surround yourself with people who share the same values with you, you will run into problems. With social media these days, it is important to keep on checking each other's value system.

Many a relationship have been demolished at so called "sisters' hangout" or "brothers time out."

When you are supposed to be nurturing your relationship, you are listening to "25 reasons why he/she is not the one." Why won't you see 22/25 and then conclude?

Words can create or demolish, if you've got healthy friendships and relationships, you'll be more defended against issues. Before I tell Segun, Boss B, Toby, or "the brethren" that I no dey do again, I need to have a reason, not just whims or "feelings."

Understand these things are not to bind one into a relationship permanently, or to force the hand of anyone into an unwilling relationship. It just helps you move away from emotional nonsense and focus on the things that

matter. If you have to part ways after all these, it must be for something concrete.

Friends keep you going. You can plan hangouts with them, create experiences.

Don't give room for competitions/comparisons. You are different, your relationship is different. Some can afford Dubai, if you can't yet, go to Erin-Ijesha. As Aan will say—and I'm still learning—"It is the thought that matters, not the action itself."

Note that your relationship is not a test experiment. Don't test random ideas/ questions/ actions/ foolishness/ stupidity you got from Facebook, Twitter and Instagram on your partner.

### **Shared Experiences**

There are some issues that just the thought of a particular experience will dissolve...give the Holy Spirit material to work with.

Apart from "I love you," "I miss you," "Have you eaten today?" Sit down together and encounter God o! God no go shame us

## **RELATIONSHIPS AND COVENANTS**

I had a chat with my sister, and she showed me covenants she had entered by reason of her marriage.

It's not evil covenant o! I think we've placed more attention on evil covenants that we don't realize there are good ones.

While you cast, bind and loose evil covenants, also work on cutting righteous ones. If you've cancelled covenant of death, establish covenant of life. If you've cancelled covenant of poverty, establish the covenant of wealth.

It's not automatic o! There's something called neutral. That you cancelled one does not mean the other one will enter, life is like manual gear, you must push it to the gear you want.

You should have personal covenant you are bringing to the table, especially if you are the man. Not just every time "I love you" and "I miss you," sister ask him "bro which covenant have you signed with God?"

A covenant is basically an agreement between two parties that transcends from one generation to another. It

gives assurance the one will show up for the other in the way and manner agreed.

It's not a matter of situation (good or bad), or attitude (similarly good or bad), both parties are bound by that agreement. That's why even when you were committing sin, your mother's prayers and covenant with God were keeping you safe from harm's way...yes you!

To fully understand this, you need to understand the nature of covenants in the Old Testament. It's not quoting "scriptures" or "confessions," these are definite encounters you've had with the living God.

My sister has a funny one called "God no go shame us." Depending on your encounter, that's how you will call it-. Jehovah This and Jehovah That, are all names based on encounters and covenants.

Call it icing on the cake, it's just that extra level of assurance knowing God will show up on your behalf and in that situation...except He's no more God. I know a man who it doesn't matter what or where, when he's down to his last cash at home and abroad. If he steps out that day, he's coming back with something tangible.

He will always say "I cannot be stranded," this is not about prayer or confession, he just knows all he needs to do is go out that day, and God will show up, and He has always shown up.

Some people need to go check up with their parents, the secret of their "success" is not far removed from this matter. You are not praying, you are not fasting, yet your own things are happening "sharp sharp," na you dey "blow" pass...you think sey na your power? (P°)  
Some frustrations also come from this reason...

Your father has covenanted you as a missionary, yet you want to blow as a "Wizkid," you can't blow, until you blow for Jesus. These are issues that are no longer preached in the churches today.

Your mother throughout the pregnancy was asking God to just let her have you after all the miscarriages. "He will serve you" she said, now you want to turn "Fintech Badoo."

Sit with your parents and ask questions, you'll be surprised at the answers you get. Many times, the

process of raising you and your siblings made them forget about many things.

Look for cold malt and sit down your pops "oya daddy tell me, kilo sele gaan gan?" Enter the room with mum after the house is settled, tell her you want to have a discussion with her. They usually like those kinds of things and will make room.

For effect, ask them in the middle of the night...you'll never forget, believe me. Plus, it makes for a good story because they will have the time.

### **Responses**

*"Like me that have covenanted my unborn children...they MUST SERVE GOD."*

*"Some people are donating their unborn children already."*

*"I pray mothers in our generation gets this, and the children who wants to go bad, God arrests them eventually."*

*"I know a pastor who used to say to her kids that no matter how bad they wanted to be, they were all going to*

*serve God. Now they are all in ministry despite their shenanigans."*

Don't disregard your physical parents, they were the vessels through which you were ported into the earthly realm. They have some information, stories, background that can assist you in your journey. Knowledge as they say is power. It may not be spiritual per se, but you will be able to decode stuff from it.

### **What if you don't like the covenant?**

What if you don't want to be a missionary? Go and renegotiate your own...you too can donate your own child(ren), so you can enjoy your life. Someone tried to renegotiate his own and God said, "no problem, be ready to come home soon," baba changed his mind o! He's doing it part-time...they still asked him if he wants half-life.

### **Responses**

*"I was about declining getting married before my elder sister but then my dad called and said that he was not surprised this was coming up, God had let him know since I was conceived and that he will not stop it from happening. He said some other things that I was already*



*seeing signals of that month, and his words were just like a confirmation.*

*Sometimes when people are avoiding their parents, I'd be like 'it's like you want to get lost?' Some don't understand, some do.*

*I got my university admission before my elder siblings, and it was the same year they also got theirs (about 5 months interval). At that time, I still dey feel like say time still dey, make I chill make my siblings go to school first. But my dad said no, I went to school that year, and the following year, that UTME thing started. A year after, Lautech tuition rose from N40,000 to N165,000. (P°) So many things happened afterwards that would have stopped me from getting into school few years down the line."*

*"Exactly, but he knew...they might not be blasting tongues like we do, but they know God and know a lot."*

*"I had a score of 25 percent in post JAMB yet I was given an engineering course with a cut-off mark of 70 percent.*

*I am not a particularly serious student, but I was among the best three in my faculty afterwards.*

*I really do not stress myself and that's why I'm always scared of the way God makes things happen for me. But after hearing the stuff my dad told me last year, I don't think I can personally have that kind of revelation by myself."*

*"Those days when relationship was turning my head, my dad would always say 'the moment you start acting desperate, disappointment will be the result.' Learn to relax."*

*"I remember the first day he met my husband, he said 'now, you have gotten it right.' I was even telling him that we are still just friends, he still insisted that I got it right this time."*

*"He just knew! Baba o! You should have told me me all these so I can sow a seed...I like this kind of anointing." We can be better, it's a function of intentional parenting. No matter how "untush" we think these parents are, they have a depth of revelation about some things. I call it blueprints. You can't afford to stay far away from them if you want to understand the journey of your life.*

## **TALKING IN RELATIONSHIPS**

Talking in relationship is hard o, particularly today, where you don't want to sound like you are imposing your "idea," because everybody has their own "idea."

Moods can change from playful excitement to moody silence because of an issue raised...be tactful in your approach. Don't ruin a Shawarma moment with "bro, which covenant do you have with God?"

## **HEARTBREAKS**

Heartbreaks are the worst to deal with, and it's not only ladies that get their hearts broken. Heartbreaks are also in levels, and individual reaction differ, so there's no template to measure against any person.

Ladies are usually more emotional and usually let off on their state than men do. I believe men even suffer more heartbreaks than ladies...if you factor in the number of "refusals." So, it pretty much works both ways.

I remember not leaving the house for 3 days straight, switched off my phone and wouldn't even touch food. There were questions, thoughts, scenarios, imaginations, name it.

A heartbreak is of great concern to God, and you'll find Him near, comforting and healing. There are over 100 verses talking about heartbreaks in the Bible, so you can understand when I say God takes it very seriously. A heart break is an overwhelming state of distress, caused by dashed expectations. Remember "the expectations of the righteous" right?

*He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*

[Psalms 147:3 ESV]

So how do you navigate through a heartbreak? The first question—which is usually not the only question—is "why?" There are others depending on the case scenario "When?" "What?" "How?" But there's always the need to know why.

Somehow it seems knowing why (past/future), helps us to navigate through the pain. Whether caused by death, a breakup, job loss...the question is the same, "Why?"

On that bed mattress, I learnt a valuable lesson; that God is ever ready to give you an answer, one that gives you peace. Usually, we are quick to analyze, walk through the events as they happened in our eyes, reanalyze and look at other possible outcomes if we had made decisions differently. It even hits harder when you know you could have averted it somehow by an act or a statement, or something.

I love the NLT here:

*It is beyond my power to do this, Joseph replied, but God can tell you what it means and set you at ease.*

[Genesis 41:16]

It doesn't have to make sense to anybody, it usually doesn't anyway. But God can bring you peace that surpasses the understanding of any human. I have witnessed many families go through heartbreak at the loss of their loved one. I have comforted brothers who have been "rejected" by sisters. I have seen great expectations and plans dashed and usually the challenge is what to say, what to do to bring the family or individual involved some relief.

Like the friends of Job, most times we just sit and sigh, say a prayer and leave...silence at these moments is better than uttering statements that worsen the matter. Wisdom, they say is profitable to direct.

So, if you get your heart broken, go to the heart mender, ask Him the questions and be ready to listen for an answer, don't just blame and complain, there's a huge difference between both. I remember saying "God, I know you love me and have my interest at heart, why did this happen?" Believe me it wasn't immediate. It took three days to get to that point, take your time, but ensure you get there.

At that moment, I could feel His loving embrace, I could see Him hurting for me...He hurts! He spoke to my heart and gave me peace. I couldn't explain it to the multitude of persons that came asking, in fact it took me another three years to find Aan (love)...yes, that long! But through the waiting, I never lost my peace and joy.

I'm not saying you'll be able to jump back immediately or that magically all will be fine, but through the process, you are shored by restful peace. You are encouraged to move on.

I am usually wary of people that can move on to another person the very next week. But like I said, we are all different.

### **SELF REGULATION**

I had decided early on to proposition only one lady and then get married to her...I made two. Some things don't leave you the same.

Self-regulation is good, it helps you take yourself and matters more seriously.

You see, I went through so much after the first...took me another three years. And no, it wasn't a refusal.

### **WHAT TO DO IN A COURTSHIP RELATIONSHIP**

Talking with Aan yesterday and she hit on a salient point. People don't tell you what you should be doing in a courtship, rather they always tell you what you shouldn't do.

It is funny now because I can remember clearly, different scenarios and it was always "don't do this, don't do that" and "you know you are a child of God, don't underestimate the power of the flesh" et cetera. While I won't downplay the importance of these, it is also important to create a boundary and limits, within which you can safely court. Then, map out what to do within the confines of that space. It is more like a circle being the limit, but what do you fill the circle with?

I had to explain to Aan that growing up, a lot of "sins" were introduced to me from preaching than the world. As funny as it, it is true. I first heard about fornication and adultery from the altar. Pastor will say some youths were kissing each other during camp, all I was doing was bathing in the stream behind the chapel in camp.

After establishing the limits, it is also good to give some advice on what to do, not every courtship takes three months. A brother came to me in his 300 level, and I asked him, "since you'll likely not get married in another say 4-5 years, what do you intend doing in that period?" He replied "we'll be reading the Bible, books, and praying," I couldn't hold back my laughter.



Don't get me wrong, you are expected to do all that and more, but in my imagination, I could see how it would be if that was all they were doing. I know a sister that broke off a relationship because the brother bought her only books for her birthday. Baba was heavenly-minded and "unromantic."

I knew early on that it was going to take some time before Aan and I got married. You should be able to do some realistic calculations, and plan for the long game. As with life, there will always be highs and lows, you need to ensure you are ready for those undulations, enjoying the highs and persevering through the low points.

So, what do you do within the confines of the "don't dos"? Practically, everything possible. Here are a few ideas:

### **Talk**

This, you will and must do.

TIP: invest in long talk SIM cards, I got plugged to one Airtel "Apostolic Church" package. I don't know the details but with 500 naira I could call for a whole month. Once you take away the financial strain of making calls, you'll realize how much you want to talk with each other.

Talk about everything and anything, serious and mundane. Give room for weirdness and awkwardness...uncle don't be uptight.

Many people say I'm likable, but I never used to be this way. Folks who knew me early on knew I never laughed or smiled with anyone. For me it was a mark of seriousness and spirituality. The man of God must be "temperate" in all things. It's funny how we interpret scriptures to suit your needs.

Throw in some healthy banter, be open enough to voice out when offended, it helps the other party know where to stop. The internet is filled with talking material. See a funny video, send it. Someone is talking about something you want the other person's view on, send it to them.

Realize your interests may vary, you are sending Pastor Bimbo's messages, she's sending you vilscos designs with Ankara pattern, something must give. Be genuinely interested in what they are interested in. If she shows you patterns, encourage her to get a book for drawing or create a Pinterest list. If he loves football, go to goal.com and screen grab the latest rankings and send to him.

Talk about everything, I mean everything. "What did you eat?" "I like men with beards" (bro go and look for beard oil and methylated spirit). Ask questions. If you need sample (serious type questions), ask me, I'll send them to you.

It is a time to know everything. How many "witches" are in your family? Are you a size six or size ten? "Government approved four" or "make sense two"?

Don't overlook the little things that comes to your heart and mind, have a place to host it down. Learn to start "serious" conversations, no book will teach that, you've got to find your working style. Approach difficult subjects, past, present, or future.

### **Concerts**

Attend concerts together. The "great outdoors" gives you the privilege of being alone while being crowded. Nobody knows you two except you two. I remember we agreed to go to a concert at the Adamasingba stadium in Ibadan. We danced, jumped, bought akara, potatoes, popcorn. It even rained so hard it became cold...what a nice time to show chivalry, if you know what I mean.

## **Movies**

Look for one you both can agree on. I love movies where they kill five people in the first five minutes, she loves chick flick movies where there are blue skies and beautiful flowers. So, we look for one we can agree on. And when there, *watch* movies.

It will be good to check listings for upcoming movies and send to each other for recommendations. With the trailers, you pretty much have an idea of what to expect.

Plus, you can talk about the movie afterwards, another reason you should choose one with sense. You really can do anything, just get on with it.

Get a Netflix subscription with a basic plan you can create two profiles and watch at alternate times. It helps you to also keep track of what you like and what you don't.

## **Visit The Zoo**

They may not have a lion or a zebra, but they've got some other animals you've not seen in your lives. It's a good place to show your bravery, just keep saying "don't be scared, it won't bite you." You'll be surprised how many people are afraid of snakes, even when separated by a solid glass barrier.

You can also take pictures. Some of our nicest pictures were taken at the Ibadan Zoo.

Animals won't judge you, except the monkeys of course. And don't play too much with the chimps, the male ones are fond of throwing excreta at visitors.

### **Bowling**

It's funny how you watch a lot of stuff in movies but just walk past it in real life. Check to see if your nearest mall has a bowling alley. It's simple, yet fun. Not just PS4 or Xbox One every time.

### **Board Games**

"Scrabble" the tension, "Monopolize" her attention. "Chess" the devilish thoughts. Make the devil "Puzzled," let him ask "What." Have them plenty, they are life savers.

### **Go on Lunch/Dinner Dates**

I personally don't like eating out, I just eat and leave. Call me "Bushman" but I don't get why I'll be taking one spoon and talking for three minutes.

Let each person plan a time out, according to their means. I usually did chicken Rep & La Mango, babe treated me to Radisson Blu Anchorage. My life

changed...me self was talking with chef. Learn to appreciate the little things you do for each other. Quit stressing that you are the one always calling, don't forget the person does the picking.

### **Beaches**

This is my specialty, I love going to the beach, it's my first point of call every time we need a time out. Learn to swim, don't disgrace your ancestors. Hold some change to buy her a raffia hat. Basic plan: 1,000 (suya and two coconuts)

Look at those Bali pictures and improvise. I once stuck an umbrella I brought along in the sand close to the shore. Believe me, we became celebrities on the beach. Take a mat and have a picnic.

### **Boat Cruises**

Take boat rides, whether a yacht or a canoe with propeller. Just ensure you wear your life jacket. Nothing beats being stranded in the middle of the ocean with your love interest. Explore unique landscape by the shoreline.

### **Visit Historical Places**

It's not every time "cruise," put some new historical knowledge into it. Contact Aan for historical places to visit in your city, I'm the executioner.

### **Dance/Music**

Goof around. I can't count the number of goof videos we have. Fill your gallery with those videos and images. Like wine, let them cure in the basement for a year, the older the better, then bring them up later. I suggest using google photos. Spend the data now, it's worth the investment.

Not everything is for the TL, share within yourselves, reminisce on old memories. My "Shakira, Shakira" videos work their magic every time.

### **Sports/Exercise**

- Tennis
- Basketball
- Badminton
- Jogging/running etc.

Don't do sport that one person will be "disgracing" you. If I'm playing with the guys and babe is there, I must be the star of the game...#StarBoy. Don't roll with "foolish"

people that will be dribbling you in her presence. Every girl loves a winner.

### **Shoprite** (My loveliest hack)

Go there together, visit each section. You'll be amazed at how much you can know about each other there.

Me: looking at the prices/g

Aan: it's *quality* chicken.

You don't have to buy it, go check it out. In fact, go to the stores, PUMA, Apple, Nike.

Enter every section and see the "good things of life."

Window shopping will bring out some needed conversations.

Plus, you can take a picture there too...yes, it's cliché, still take it. You will still take at the signboard of Ikoyi registry like everybody.

### **Others**

Visit friends and married couples (with and without children). Observe, discuss, and discuss afterwards.

Learn from the "good" and "bad."

Long drives are good too. Aan saw another side of me on Akure-Lagos journeys. At 150km/h you need to trust only in the Lord thy God. Encourage each other to form good



habits. Brush your teeth twice daily, lay your bed after you wake. Not everybody was raised to do those things.

### **MAINTANING A RELATIONSHIP**

Learn to give and receive compliments. I try at giving, but pretty much suck at receiving. In the words of Tobby "hard guy, hard guy."

Don't set yourself up for heart breaks, send a reminder for important dates and events, be tactical. "This time last year, if they told me you'd walk up to me the next day to propose, I wouldn't have believed it." Mr. man will never forget the 12:00 midnight call.

It's not every time "you did not remember" equals "you do not love me." Baba is thinking about how to foot wedding bills, don't put him down, instead help him. Organize the calendar, send the reminders. For example, "It's aunty Joke's birthday tomorrow, send her a text message."

### **HAVE A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE**

Have a plan for your life. It would seem that God is more interested in the people that have plans, even if it means

disrupting those plans. People with plans are serious-looking people.

Plan in general, plan in specifics. When you plan, you realize what you are capable of, and what you really need God to do. Without a plan, you are giving all up on chance not the "grace of God."

Planning makes your goals clearer; it even opens you up to your own intentions. When you consider the cost, you'll be forced to ask "why?"

## **TIPS FOR MARRIAGE LIFE**

### **1. Feed your husband**

*...and when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat.*

[Genesis 6:3 KJV]

### **2. Intimate relations**

*Adam had intimate relations with his wife Eve. She became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. Eve said "with the Lord's help, I have given birth to a man."*

[Genesis 4:1 ICB]

Don't shy away from intimate relations, whether for procreation or recreation. E be tinz. It's funny, but once 1&2 are sorted out it seems the world is now a better place.

### **3. Support your man's godly dreams**

*So Abram left Haran as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. At this time Abram was 75 years old.*

*Abram took His wife Sarai, his nephew Lot and everything they owned. They took all the servants they had gotten in Haran. They set out from Haran, planning to go to the land of Canaan. In time they arrived there.*

[Genesis 12:4-5 ICB]

Don't be a clog in the wheel of destiny. Don't also support evil doing. Be an Abigail not a Sapphira.

*Abigail hurried, she took 200 loaves of bread, 2 leather bags full of wine, and 5 cooked sheep. She took about a*

*bushel of cooked grains, 100 cakes of raisins and 200 cakes of presses figs. She put all these on donkeys. Then she told her servants, "Go on, I'll follow you." But she not tell her husband. When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey. She bowed facedown on the ground before David. She said "My master, let the blame be on me! Please let me talk to you! Listen to what I say.*

[1 Samuel 25:18-19, 23-24 ICB]

*A man named Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold some land. But he gave only part of the money to the apostles. He secretly kept some of it for himself. His wife knew about this, and she agreed to it.*

[The Acts 5:1-2 ICB]

There's nothing more saddening than a man and a wife collaborating to do evil. Don't get carried away with the "Bonnie and Clyde" syndrome o! They were shot dead just like Ananias and Sapphira.

## **WRITING YOUR HISTORY**

A victor gets to write history. Many times, that history is tainted with whims, bias and prejudices. It is easy to demonize and make people look bad because you have "made it" or attained some level of success.

Anyone hearing your story believes you, after all you made it (and maybe they didn't). It is easy to sway favored opinions in your direction when you have the results.

You can shape the perception of others by the way you tell your story. I have learnt to understand that things are usually not the way they are said/told, particularly when told as a "hustle" story.

A story can make a partner, boss, friend, family member etc. look like the "devil" and "barrier" to success, just because it's told by the victor.

If they had told you that it may not work, it wasn't out of hate or not wanting you to succeed. Perhaps their unencouraging words served as your push or motivation, but they weren't words of trying to limit you or put you down.

I have heard people over and over talk about family, friends, partners etc., in light that I could only be left amazed. Being a victor, you don't have to conclude that these persons were not a part of your victory because of a moment of doubt or unbelief.

I've heard persons say "Xxxx didn't believe in me, now they are rushing me" I just laugh. Perhaps they didn't believe in that way/manner to success, but it doesn't mean they never believed in you. That they told you to consider "adoption" doesn't mean they are against you having your own "miracle" baby. Don't share a testimony of disdain and contempt...Jesus did it, give Him glory!

We are just creating an environment filled with negative energy when we paint people in adverse light. Many folks start getting their real enemies after these statements, because they have in one sentence destroyed a legacy, loyalty, love, affection.

These are real talks people don't have. You have made it, but if you cannot tell an uplifting story without bringing others down, it's a story better not told.

## **FAMILY AND CAREER CHOICES**

I spend a large portion counselling with people who battle with their parents and families with regards to career and whatnot. The real problem is getting them to understand that the parents are coming from a place of love and wanting security.

They grew up in a society that exalted "professional" careers like engineering, law, medicine etc., so it is difficult for them to comprehend a career path in YouTube blogging or freelance work (Yahoo to them).

## **AT THE LAST DAY**

Redeem your calling in these last days, *find it out and execute it as best as you can*. When you stand before the throne of majesty you should be able to say "I gave it my best shot."

## **PROGRESS AND FAITH**

It would seem that the better circumstances improve, the more man does not see the need for God. It would seem

there is a temporal suspension of reasoning faculties as a result of comfort, success or "wins" that make people feel they have outgrown some things.

Your pastor's calls now "bugs" you, you think he's looking to collect your tithes and offering...on top of how many shillings?

## **FAITH AND TRUTH**

I empathize with a lot of my questioners, particularly those who come from a faith where importance is placed on literal meaning of the text and have passed through quality control. Unfortunately, the Bible didn't have that quality control check. The fact that it has some coherence makes it even a miracle!

Imagine over 50+ people writing different books/accounts as inspired, and we can weave a delicate thread around and find God. It is truly miraculous...with errors, yes, but still miraculous. I used to think it was hoodwinking when teachers come up to say "that is not the real meaning, in the Greek or in the Hebrew it means *dunamis* or *parakletos*" I was like, "they have come again."



To paraphrase Ravi, the truth is so sacred that sometimes in attempt to safeguard it, we surround it with bodyguards of lies. *This* is the dilemma of the Christian faith.

## **CHURCH HURT**

I feel hurt when people talk about their exit from Jesus. Mostly due to their experiences and fallout from wrong and erroneous teachings. I am angered when I hear people make blanket statements over issues that are deep and personal to a particular person or scenario.

Your church family hurt you, doesn't mean there are no right churches out there. The pastor involved in some act of impurity, doesn't mean there are no right pastors out there. I just realized I've been manipulated by the doctrine taught in my assembly, doesn't mean there are no correct-doctrine-teaching assemblies out there.

Take your hurt to God, let Him heal you. It is why your first relationship is with Him. Many people encounter church first before encountering Christ, the order should

be reversed. So, we have a lot of Christianized individuals. That you stayed with gorillas for 15 years doesn't mean you are a gorilla, even though you may have picked up some gorilla traits.

When I hear of such fallouts, I'm usually keen to know if the person had an encounter with Christ, or it was just a family weekend chore...usually it's the latter! But by the strength of the voice with which they speak, one would almost pass them for believers. They were merely "Churchians."

If someone gives his life to Christ as a teen or youth because "that is what every other good kid did," you can see it is a set up for ultimate failure. You can be a great Evangelist's son and not know Christ, this is the great paradox of the Christian faith. It is an experience that is personal, intentional, heart-felt and faith-based. Take anyone of these out and you have an empty obligation to fulfill a demand you have not been transformed for.

It is comparable to using a wooden ladle as a hammer...eventually it will break off. It would be painful,

emotional and even traumatizing, but in the end, it was never a hammer. It had always been a wooden ladle. You may not have gotten the privilege to accept Jesus in a personal, intentional, heartfelt, faith-based way, but you can do that today.

*If you declare with your mouth that Jesus is the Lord, and if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from death, you will be saved. We believe with our hearts, and so we are made right with God. And we declare with our mouths to say that we believe, and so we are saved. As the Scripture says "anyone who trusts in Him will never be disappointed." [Roman 10:9-11  
ICB]*

It first starts with your heart. Jesus did not come to make bad people good, He came to give life to dead people, to connect us back to the heart of the Father, God. It is through the change in our nature, we can have a complete turnaround.

It is personal, you must come to that place for yourself, by yourself. It is intentional, no coaxing, no pressure, no fear, no intimidation. Christ is pulling your heart to Him

today. It is heartfelt, it is not so much about the preaching, the preaching could even go wrong, but you've got that nudge on your inside, pulling you towards the truth, don't hesitate. All you've got to do is believe.

My journey in faith got solidified when I was able to bridge the gap between my belief and my head. You see I wanted something, a guidebook or step by step process that could help me deliver results each time. I was tired of faith failure, and it seemed everyone just coasted along. It was like my old Tiger generator, sometimes it works, most times it doesn't.

### **WHY RAPE?**

It's funny there are a lot of conversations around teaching and training. Are you saying the rapist thought it was good, to forcefully have carnal knowledge of another because the situations and circumstances were just "right"?

We need to understand the nature of evil. It has nothing to do with training, advocacy, or even preaching.

*More than anything else, a person's mind is so evil. It cannot be healed. Who can understand it?*

[Jeremiah 17:9 ICB]

*The Lord saw that the human beings on earth were very wicked. He also saw that their thoughts were only about evil all the time.*

[Genesis 6:5 ICB]

The problem we face is not so much as action, but the nature of man. A dog can walk on two feet forever, it still doesn't make it a man. What training and the likes can do at best, is to give a similitude of good that is temporal and transient.

When you post about rape and racial injustice, remember this...until the heart of man is changed and his nature redeemed from the clutches of evil, there is only so much education can do.

Protests (alongside lootings) have gone on for generations. There has been advocacy for and against, for ages. And believe me, we will continue for the coming generations. Some people will cash in, while some will cash out. Agenda will "agend" and a few will become

popular. But how do we deal with the evil that lurks in the heart of mankind?

So, while we are outraged and venting our displeasure. We should also look and ask. What is the nature of evil? Am I evil? What does evil even mean?

Christ found Himself amid a throng which caught a woman in the act of adultery, they were ready to punish her, they protested and rioted on the streets. They asked Him for a judgement, but Jesus opened them up to see the evil in their own hearts.

*They continued to ask Jesus their questions. So He stood up and said, "Is there anyone here who has never sinned? The person without sin can throw the first stone at this woman. [John 8:7 ICB ]*

That change in nature that ultimately affects our actions is given in the person of Jesus Christ. The very words "Go and sin no more!" Only He who had the power to change the evil nature of the heart of man could utter those words. He who through His sacrifice will bring us into newness of life.

*Jesus stood up again and asked her, "Woman, all of those people have gone. Has no one judged you guilty?" She answered "No one has judged me sir." Then Jesus said, "So I also do not judge you. You may go now, but don't sin again. [John 8:10-11 ICB]*

A judge sentences in the hope that you'll have learnt a lesson. Jesus redeems us from the evil nature of our hearts, into the nature of goodness, love and purity. His arms are open, and He will not cast out.

### **WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?**

"But why do bad things happen to good people?" It puzzled me for a long time, the fact that you don't trouble evil, but it just comes seeking. It is like a mathematical formula that doesn't give the same result every time...you get confused.

What is good? Who is a good person? Even if we agree on a standard set of rules for the definition of it, the definition of good births evil, the fact that something is good ultimately begs the fact that others are evil. For there to be a good person, there must be a bad person or

an example of a bad person. We cannot have one without the other.

My first thought is the first murder. Abel was a good person, he did right in the sight of God. Cain didn't do so well and was a "bad" person. It was the first place something bad ever happened to someone good, and it was very bad!

*If you do good, I will accept you. But if you do not do good, sin is ready to attack you. Sin wants you, but you must rule over it. [Genesis 4:7 ICB]*

I am almost tempted to go into the "don't let sin rule over you," but that is not what burdens my heart or makes my head bang.

So, we know for a fact that bad is not an exclusive experience for bad people, even good people experience bad things. But the big question is where is God in all this? It would seem God leaves the stage, letting him get killed only to return to reprimand and punish the bad guy. It's just like we see today, where was God when a lady was getting raped in His house? It would seem like we only see Him when it's time for tithes and offerings.



I'm reminded of this popular scripture from my first blue pocket-sized Gideons Bible: *"for God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son. God gave His Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life (John 3:16 ICB).*

I grew up learning that God is love, but that this attribute was extended to us in that He loves us. To understand love, you must understand the power of choice. You cannot say you are in love if the power and freedom to choose has been taken away from you. It is either manipulation, coercion, intimidation or outright slavery. Love is not Stockholm syndrome where a victim begins to develop affection for his/her offender.

If you love someone, you respect and allow them to make their own choices, in the hope that that love is reciprocated. This is the purest form of love, not one predicated by selfish motives or desires.

The love God shows is predicated by choice, meaning He gave us the freedom to live and choose, ultimately in faith that we choose Him. Remember, God's love is for the world. It is the love of a Father, creator God, with oversight over each creation.

Son when you say "where was God?" I'll respond saying "He was there in that room," then you say "why couldn't He stop the violence?" "Because to violate the choice of a man to choose either good or evil is to go against His very nature—love." If God took away the rights of the assailant in the defense of the victim, He would no longer be God, rather He would be a dictator, a manipulator. Ask yourself, where does it end?

If He punishes the rapist today, He'll have to punish the raped tomorrow...for the heart of man is wicked continually. Where does it end? Rape and looting and lying and malice and hate and stealing and... where does it end? Who should be left standing?

Does God love the victim? He does. Does He love the assailant? He does. To interfere in the defense of the victim violates the love He has for the assailant. Will you serve a God without coherence or without consistency? But He is God, He can do and undo! No sir! For God to be God, He must remain an absolute unchanging entity. What happens when our lawgiver is culpable of duplicity?

My mind is brought to the martyrs, what they had to suffer. God could not violate the choice of the ones who beheaded, stoned, fried, ripped apart, skinned alive His chosen ones. He understands that such actions emanate from the nature of sin, and He brought life in the person of Jesus Christ, saying, "because I live, you will live too" (John 14:19 ICB).

So, while we navigate the choices of every human being, global warming, recession, pandemic etc. We reach out to the world as best as we can, bringing them the life of God. Hopefully, by His grace and power we can bring many away from the clutches of death and darkness, where they can make right choices.

For now, we are sorrowful, knowing the sanctity God has placed on human life. But we are awakened to shine forth bright as light and illuminate the corners and the dark places of the earth.

One heart brought again to life may be the difference to the pain that we all share now.

Maybe we should talk about this now. With all the talk about evils and the likes, it would seem insensitive to talk

about this now, but no better time to add the ointment than when the sore is fresh. While God will not manipulate our choices as human beings...*"The heaven, even the heavens are the Lord's: but the earth hath He given to the children of men"* (Psalms 115:16 KJV).

It doesn't mean we are defenseless as children of God. Many have asked, "does it mean we do not have protection and just must bear with evil even when we are good? If He cannot save in His own house (church), where then are we safe?"

So, I'll use an illustration. In a fight, the referee is in the ring, but he cannot stop one from boxing the other. But say he has given his favorite of the two fighters some cues on how to win the match before the fight and his favorite doesn't use it and loses. He wouldn't because the loser is his favorite, declare him the winner, or fight the opponent.

God has given us tools to battle and combat evil. He has not left us defenseless. Even during evil choices, we can navigate without being hurt.

These days we need to emphasize these things. Sensitivity to the leading of the spirit, faith and confidence in God, the authority of the believer, prayers and intercessions. You'll be surprised that many of these things are now lacking, and we have substituted them for teachings of health and wealth, which is not bad in themselves.

*During that same time King Herod began to do terrible things to some who belonged to the church. He ordered James, the brother of John, to be killed by the sword. Herod saw that the Jews liked this, so he decided to arrest Peter, too (This happened during the time of the Feast of Unleavened Bread). After Herod arrested Peter, he put him in jail and handed him over to be guarded by 16 soldiers. Herod planned to bring Peter before the people for trial after the Passover Feast. So Peter was kept in jail. But the church kept on praying to God for him. [The Acts 12:1-5 ICB]*

Herod was on a killing spree. Evil seemed to be gaining the advantage (rape, racism, murder etc.), and he first took an apostle! Just cut the head off, fiam! And because he saw there was no resistance and it pleased some

others, he decided to pick on another. But when he took Peter, the church raised intercession for him. This was the difference, when we take up the "whole" armor of God, we can stand against the wiles of the devil.

So, while we are saddened and with gloom talk about the evils of our days, let us also take up the equipment that Christ has given us, His word, his blood, his name. Let us take our stand and awake from our slumber. Let us shine bright again and give glory to the father.

I first thought it insensitive to talk about this, but then, we all need to be aware of this. The devil (evil) prowls about looking for whom to destroy.

For now, we preach hope and comfort to those in distress. But we must not neglect to teach and discipline men in the truth of the wisdom and power that lies in God. Else all we'll have are comfort and hope services.

So, when it's time for testimony in church and someone shares how they got delivered from evil. Don't just giggle, saying "mad o!" and return to Facebooking, seek to know how.

## **FORGIVENESS IN SALVATION**

Growing up in a Christian home, I never really understood forgiveness. I mean the concept was fine, but I didn't experience it like it was told. The sorrow, the tears, the conviction and all. It was a simple understanding my mom gave that I understood and a decision I intentionally took afterwards.

I have always maintained that the first time you gave your life to Christ is the day you got born again, every other time is a rededication. It is why it seems churches keep preaching salvation and some people think they are rising and falling. Always make two calls: salvation and rededication.

So, a part of me always wanted to experience that warm embrace. The joy of gladness that was shared each time someone came up to the pulpit. I decided to have my share of the world as soon as I got to the university. I started out with some of the guys of the day and got introduced to a lot of stuff that would only give my mum shivers now. But God sent Ush Marsh (Marshall Daniel) to come and track me down at the boys' quarters of IGEM lodge. We need more Ush Marshs today.

Even though I was back and better, that longing didn't leave me. I wanted to be so bad, then maybe turn so good. It was just there, until God spoke to my heart, and I realized He didn't love me less than He did the drug addict or chain smoker. I didn't have to prove anything to either Him or myself. For so many, those thoughts still lurk in there. You didn't cry, were not bad in that sense, so it's hard to comprehend your being saved.

God shifted my attention to Jesus. What kept Him going? Didn't He feel like sinning? I realized His focus was on His purpose and from an early age He understood the reason He was here on earth. My heart began to move from those thoughts to that of passion and purpose. Where I once thought myself too perfect for redemption, I became unprepared and unworthy for my glorious destiny. It was like I now had my head facing forward instead of looking back.

The advantage of being born again early is for a purpose. Instead of doubting your salvation and giving in to thoughts of backsliding, embrace your purpose. Ask "Lord, what would you have me do?" Christ's love is shed



abroad in our hearts, whether we've kept the commandments all our life or broken every single one of them.

When the pastor said at "around 3am this morning God told me..." ask yourself what he was doing around 3am or go and ask him. "Sir what were you doing at 3am when we were sleeping?"

### **IGNORANCE OR PRIDE**

You are in the bus, they said let's pray, you snicker, put on your headphone and say "nothing can happen." Nothing can happen can either be a statement of assurance or gross ignorance. Understand which one of the two.

They are reciting a watchword in church. "I shall not die but live to declare the glory of the Lord." All you are thinking about is that person you want to meet after service. They said come for morning devotion, you said you are using the toilet and only come out when they are saying grace.

Pastor is anointing people with oil, you are wondering who told you to wear your Brazilian hair to church today, or It's your Gucci suit that is your concern.

They said night vigil, but your work stresses you out, you need all the rest you can get for the weekend and then binge watch Netflix till daybreak. These things add up, you can ask any champion athlete. Everyday carrying weights or running miles add up. You cannot win a fight with untested armor.

## **THE EROSION OF SHAME AND THE POPULIST CULTURE OF RELATIVISM.**

We live in a secular world where the choices and beliefs of everyone should be respected. When we use words like tolerance, we seem to deem it in a positive light when it ultimately means the opposite.

The concept of toleration means disagreement, but a willingness to compromise to save face. How many of us would really want to be tolerated? Imagine if you heard

your friends say they were tolerating your company...you'll feel bad right?

We say we are tolerant without knowing fully what it even means. Tolerance is like an unwilling endurance of a person or thing in the face of circumstance. While we cannot say we are tolerant, we can truly work towards respect.

The idea of tolerance being touted is a form of relativism, where we all hold on to our choices or beliefs in the face of obvious wrong. We want a pluralistic society, where we have a mix of ideas and worldviews constantly being exchanged, but what we really are having are relativism, powerplay and pull-down politics.

The Christian wants the lockdown eased so he can return to the house of God. The Atheist wants the ten commandments stripped off from schools. The gay couple wants social welfare to pay for hormonal treatments so they can have children. How far can we stretch the limits of the law and constitution?

What really holds true? What does it mean to be free? How do we create a law that is morally upright? Who defines what is morally right or wrong?

Shame in cultures has been a tool for keeping the collective mindset and while it has come with its own baggage of ills, it has also helped curb a larger number of ills. The culture that shames abused women speaking up also frowns and shames the men who abuse. The culture that shames victims of rape also shame people who do rape.

If you look at it critically, it is not so much as to the persons, but the acts involved. Why culture might need to critically investigate the intricacies separating victim from instigator, we must also investigate and find out what has happened. Does shame work anymore?

When the great erosion of shame came, it was no longer shameful to smoke, drink alcohol, or have "inappropriate" sex, to mention a few. The globalization of the world even made it faster. We now saw women with sultry attires on ads and violence became the new normal.

YOLO (You Only Live Once), lust, fame, money and ills became the new motto for the music scene, it didn't take long for the film industry to join the bandwagon. Where it was shameful to do evil, it became a norm and a thing of ignominy to be among the "doers."

Young boys now bought bandanas and hung palitos (transistor FM radios) from their sagged trousers copying prison inmates. They made fast rhymes and beatboxed from their mouth with lyrics they could only term as "sick." Contra was the new game in town, and we gradually moved from killing evil monsters to role playing a thug in GTA, shooting, carjacking and carrying out evil schemes to earn points.

Nezer (Ebenezer Adeogun) once told me the world is so warped now that a guy who wins multiple prizes at a school event or plays the guitar with wiz-like dexterity is termed bad, "That guy is bad mehn!" While the guy who scales the fence or escapes from law enforcement is good, "Bobo yen good gan!" Where ladies once slapped and reprimanded men seriously, they now in "bedroom" voices say "Lanre stop, you are a bad boy," and "naughty boy." Little do they know bad is now the new good.

As with everything, time reveals all. We are seeing the fruits of a generation of losing shame. Men who shamefully masturbated in secret bathrooms, now rub their penile erection against the backs of women. Promiscuous women now enjoy exalted public social

status. Even a cross dresser is now a celebrity. Songs are made to celebrate people who have amassed wealth by the tears of others.

Evil lurking in the backwoods has now come out into the streets. We've told it that we are an agreeable people, creating a world where everyone and everything is accepted. We have mangled and reconstructed words like freedom, civil liberty, tolerance, diplomacy to draw it out of the swamps. We have given evil rights and we must live with the consequences. Is shame enough?

Shame has lost its grip and we must find something stronger. If a corrupt steward of public entrustment can still be bold to come forth again to be elected again to power, it is a glaring display that shame has lost its power. What stronger bind can we find to hold back the evil in the hearts of men.

The evil nature of man will only find newer ways to snap its leash...constitution and laws can only do so much. If they worked, why then do we still have crimes? Changing from five years to life, or even death does very little to scare the now emboldened evil in the heart of mankind.

When shame is eroded and relativism takes over, we leave men to their own whims and proclivities.

When you say you are naturally disposed to such and such as an argument for your choices, it really astounds me, because the basal/primal instinct of man has never been the basis of definition of morality. Man has cannibalistic dispositions, but we don't confirm that as being moral.

A married man has dispositions for other women, it is wired in his nature to chase and conquer, but we find it immoral. What then separates your disposition to certain lifestyles, acts and deeds as being moral? Who defines the fine line between which natural disposition is good and which is evil?

When we speak against homosexuality, we do not condemn the individual, rather we speak from our understanding of the sanctity God has placed on man and his sexuality. That you are naturally disposed to this doesn't mean you should give in to it. It's like a married man saying he is disposed to having intimate relations with other women, not his wife.

Jesus gives grace to help us with our evil dispositions, whether natural or learnt. If we keep with the narration of exalting dispositions and making room for everyone, where does it end? Some people are disposed to live their lives like animals. A lady made herself blind because she felt disposed to live life as a blind person. When the lines are blurred, where do we find a balance, where do we find truth?

One is tempted to think that contemplations such as these are for the man with his belly full and no worries. But when we realize from the Epstein Rape Scandal and the Uwa Rape Murder that there seems to be a common thread, even with the differences in climes and social status. We are forced to think about good, evil, morality and the nature of man. Shame, foolishness and the power of God.

### **DO NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL**

I ministered the baptism of the Holy Ghost to a lady yesterday via phone and we spent time praying for over



an hour that I couldn't make it in time for a tennis game with some friends.

I still had to go even though I was late. Not surprisingly, I met the guys at the car park already done and about to leave, save for my earlier text saying I was on my way. When asked what took me, I just mentioned that I had an urgency to attend to. Thinking it was a health concern, they inquired more to know if the person was better, and I just jokingly responded that she was doing better. After all, you only get better with the Holy Ghost, I thought.

After I got home, I began to muse about the event. Doctors don't shy away from claiming they did some good work with a patient. If you ask an engineer, he will tell you he was on site. Ask a teacher, he'll say "sorry, I was in class," and so on.

What this does is create an awareness. So, when there's an issue in the community you know to reach the doctor or the electrician. By that single interaction, we have brought an awareness of the abilities and awakened the minds of people to know that such help is available. When they need to reach help, they are quickly reminded of their interactions and can reach for needed help.

What the devil has done in these last days is to remove every awareness of the supernatural, making it cease from the public space. Movies now show drunk priests and hippy Pentecostal pastors. You now find music videos with caricatures of speaking in tongues and the likes. And mind you he has succeeded. I remember watching the Atmosphere of miracles on air...we all wanted to be like Pastor Chris, at least I wanted to.

We have gradually moved to an era of civility, where people will rather be civil than speak up for what they believe in. We are now scared to pray in eateries, we find it difficult to read our Bibles in public, much less to even preach to our neighbors. We have resorted to talking about "good works" as against the Gospel, Christ and Salvation. We can't even say the work of healing is a miracle anymore. We'll rather keep our mouths shut than look foolish. We'll rather not say anything that we cannot "prove" mentally with facts and arguments.

The ways of God now look foolish, and we'll rather retain our place and position in the minds of men than obey the instructions of the living God. We are now permissive of

evil and allow the sins that are deemed seemingly innocent, after all "God searches the heart." We must repent, we must speak up. We must act in faith and let the world know that God reigns.

### **A QUEST FOR MEANING**

Are we all not just looking for meaning? We all want our lives to mean something, not necessarily publicly to others, but basically even to ourselves.

We all seek meaning, and if you ask, there's really no one answer out there. Some will say find it in your work, in others, in yourself. Others will say it's a destination, while another group will say it is all about the journey. One thing we can all not deny is the fact that we desperately want our lives to mean something, even if it's to the ones that we hold dear. We want to be treasured, valued and respected, not so much for fame or glory (although if that is added to the mix, we'll take it), but just that knowing that the life we live is worth it.

But what if I told you that when it comes to meaning, maybe we are not supposed to search for meaning, maybe we are to *make meaning* of life and living itself.

*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.*

[Revelations 4:11 KJV]

The illustration that drops to my mind as I think about this is a zoo. The zoo doesn't have meaning unless there are animals in it. So, it is not so much for the animal to find meaning in itself, but to give meaning to the zoo. While we are not animals, and not in a zoo, this illustration is instructive. If we were created for God's pleasure, wouldn't it mean our lives lived according to His plan and purpose, is what meaning is all about? The very fact that our lives give Him pleasure should be all that matters to us. Like the monkey at the zoo, giving the visitors pleasure by going about its own day and maybe an occasional display that involves the audience. If man would seek for meaning, it should tally with the meaning for which he was created. If the lion will ever find

meaning, it is in understanding that its existence serves to give meaning to the zoo.

If you'll follow this line of thought without distractions or unnecessary abstractions from the illustration, you'll understand that it is not so much as finding meaning but knowing the creator and finding purpose in pleasing Him. I am most convinced this is the whole duty of man

*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. [Ecclesiastes 12:13 KJV*

When we do this, we are no longer bound by the fears and chains of despair, instead we are focused on the One who created us and gives us purpose. We investigate God and His light, we see who we are and what we are made for—glory, pleasure, praise.

When we come into relationship through Jesus, we are further brought closer to understand that it is not so much as a creator-creation type meaning, but a father finding pleasure in His children. We are no longer like animals in a zoo, instead we see ourselves like children playing in

the field under the watch of a Father who pleases in every action.

We can feel His heartbeat and know what His will for us is. We no longer struggle with darkened thoughts of hopelessness, we can see Him take joy in our very existence, smile, laugh, and even our tears in joy. We know how He feels, and we find meaning in giving Him the highest satisfaction and gratification through our lives. My Bangladeshi friend Sami has started reading the gospels and one thing he has pointed out to me is the personal way the Christian faith brings God close. AB-BA Owner-Keeper (Father).

God is not the big man in the sky (as Mr. Dan will put it), He is our owner and our keeper, our AB-BA or Father. The challenge majorly is so many people have neither had a good relationship with their earthly fathers nor even had one at all. We most times tend to superimpose our earthly experiences for a spiritual one. If you fully grasp this, you'll understand why many people feel that distance or disconnect. For many, God is out to get them. This is emphasized by lopsided teachings and preaching that condemn and judge God to be "the Great Punisher" instead of a loving Father.

When Aan asks me what kind of father I want to be or discusses our involvement in the lives of our children, for a while I'm overwhelmed. I look back at my own experience and I consider what improvements I'll want to make, and the weight of that reality just sets in that many times I cannot even speak.

*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

[Hebrews 11:6 KJV]

When we come to God, we must believe that He is. He is...Abba. We must first settle this if we will make meaning of our existence.

God loves you and wants you to have a relationship with Him. He is not ashamed of you; He is right there waiting for you with open arms.

*And he arose and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more*

*worthy to be called thy son. 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: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.*

[Luke 15:20-24 KJV]

Are you lost? Jesus is calling. Jesus did not come to make bad people good, He came to restore the dead hearts of men, to make them alive to the Abba God.

We should place the Christian narrative out there in the marketplace of ideas, you don't have to force it. Just make it available, this is what the great commandment is about. When we speak, we bring an awareness of the kingdom of heaven. That man has hope while he yet lives and he can experience the fullness of life, love and meaning through Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **YOUR CHOICE**

Anything that takes away the choice of man and puts



him in bondage is wrong. Even salvation is binding only if that choice is not refuted.

## **RELATIONSHIPS**

God brings people into your life that makes your life easier. I served Gombe during my service year and I must tell you travelling 21 hours to get to camp did not put me in the right mood for anything.

I stepped out with a simple urge to make a difference for the post of the platoon leader and won the votes by a huge margin. While others boasted about their past achievements, I just gave a small speech on the need for oneness and the reality of the Nigerian situation.

It was an open ballot, and the military servicemen in charge just said to stand behind the guys you wanted to vote for. For a second I was like "you gave it your best shot" but opened my eyes and it was like the ending of a movie.

Being platoon leader was not an easy task, I woke up earlier than usual, had to be at every training, every game, every meeting and also trying to interfere for your

platoon members. Imagine having to go meet officers on behalf of your platoon members to help them plead for deployment.

I was also told to get myself fixed in the city, it just sounded wrong to me. I was sent four hours away from the city center to a border village. Electricity and roads stopped a town before us. It was like both states disowned the small village.

Interestingly I got a job offer three days after I got there to work with a private survey agency with a fair wage and accommodation in the city. I would come to the village on Monday and leave for the city on Wednesday after teaching my class. The principal was a Christian and made an impression on me, I didn't want to fail him. I could see the joy on his face when he realized we were mostly science related graduates, but that's not the story for today. God brought two ladies to my side. I was minding my business one day when I saw a Peugeot drive into camp, it was a military service man's vehicle. Long story short, Stella and Mama Gee were in my platoon. It was one Dogo (me), one Mama Gee in the platoon. I had to learn human relations by force.

They both became my soft side. I realized diplomacy was the only way to make things work when you have a multiplicity of ideas. Beyond that, they took care of me, imagine having a large size cooler of home cooked food of rice and chicken. I had to travel the last two years again to Kaltungo for Mama Stella and go to see them both again.

## **THE CHRISTIAN**

There used to be a time when if you said you were a Christian, you were hired...now, even if you say "I am a born-again Christian," you still get that snide look.

Born again now runs deals and pad budgets. They are celebrated as "Christians in the marketplace," anointed for exploits and given as examples of "balanced" Christian living. Business owners now must institutionalize corruption to keep afloat "just keep the stealing to 10% of profits." Seriously?!

*Paul looked at the Jewish council and said, Brothers, I have lived my life in a good way before God up to this day.<sup>2</sup> Ananias, the high priest, heard this and told the men who were standing near Paul to hit him on his mouth. [Acts 24:1-2 ICB]*

I couldn't help but laugh...Baba was talking about good conscience, high priest said "Epp me slap him there!" These high priest guys sef, that's how the other one tore his clothes when Jesus was talking too.

Christian persecution is when your business is denied contracts because you refuse to collaborate to do evil. It is not being investigated of fraud you have partaken of.

## **GOOD NEWS**

I'm the good news from Nigeria.

## **REAL LIFE MIRACLES**

So, I kinda had these shirts, one from my secondary school valedictory service, another I bought in 100 level from Sis. Kemi and one short sleeve mum got for me.

Now, I went through some training, dealings and extended prayer sessions with Baba Ogundare and on one of the days of a fasting and prayer, we came upon a flow like that of the Israelites. The one where their shoes never wore, and their clothes never went threadbare.

Now this is a true story. Those that knew me in secondary school, or 100 level days knew I was just a small puny boy (even got intimidated to join some bad boys, story for another day). Many exclaimed after seeing me grow so tall, even a lot taller than them after university days.

And yet, those three shirts still fit on me during my master's program seven years after. This is no joke o! I had to dispose of one of them after I told my mum it was from valedictory service in secondary school. These were shirts that weren't my exact size or almost jumping at that time. I don't understand it, but I knew that season something came, something fell.

### **THERE'S A PRICE TO PAY.**

While preparing for a crusade, we went fasting and praying extended prayers. In one session of a 4-hours stretch, I got catapulted to the venue and was praying on

the live ground of the event. The crusade was held in the exact same place, I had never been there before.

After another extended prayer session after GOBC convention at Osogbo, we went to buy akara and there was this lady that was like "leave me alone, what have I done to you people, just leave me alone." I kid you not, we were at least 1m away from her and in no way holding her bound or even troubling her, save we asking to buy akara.

Spiritual things are real. There's a price to pay. I've seen medical miracles, lame walk, deaf ears restored, blind eyes opened, terminal sickness reversed. We prayed for a man who was extremely sick in a hut. He was but skin and bones, a ghastly sight of death. The room smelt of deadness and if you'd asked me, I'd have just said to let the man go. He could only signal with murmured breaths; God restored him to health.

Christianity has and will never be the "white man's" religion. It didn't start with them, and currently statistically, they fall short in numbers of adherents. Did they help in propagation? Of course, but Christianity has been in Africa way longer than the slave trade. That some people

hold the word in deception doesn't invalidate the truth or reality of God's word.

When we give those talks, we forget that down the line, it's the same "White man's" gospel that abolished slavery, that sent missionaries, medicines etc., down to schools, and brought about development. Let's not for a few bad matters neglect the good and forget the truth. Amen.

There is a price to pay.

### **BALANCING EXTREMES**

I believe a major issue has always been extremity. Rev. Hagin kept on talking about this. I like the fact that he uses testimonies both in the religious and secular spaces. We are still yet to get it right. Once the multitude all went to one extreme, seeking the miraculous and supernatural manifestations of the spirit that we become of no earthly good.

There were healings, miracles, anointings, mantles, prophecies, flows, unction and people would spend days and weeks in tent meetings and would become burdens to their families. Were they anointed? Of course, yes! But they soon realized that not everybody had a ministry in

the fivefold callings of Apostles, Prophet, Teacher, Evangelist and Pastor. While some seemed to have "succeeded" and had something to show for their dedication, others fell into ridicule as the world became more diverse and material things became a measure of your faith in God.

The issue mainly was that of callings, should we all be anointed? Yes! Are we all called to be five-fold ministers? No! So, the other extreme began to develop, and the church moved into a phase of earthly good and making a mark in the secular space. +Flow meetings gave way for finance seminars. Brothers' all-night meetings became forex trading sessions. Sisters' meetings became entrepreneurship and skill empowerment workshops. We also were able to get a mark on the secular world, but men had left the anointing.

Now we are losing men to secularization. We'll rather spend over ten hours on a certification course than two hours in the presence of God. We have left faith healing and trusting God for human methods and human templates. Success is no longer measured by God's plan but the amassing of wealth and material possessions to show. We are now at another extreme.



## **WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME?**

When was the last time you prayed for someone's healing? When was the last time you waited on God? When was the last time you finished your Bible? There's a price to pay.

## **THERE IS A METHOD TO BACKSLIDING**

I've learnt that there is a method to backsliding, there's also a method to walking with God. You don't backslide in a day; in fact, the modern-day backslider is not one that refuses to go to church or attend meetings. It is one that has begun to replace God. "But I won't suspend my brain na!" You can only take this statement so far.

It's like a cake baked with man's wisdom but sprinkled with some sugary spiritual lingo.

*Write this to the angel of the church in Laodicea:  
The Amen is the One who is the faithful and true witness. He is the ruler of all that God has made. He says this to you: I know what you do. You are not hot or cold. I wish that you were hot or cold! But you are only*

*warm—not hot, not cold. So I am ready to spit you out of my mouth. You say you are rich. You think you have become wealthy and do not need anything. But you do not know that you are really miserable, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. [Revelation 3:14-17 ICB]*

*I advise you to buy gold from me—gold made pure in fire. Then you can be truly rich. Buy from me clothes that are white. Then you can cover your shameful nakedness. Buy from me medicine to put on your eyes. Then you can truly see. I correct and punish those whom I love. So be eager to do right. Change your hearts and lives. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him. And he will eat with me. He who wins the victory will sit with me on my throne. It was the same with me. I won the victory and sat down with my Father on His throne. Everyone who has ears should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. [Revelation 3:18-22 ICB]*

You think you are wealthy and need nothing from God. Ask yourself, when did tasks and duties in the house of God become a burden? When did fasting become an

issue? When did attending Bible study and prayer meetings become a challenge? Like I would always say that you can now afford Farmfresh yoghurt does not mean you do not need God.

People at the top echelons of wealth understand their need for God, my interactions with the children of a few opened my eyes to see the truth. Are they doing it from a place of fear and insecurity? Possibly, but they understand their need for God.

People at the lower rungs of life understand their need for God. I was watching the live stream of Erio 2020 and it occurred to me that someone stumbling on it might ridicule the prayer points being raised. Don't let current comfort replace your need for God.

When you are comfortable, the next quest is one for meaning. Let God guide you into meaning. I understand it might have been an oversight, trying to make life better and securing yourself in a place of material well-being. But once you've gotten there, let God give you a new vision, either in the household of faith or in the secular

space. Your vision (not ambition) from God, will give you the drive.

I've seen so many people relax. They were driven by the fear/hatred of poverty. Sleepless nights, prayers and hustles and now they are well off, but they cannot find meaning or the drive to continue. It seems like things have plateaued. No new pursuit, no new challenge/vision. They resort to sensual escapades and philosophical endeavors (aka enlightenment).

## **VISION**

Let God give you a guiding vision. Take out time and revisit your consecration. Take out your old notes and spend time perusing through the things he's taught you. Lay down in surrender and fellowship with your owner father.

It takes a method. I have counselled people who are trying to find their way back. Don't do spiritual chores, chase after fellowship. You know that warm embrace of the master. Those days you cried because you saw His

glory, when the oil flowed down. Forget these routines we've mentally molded for ourselves (read and go) to satisfy our minds (I've sha done it), fellowship is the key.

### **STOP BEGGING FOR ALMS**

This is your spirit talking. You are withdrawing more than you have deposited. Don't enter a spiritual deficit. Your mother's prayers (trust fund) have been exhausted. Before the acceleration stops and the progress comes to a halt, take up your cross!

You have spent (X+) years in the faith, your angels are tired of your complacency. Stop begging for spiritual alms at the beautiful gate. Rise up and walk. Get back to your consecration. Tongues without consecration is like loading a faulty machine with batteries...ko le work! Fix the machine first. Let the Holy spirit conquer you first, before doing miracles on your behalf.

### **DOGMAS OF THE FATHERS**

I was walking back from my jog when I realized this...the legalism and dogmas of the Fathers was not to subjugate

us, but to shield us till we are matured. "Don't wear this, don't put that on, don't go there, don't stay beyond 9pm" etc., all those dos and don'ts.

I remember when we had small chicks, and we'd paint them to avoid them being picked up by hawks. The reason they forced you to change your dressing, your hairstyle, the company you keep etc., was to prevent the enemy from seeing you. When you were dressed in church clothes and toted your Bible, they knew you had chosen to be different. From afar they would say "oti born again" even though the fullness of the redemptive work had not been completed in you.

They shielded you from wrong associations and ensured you had the right conditions to grow and mature in your knowledge of Christ. Only then were you allowed to bask in the grace you have always had...you have become a son.

We have destroyed the new generation of believers by telling them it is okay to keep their old lifestyles. "God looks at the heart," "grace is available," "we are all just hanging in there," has been the messages of doom that

has placed many under perpetual stunted spiritual development.

Men who have not experienced true birth and spiritual processing now mount the pulpit and deliver their weak gospel under the guise of grace. A Pastor still struggling with sin will not possess the strength of conviction to demand righteous living from his flock.

*Sin will not be your master, because you are not under law but under God's grace. So, what should we do? Should we sin because we are under grace and not under law? No! #Selah [Romans 6:14-15 ICB]*

True sign of spiritual growth is, not falling into the same sin. Don't let the devil get you, you have been begotten of the Father.

*We know that our old life died with Christ on the cross. This was so that our sinful selves would have no power over us, and we would not be slaves to sin. Anyone who has died is made free from sin's control. [Romans 6:6-7 ICB]*

The devil came with the gospel of peer mentors. The place of fathers got eroded, instead we had spiritual uncles and brothers who didn't mind what was wrong with us (because they had their own struggles). "God will help us all, His grace is available" they said. A father would have looked and said "you have done foolishly, get that wrong spirit off you."

They said it was okay to keep ministering "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Ha! They said it did not matter what we wore, because God focuses on the heart. It did not matter the demonic songs on our phones, just ensure you attend choir practice, and you wear the cloth selection. They said "God understands," they killed us. Now we are in a club of spiritually defective people. We now have an association of the dead among the dead.

## **RESULTS OR EXCUSES**

What will you give as an explanation for your life? Results or excuses? Get into the word for yourself. Don't let the



permissiveness of men take you away from the glory of God. Let God give you instructions for your life.

*But my servant Caleb has a different spirit. He follows me completely. So I will bring him into the land he has already seen. And his children will own that land.*

[Numbers 14:24 ICB]

Don't let the devil take the word of God from you in exchange for bread. Wise men seek Jesus, humanly speaking they don't have to, but there is wisdom in seeking after God.

Let your dreams, desires, fears, doubts, worries, concerns, interests etc. drive you to God. Let everything you are and will ever be bring you into His holy presence.

*...they made me tend the vineyards.*

*So I haven't tended my own vineyard!* [Songs of Solomon 1:6 ICB]

## **SPIRITUAL DIET**

Bro X daily spiritual diet Tuesday:

-1 page morning manna. 5 minutes read (Thank you Jesus for your word)

- 1 verse of the day from Bible app (hmm...word!)

- 5 hours on social media (combined hours)

- 3 hours naija music (na traffic cause am)

- 2+ hours Netflix (chilling)

Na wetin bird chop na him e go take fly.

### **CHOICES**

What are you choosing? Your choices talk more about what you have on the inside. Let no one deceive you, if find yourself choosing wrong, then it means there's wrong inside you.

*It is the evil that a person wants that tempts him. His own evil desire leads him away and holds him. [James 1:14 ICB]*

What is inside you? Bro, you did not fall into sin, if wasn't a mistake, it was already inside you! If you find yourself choosing certain things, the desire is already within you. Purge yourself. Don't let the devil have a handle on your life

*...for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me. [John 14:30 KJV]*

## **WOKE CHRISTIAN**

There's nothing like a "woke" Christian, the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy ghost. Follow Rhema of God's word, not Rema on Instagram. Stop working on getting saved, stop working on doing right. Let God do an inner work in you, change you from the inside. It's an inside work. On July 19, I was baptized by immersion by the river side underneath the bridge leading to Agbara. I remember seeing my first live crayfish while I was inside the water...so much for baptism.

I stood before the brethren and I declared "My name is UMA, before coming to Christ I used to be a liar, a petty thief, disobedient and disrespectful. I was a sinner lost in my sin, but Jesus Christ saved me with His blood. I am born again and declare to the whole world that I am a new man in Him."

I was asked if I was ready to leave my life of sin and embrace my new life in Him. Then I was asked if I understood the representation of the baptism. It was an outward sign of the inward grace that I had received. I remember being asked this question during my foundation school in the university.

I knew what I was saved from. This idea that you can come as you are and remain as you are a demonic idea. It's X years now, the life of Christ has still not changed anything in your life. The things you used to do; you still do. The places you used to go; you still go. The people you used to frolic with, you still frolic with. What have you been saved from?

Purge yourself. Let go of those lustful desires of the heart, don't continue this way. The anointing cannot be placed upon human flesh. There's nothing worse than eating a bad groundnut, it spoils the taste of the whole mouth. While a stone is unpalatable, it is identifiable and removable from the mouth. A bad groundnut is worse than a stone in the mouth.

Don't remain a carnal Christian, let the grace you have received work a change in your life, let it make you anointable. Don't be a Crayfish Christian...na condition them make am bend. Get rid of those weights and sins that easily resets you back to your old life. Take them one by one and deal with them in the place of prayer. This is the burden of sanctification.

*And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. [1 John 3:3 KJV]*

This second half.

Purify

Purify

Purify

## **GIVE UP AND DIE**

Rid yourself of those things that do not make for righteous living. Do a spiritual audit, weigh yourself on the scales. Forget your analysis and forecast, give up your mental analysis. Let God's spirit work something new in you. Don't compare yourself with Sis. XX. That Bro. XY does the same, doesn't make it is right. Let the spirit of God define the rules of engagement for your life.

Are you tired of the dullness in your church? Are you tired of spiritual jamboree, high and emotionally excited in the sanctuary, but being constantly defeated? Is your life a sinusoidal curve? Give up and die to your flesh.

*No! We died to our old sinful lives. So how can we  
continue living with sin?*

*So, do not let sin control you in your life here on earth.*

*You must not be ruled by the things your sinful self  
makes you want to do. Do not offer the parts of your  
body to serve sin. Do not use your bodies as things to  
do evil with, but offer yourselves to God. Be like people  
who have died and now live. Offer the parts of your body  
to God to be used for doing good. Sin will not be your  
master, because you are not under law but under Gods  
grace. [Roman 6:2,12-14 ICB]*

It matters who you flow with. It matters what you listen to. It matters what you say. It matters! Remember what heights you have fallen from. Forget those mental self-help materials, seek after God for the restoration of your soul. Let Him fix you.

*We know that we suffer because of our sins.*

*Lord, do something to help us for the good of your  
name.*

*We have left you many times.*

*We have sinned against you. God, you are the Hope of  
Israel.*

*You have saved Israel in times of trouble. But now you  
are like a stranger in the land.*

*You are like a traveler who only stays one night. You  
seem like a man who has been attacked by surprise.*

*You seem like a warrior who is not able to save anyone.*

*But you are among us, Lord.*

*And we are called by your name.*

*So don't leave us without help! [Jeremiah 14:7-9 ICB]*

Samson is a personality that surrounded the most part of our childhood. Books, movies, cartoons and of course Sunday school. The connection between his Nazarene consecration and his performance was always highlighted. He was doomed the moment he got his locks cut off. Don't find yourself in Delilah's laps. But at every point he made exploits and defeated his foes, the spirit of the Lord was upon him. There was a link.

It would seem the Holy spirit would come, check him out, find him in his consecration and move upon him, working great works through him. When he violated his vows cumulating to his hair shaved by Delilah, he lost that privilege. Was the Holy spirit still moving? Yes! On him? No!

Even now that the Holy ghost is given and is resident in us, the modality is still the same. If He'll move, He needs to find us in our consecration. Samson didn't think so much about the hair, after all, he had broken all the other rules and still had the Holy spirit come upon him. He had eaten from a dead animal, what did it matter if the hair locks were gone?

### **SHAKE IT OFF**

And so, he shook himself...this is where we've found ourselves, shaking ourselves, hollering and jumping and shouting and screaming, but no power, no Holy ghost. Fake miracles and pushing the heads of the saints to make them fall under gravity. Emotional chords and melancholic music to keep the "flow." Shaking ourselves.



When was the last time the spirit came upon you? When was the last time you acted in power? When did you last experience the anointing?

Any shaking without the Holy spirit is gymnastics. Sweating, panting, vibrating, crying, coughing ati bebelo is African Magic without the Holy spirit. Stop shaking, the devil knows there's nothing there...stop shaking. You are already underweight, don't lose more weight. Stop shaking.

## **OSMOSIS**

os-mo-sis:

noun

1

### **BIOLOGY •CHEMISTRY**

*A process by which molecules of a solvent tend to pass through a semipermeable membrane from a less concentrated solution into a more concentrated one.*

We are not seeing conversions because we are longer consecrated (concentrated). When the concentration is the same; no movement, no translation, then everything

is in a state of spiritual equilibrium. Of course, Jesus is the semipermeable membrane. Too much book, no o bless you Mike!

### **FIXING THE SYSTEM**

When students realize they can cheat the system and get away with it. We not only give a bad impression but invalidate the work and effort of those who have chosen to learn. Too bad the system doesn't make it seamless to punish the caught ones. It's from one committee appointment to another, till even you that caught the person is tired. I personally feel it is geared to tire the lecturer out and acquit the student. People that show *milk of human kindness* for someone that chose to do evil have something wrong with their own selves.

On this panel, two different individuals came back from industrial training. Two different companies, two different states, two different projects. But they had the same images and the same description of the equipment etc., and a close write up. We had to interrogate them. Now, we all knew something was wrong and fishy about the matter, but the way they both swore by their work, you'd

be surprised. They both even gave different names for the person in the same picture as their supervisor.

I was infuriated, but when you have senior colleagues who have seen it all and "had" to come into the matter. Another colleague said "you Geotech guys, you take things too hard." I just laughed. We were trained by Prof. S.A. Ola and got his "no-nonsense" disposition to academic matters. It's one reason we still have one of the best Geotech programs in the country.

I have told my students over and over, the reason above all others that I hate cheating in exam hall is because throughout my undergraduate days, cheats will come out and mock my friends and I after the results came out. "You that refused to cheat, see what you got now." They even taunted my friend Segun that he chose to become a "pastor" because he was failing academically...Segun is now a Dr.

It's the reason I'll not let the smallest microchip go. I'll not overlook the i-watch. I'll roar like a lion and make them fill forms. The worst moment was when a colleague from a different school came and was spreading the gospel of

"let them cheat, as long as they don't make noise." I was mad! She kept on defending her stand in the face of a few of us who kept correcting her position on the matter. As far as she was concerned, that was how she got through school.

So, when my dear ASUU fights for the standard of tertiary education. I hope they come back home and do due diligence. I hope they look inward and find a way to tackle several misnomers in the system.

I once taught a PGD class where I offered extra credit assignment for those who didn't make up to the minimum pass mark. It was the best I could do, because as per standard, nobody fails. When they started taking up master's forms and entering the master's program, we then realized there was a problem.

I believe funding and a good salary structure will solve some part of it. A hungry lecturer is the devil's "workchop." I remember when my vehicle was involved in an accident. I drove into the parking lot of my department with the vehicle, a student who saw it offered to give me 10,000 naira.

Now, he had graduated at the time, but I just imagined if he was a current student taking my course. Boy! I needed that money, it didn't finish the work, but it got me some way with the repairs. We leave our most noble civil servants at the mercy of fiendish students.

The reason the police and other security agencies get the "fat" pay they do, is so that they can do their duty without external inducement. Education needs to be guarded as such. One of my professors didn't even realize he was not paid salary for 3/6 months, I think. It was then I realized why he could take his right stand on such matters.

With more and more universities bracing the online learning abroad and countries requiring less certification and emphasis on skills. I can only pity the Nigerian university system. Very soon education from international schools would be available to the "middle class" bracket. A situation where you take all your classes and exams remotely and only travel for a graduation ceremony or not at all. World Class Education will be at the grasp of everyone.

So, it's final year project defense and this guy had been playing truant with his supervisor. I oversaw coordinating the project work and calling them in for their defense. This guy hurriedly comes in almost close to the end with his printout. His name was not on the list, but knowing students and their last-minute preparations, I took his work and then head on to announce it inside.

The supervisor denies him and then a senior colleague takes up his case. We even allowed him to defend what he came with, but nobody could stay in the room. Ashley baba had used "special package" to the venue. We couldn't take it and finally had to send him out.

He confessed to have gone to do a "favor" package to usurp his lecturer. They still tease me till today because they think the package worked on me. Me that I collected his work because I pitied him...maybe it's still the favor package sha. Who knows? Baba thought the more he used the better the favor. I'm serious we were literally choking in the room o!

Dude couldn't even defend what he brought in. On interrogation, he confessed to have concocted the work. Musa has seen a lot at the gate.

One last hilarious one. A few weeks to the defense. I go to my lab (like I always do) at night to work and help my project students. Who do I find in front of my lab, on my white chair with a young lady on his lap? Na Philip o! A final year student. A senior colleague of mine was his supervisor and he had requested that I assist with coordinating data collection for his students and Philip was one of them. On collection day we couldn't find Philip, but lo and behold, here is Philip romancing a lady in front of the Geotech lab, of all places to romance...where there is pore pressure and deviatoric stress.

Philip later enters the defense panel and starts mumbling jargons o! Now people think lecturers are wicked people. We are just tactical and look for the right time to pass important messages.

### **MR LECTURER**

Me sef have walked out of a noisy class o! Na me waka come back! Of course, they begged me na...Mr. Lecturer.

I will always tell troublesome students I'll make them work for their grades. In my words "I'll make you a serious student." I simply take away any perks and privileges I'll normally give other students. It's simple, stricter grading and an unemotional recording of the results; no rounding up. They don't joke with Geotech folks.

A few have surprised me. I hold no grudges; I have fulfilled my goal—make them serious. I start off my senior class first with a thought, quote or word. We talk and discuss about it for five minutes. This helps them to settle down and listen attentively. I mean real life talks. I believe many of them were there for the talks than the lecture. I usually gave an open platform to students. Say you feel the class is boring and you don't think you'll need to attend for the semester, just let me know. I'll rather have a class willing to learn than a multitude that will distract us.

I realized walking out of a class is weakness. It's your class, take charge of it. Even if it means sending out half of the class. Usually, the guys at the back are up to no good. 100 percent of the time, nothing good happens at the back.



## **MINISTERS' CHILDREN**

I personally believe the greatest work of salvation, if you can categorize them, is the saving of the children of Christians (ministers to be precise). It's one reason I'm amazed at how my parents—mum in particular—went about it. Name it, we can sing, quote scriptures, speak in tongues (a portion of the spirit of the parents), preach, give word *from* wisdom etc.

We have seen it all, hypocrisy, church fight, who get belle for who, malice, gang up, someone even spent church money. Dad used to joke about the person and say "child of God has spent God's money." So, for them to encounter God, you know it must be a great work of salvation.

We've seen ministers' impregnate sisters and scam brethren. If you're a saved minister's kid, that's a priceless work of salvation. In fact, apart from joy in heaven, they also rolled red carpet. Something on the inside, working on the outside. Oh, what a change in my life!

## **SHAKE IT OFF INTO THE FIRE.**

The devil wanted to kill the Apostle Paul, so he sent a storm to kill him at sea. But God saved him, and he survived. But as he gathered up sticks, the same devil sent in a serpent in the sticks. But he shook it off into the fire. God had saved you, but the devil is unrelenting. When he brings that sin to bring you back into the dead-life. Shake it into the fire.

The Holy ghost is the fire! The energy of the spirit gives you the power to live the life of God. Engage the Holy ghost. Conduct a small experiment for a week. Instead of social media, read your Bible (assign just one hour to checking important stuff). Instead of entertainment, spend time praying, worshipping, and fellowshiping with God. Instead of watching movies, watch messages and take notes and pray.

Do a "no holds barred" analysis after a week. No pressure to continue o! Just do it and see if you are any different. Let God be true, and every man be a liar. What you sow, you shall reap.

*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but*

*after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ  
Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

[Romans 8:1-2 KJV]

You know when people quote this scripture, they say there's no condemnation because they are now in Christ...far from it.

Condemnation not so much as in judgement but that there is nothing to condemn about because we are in Christ. This means on entry into Christ you have been moved far from having anything that brings condemnation because you now walk after the spirit not after the flesh.

When you walk after the law of the spirit of life, you cannot be found guilty of the works of the flesh. Remember the story of Jacob and Laban...the flock with spots and "condemnation" were to be his lot because only sheep without condemnation were utilized in the sacrifice. So, there is no spot or wrinkles with those who yield themselves to the spirit.

**THANK YOU, LORD**

Thank you Lord!

Thank you Lord!!

Thank you Lord!!!

Thank you Lord!!!!

Thank you Lord!!!!!

### **A DEAD MAN**

A dead man has no choice. People are not dead that's why we have a gospel of "shine your eyes." It's funny because Adam didn't have a choice. God made her from him, and he received her by revelation. The animals? He couldn't fellowship or have communion with them. Don't compare Eve with the animals!

We still consider men and women after the flesh, that's why they say if you are a "boobs" man, an "ass" man or if you like "broad chested" or "tall men." Inside church! Lord have mercy! What happens when figure eight turns to figure zero. What happens when broad chest becomes slate. Let the Holy spirit work his work in you. Marry by revelation. Let nothing else move you than the word of God.

### **CREATIVE CURRENCY**

The currency you have to trade with as a creature (ive) is not necessarily your skill but your time. Your skill is expendable and at some point, there is really no marginal utility from learning more or skilling up. Understanding the optimal maximization of the limited resource of time is key to making profit as you go on.

Think of workflows...how do I make my workflow faster? It is not just a question of skill; it is even more of time. Think of putting systems in place to free your time up, then work on optimizing those systems. At some point a 10% effort in marketing will yield better returns than a 50% investing in skilling up. A 20% investment in capturing a better market is worth more than 60% on buying latest equipment.

Time is the resource you want to maximize as a creature (ive). Don't just aim to do things better, work to do them faster. The 1% add-on that will waste 200% time may not be worth it. There is minimum viable service/product option that will earn you a four-star rating from a client. Once you do that, speed delivers the remaining one star. We watch news but move it away when they talk financials. We read newspapers but only the crime,

cartoon and sport sections. Force yourself to learn what you have not been taught.

### **A QUIET PRAYER**

*Lord, I have heard the report about you.*

*Lord, I fear your work.*

*In the course of the years, renew it.*

*In the course of the years, reveal it.*

*In all this chaos, remember to be merciful.*

[Habakkuk 3:2 GW]

### **GRACE**

I have spent the most part of yesterday talking with a student of mine. The teaching of grace is truth that unfortunately did not get the acceptance of the fathers early enough to help guide it properly within the body of Christ.

They refuted it so much that they even went against it. "It was a license to sin" they said, but you can do nothing against the truth but for the truth. Now the truth about

grace abounds, to the glory of God. But there is the error of misguidance and use. You see, the Ibuprofen can kill pain when it is administered as prescribed by a doctor. But when you take it because you know it just kills pain, you begin to abuse it.

Many believers first heard the gospel of grace from radio, TV and MP3 messages outside their own church homes. Some tried to consult their doctor, but the doctor was not having it, or not so knowledgeable about it, or understood some of the side effects and ignorantly fought against it. So, they rebelled and changed their doctor, changed their hospital (church). They left their family clinic and went to register at one pharmacy (tapes, MP3 etc).

As long as they dispensed the grace truth they were satisfied. It cured their worries and their pains. The pastor with a dossier on their spiritual medical history didn't matter anymore...we now have grace. Even their parents who had traditional cures (agbo) didn't matter anymore, this wonder drug was the real deal—Grace!

Now we have grace! No anointing, no power, no faith, no spirit flows, no healings, no miracles, no testimonies. It's

a huge price to pay for grace I must confess. "A believer cannot but sin, because he has not grown. He should desire the sincere milk of the word, so that he can grow." This is a very subtle message I have heard under some teachings of grace. While I teach the truth about grace and try to help people understand it as a truth from God's word. I am also very careful with my use of language.

The truth about grace lies in the following:

- The understanding of righteousness and how it is obtained.
- The separation between the nature and action.
- Appropriation of the things already given through knowledge and faith in Christ Jesus.

At no point do we tell a believer in Christ that he "cannot but sin" whether he is grown or not. I'll take my time to explain as basically as I can.

### **On Righteousness:**

Righteousness is simply as basically put, having a right standing with God. It cannot be earned by works, either good or bad. In fact, the law came to prove that no man can be righteous by works.



*...because no one can be made right with God by following the law. The law only shows us our sin.*

[Romans 3:20 ICB]

Jesus came as a substitute for us, imputing His righteousness upon us, it had nothing to do with works. All you need to do is to believe and confess in the process of salvation. We are made righteous through the work of Jesus. So, one sin of Adam brought the punishment of death to all people. But in the same way, one good act that Christ did, makes all people right with God, and brings true life for all.

The standing we have with God has nothing to do with our works but with what Jesus has done. Whether outside salvation or within salvation, works will never be a criterion for a right standing with God; this was the first argument the fathers had, even though they understood it. To them it was going to downplay on the importance of holy living and Godly conduct. Looking now they were right.

**Nature and Action:**

When we come to Christ, the nature of sin is taken away and the nature of God, that is the life of God, is given to us.

*If anyone belongs to Christ, then he is made new. The old things have gone; everything is made new! [2  
Corinthians 5:17 ICB]*

We now have a new nature, we are no longer slaves to sin, we are instead alive to God and slaves to righteousness.

*In the past you were slaves to sin—sin controlled you. But thank God, you fully obeyed the things that were taught to you. You were made free from sin, and now you are slaves to goodness. [Roman 6:17-18 ICB]*

Our former nature of sin is done away with, and we now have the nature of God. Remember we have settled the issue of righteousness already. So, with this new nature the believer is no longer a slave to sin. Does it mean he sometimes doesn't commit the action of sin. No! So, this is where we make a distinction between the nature of sin and the action of sin. It is nature of a dog to bark, in fact

we'll think you crazy if you bought a dog and complain that it barks. Can a human being bark like a dog? Yes! Does that make him/her a dog? No! So even though the believer has been saved from the nature of sin, he can still choose to yield his members to commit the action of sin.

*So, do not let sin control you in your life here on earth.*

*You must not be ruled by the things your sinful self makes you want to do. Do not offer the parts of your body to serve sin. Do not use your bodies as things to do evil with, but offer yourselves to God. Be like people who have died and now live. Offer the parts of your body to God to be used for doing good. Sin will not be your master, because you are not under law but under Gods grace. [Romans 6:12-14 ICB]*

This is liberating because many people have believed they lost their salvation at the point of sinning. They keep living sinusoidal lifestyles. No! You are righteous and no work (good or bad) can change that position before God.

Fathers: so good works nko? This is a demonic gospel o!  
Are you telling people to carry go, no shaking?

Now the right standing with the Father helps us to go back to Him when we fail to receive strength, grace and help. If we were lost, we would have to start all over again...this is the major distinction. We are not eradicating the teachings of the fathers. Sin is wrong and we still believe it is. We are saying "you have access to the father to receive help in your times of need."

When a man understands his new nature in Christ, his actions are now shaped by that new nature. It becomes the governing authority in his life, such that the same way a dog barks naturally, he lives the life of Christ naturally. This is where appropriation comes in.

**Appropriation:**

Now as we come into our new life in Christ, we begin to appropriate the things that have been given to us, wisdom, health, strength etc. This makes our lives better as Christians. But saying a believer "cannot but sin" is giving license to sin. A believer chooses to sin. He is no longer a slave to sin. In fact, it would take breaking your bond to righteousness to go ahead to sin. Whether his choice is determined by lack of growth or otherwise, doesn't negate the fact that it is choice.

This is why we have believers who explain away sin. "I am sha saved, I am heaven bound...I'm still growing." We don't give excuses for sin; this has been the worry of the fathers. When we erode the "choice" of a believer on the issue of sin, we are doing the body of Christ a great disservice.

You don't have a skeleton inside of you, you are basically a brain inside a skeleton. You are piloting a bone mechanism that's using meat armor. Too much "Attack of The Titans" and "Aquarion."

### **GO GLOBAL**

Join an international volunteer group or association. There are a lot of volunteer activities you can do from the comfort of your home. Red cross, Be My Eyes and many more...do something beyond your physical space, go global!

## **INVESTMENT**

If you are like me:

- Work
- Earn
- Save
- Invest

Rinse and repeat till you don't have to do the first.

I didn't understand it early till I saw someone pay his house rent from interest earned from a cycle. If you can run your life from the returns on your investments, you have unofficially retired from your labors. If you work, it's because you choose to.

Someone I know who needed some money, Just fixed his capital for three months and raised the amount. The prize he paid to raise the money is simply denying himself of the capital for a period of time.

Investment is not only forex or stocks, if you don't have good internet or a service to help you real-time don't even dabble there. There are other physical investment opportunities Agriculture, FMCG, Transport etc.

Knowledge is key, ensure you get a good grasp of what you are getting into. I raised chickens and a fish farm for my dad while growing up. It is why I have a healthy bias against those agric schemes offering 40%, except they are adding something to it.

### **DRUGS, EMOTIONS AND PORN**

When movies are made, a lot of work goes into it. The simple goal is to evoke the kind of emotions that the director or the storyline would want generated, excitement, fear, sadness, shock, tears etc. It is why we do not appreciate the Nigerian film industry; they are not able to connect on an emotional level. Bad acting, poor pronunciations, crazy subtitles, bad lighting, horror costuming etc., all contributes to this.

It is why when you hear the theme song of Marvel Avengers, you connect to it. Everything is designed to ensure it generates the feelings that is expected. Have you thought of the sounds in a horror movie? The lighting? The screams? Chirping sounds? The flashes of

lightning and ghoulish laughs? They are all designed to scare you, why would someone want to fill a tub with blood only to take a bath and appear from inside it...just think about it!

Same thing with pornography. I was skipping through TV one day when I stumbled on a channel that covers the making of movies, it wasn't a "porn" movie, but a romantic scene. And I realized looking at the comparison shots that for every silhouetted frame taken on set, there were about ten people in the room. I was amazed, you mean that intimate, sensual, sexual, steamy two-person tango was filmed by a crew of over ten people? What exactly were they feeling when they were shooting the scene? Wait o, even the director is smoking and giving directions, Cut!

To make matters worse, they started laughing, "good one! Everyone take a break!!" After the shooting, I was like, Lord, this is what some people will kill themselves over, leave the company of people that love and care for them and look for a lonely dark place to indulge in fantasies. You see, the shooting was designed to evoke some erotic emotions and drives in you, just like a horror movie is designed to scare and instill fear. The director



will ensure everything; sound, lighting, music, costume etc. meets that aim. He is doing his (demonic) job!

You need to ask yourself "what kind of emotions do I want to engage myself into right now, porn is free, but why enter deception? As children, we found it difficult to sleep after watching a horror movie on DBN, it placed in us a spirit of fear, such that even weeks afterwards, we were still scared of shadows at night. Why would you want to put yourself under the influence of a demonic spirit? Why would you want to sin against your own body?

So run away from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person does is outside the body, but those who are sexually immoral sin against their own bodies, you should know that your body is a temple for the Holy spirit. The holy spirit is in you, you have received the Holy spirit from God, you do not own yourself, you were bought by God for a price, so honor God with your bodies.

Serotonin and Oxytocin are hormones responsible for your happiness and arousal, and when you keep driving them up by porn watching, you keep raising the bar such that to get excited you need to keep finding something "stronger". This is why many people are depressed, they

cannot find happiness in the little things anymore because they have conditioned themselves to respond to higher stimuli.

Then they turn to drugs and narcotics to get the "high" that is higher than their high. There is a strong relationship between porn, depression and drug abuse, it becomes worse when a spirit finds you and takes a hold of you. Actions invite spirits into your life, the same way fear came in after watching a horror movie, that demonic spirit latches on to you, and addiction sets in.

If you watch or engage in porn, desist from it, repent from your ways and come to God. If you have lost control and cannot help yourself, go for deliverance, porn addiction has cancelled many a glorious destiny. Asides the cancel culture of our day, I have never known a porn addict who is focused on life, they are always drained of strength and the pursuit of purpose and destiny.

Why would you use your hand to do yourself? The actors got paid, the cameraman got paid, the lighting guys got paid, the sound guys got paid, the director got paid, the production company got paid, the distribution company

got paid, you are the only one paying with your money, data, time, life and destiny.

God detests sexual sins because it coats your spirit and makes you dull of perception. When the enemy tried to get the children of Israel and he couldn't, he got demonic counsel to parade ladies with seductive attire at the edge of their camp. The plan worked perfectly, even at a point while Moses was talking someone brazenly brought a lady, passed by the congregation and went ahead to have sexual relations with her.

*The people of Israel were still camped at Acacia, the men began sinning sexually with Moabite women. The women invited them to their sacrifices offered to their false gods, the Israelites ate food there and worshipped these gods. So, the Israelites began to worship Baal of Poer, and the Lord was angry with them. [Numbers 25:1-3 ICB]*

*Moses and the Israelites were gathered at the entrance to the meeting tent, they were crying there. Then an Israelite man brought a Midianite to his brothers, this was in plain sight of Moses and all the people. Phinehas*

*son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, saw this, so  
he left the meeting and got his spear.*

*He followed the Israelite into his tent, and he drove his  
spear through both the Israelite man and the Midianite  
woman. Then the terrible sickness among the Israelites  
stopped. [Numbers 25:6-8 ICB]*

Thank God for Phinehas! He purchased himself a priesthood by his actions. In the words of Lecrae "don't waste your life!" When you engage in sexual sin, God himself is against you, because you sin against his temple, your body. Porn is a waste.

### **PEACE – HILLSONG**

You will stay true even when the lies come, your words remain truth even when my thoughts don't line up. I will stand tall on each promise you made, let the rest fade away, there's a peace far beyond all understanding, may it ever set my heart at ease dear anxiety.

You will stay true even in chaos, your word remains truth even when mind wrecks in havoc. I will be still for I've known all along my Jehovah shalom, there's a peace far

beyond all understanding, may it ever set my heart at ease, what anxiety fails to resemble.

You are peace to a restless soul, peace when my thoughts wage war, peace to the anxious heart, that's who you are that's who you are. You are peace my fear takes hold, peace when I feel enclosed, peace when I lose control that's who you are.

I've found peace far beyond all understanding, let it flow when my mind's under siege, all anxiety bows in the presence of Jesus the keeper of peace, and peace is a promise he keeps. There's a peace far beyond all understanding, may it ever set my heart at ease, dare anxiety come I'll remember

**#GRGB**

Get it right, get it better.

## **WILL OF GOD**

The origin of "God does not find a spouse for you" is one that is worth looking into historically. My assertion is simple, if you trust God to lead you in other matters, why sit Him out on one of the major ones that affects your life and destiny.

Now, I respect the generality of the scripture and the guidelines are clear, "do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers." It is why I don't argue with the "he/she loves God" folks. They are right to place a metric on that basis. Marriage in an institution founded and established by God. He then should and is involved in the process, particularly for those who sign up under His leading and guidance.

Now, the error is believing when we say there is a "will of God" for you, that we mean one person, no! This has been the major talking point for many conversations, and I try my best to make them understand this. Now there are more than 4 billion people on earth, so the probability of finding the "right" person that matches you a 100% is one in four billion. Now we both can agree that humanly

that is equivalent to odds of the "Big Bang" theory. And if you believe in creation, only God can do that.

Now, when you trust God to lead you to find a life partner, you are resting in His ability, wisdom and power. Remember it is one in over four billion, human mind and wisdom cannot get it...it is impossible. When God leads, many times it doesn't match our expectations. If you have been led by God, you will understand this. Sometimes the choice of God is not "palatable" in a sense, but His wisdom is revealed. When you are led to fast and pray on a Monday morning, it seems stupid, knowing the high energy requirement of your day. But when you are sensitive enough to avoid a fatal accident, it doesn't seem so much of a price to have paid.

Now this "unpalatable" choice of God, is what led to the term "will of God." Many who decided to put their fleshly desires and "lust" under and follow the leading of God went after "the will of God." Do you get it now? Now, that God leads one person, doesn't mean the other person agrees. God will never override the will of a man or woman. So, what happens when the "will of God" says no? Two things I'll address at this point.

1. That she said no doesn't mean you are wrong. She is just not led the way you are, or she chooses not to. This doesn't invalidate your walk with God, or your reception. It is good to do a review, but don't come under condemnation or feel God has failed you. God will never override the choice of a human. Many sisters take pride in punching holes in brothers' balloons, they discuss it in their circles and laugh about it. Many a times, they have their eyes on someone else to be able to see and receive what God is bringing...it is what it is.

2. That she refuses doesn't mean you are doomed to a celibate life. This is where the interpretation of the "will of God" goes wrong. What you need to do is go back to God. Remember He'll give you an answer of peace. I do not support waiting endlessly in hope. Go to God, if He tells you to, no problems. But you need to go back and get follow up instructions. Now, if God gives you a leading again, does it mean the "will of God" is now duplicated? No! Like I said, it is a misinterpretation of religious lingo. God can lead you again after a refusal, you were obedient, the other person refused.



So, when people use the "is the will of God two?" argument, I smile. God still leads men today.

## **FINDING BALANCE**

A Princeton professor of Mathematics and science says the probability of earth happening by the Big Bang is like shooting a pin from the farthest reaches of the galaxy and hitting bulls' eye at a button mark inside a stadium...it is almost impossible. But we understand that with God all things are possible.

The probability of getting the right partner is almost impossible. But Jesus makes difficult things easy. Now are all these marriage talks and seminars important? Yes! Like I've said, get it right, then get better. When you have secured the right person, it is your responsibility to both work on yourselves to become all that God has designed.

Four Situations:

Wrong person, wrong condition.

Wrong person, right condition

Right person, wrong condition

Right person, right condition.

Now you can see someone in the right condition; upright, prayerful, lover of God, jovial, passionate, focused, and by worldly standards successful. This doesn't mean it is the right person for you. Demons were former angels till they entered a wrong union with the devil.

You can also find the right person, but in the wrong condition. This is why we go through a process before marriage. In fact, no marriage is in view without the right condition. Finding the right person also doesn't guarantee marriage, some people are unwilling to change. Don't fall for the trap of right person, wrong condition.

Now when you find the right person under God's leading, it is both your duties to ensure you fight, discuss, argue, pray, report each other, do deliverance, fast, pray, encourage, push, force, motivate, instigate, intercede, communicate, till you are both in the right condition for marriage.

This gospel of observing after the flesh to make decisions can only take a man so far. When people both go to God concerning marriage, what God does is to give them both

a unifying vision. He does this by introducing the person and the assignment to you.

Who is this person? That the bro wears the same shirt and trousers everyday doesn't mean he is a "nobody" or wouldn't amount to anything. That she wore purple blouse on green skirt, or she doesn't seem to have some physical features doesn't mean she's not fitting for where God is sending you. We must catch a revelation of persons in God. Many times, I have seen people change, that brother is now in a better place, by the reason of the pursuit of purpose. That slender sister is now on the cover of...

What is the vision/purpose? This is what holds you two together, you can be a choleric, sanguine etc., what makes for a lasting structure or institution of marriage is the foundation. Your unifying vision ensure you both can chase ten thousand and become stronger as a three-fold cord with God. Nothing holds together than purpose. Even your love for God can wane, but when you've both caught a vision from God, nothing can pull you apart.

Now, if you have not been actively pursuing being led by God before, it might be a tad difficult (not impossible) to change lanes at this point. Now remember God leads in different ways, you need to understand your own way of God's leading. This is why I said it might be a tad difficult.

Now, this doesn't negate things like friendship, chemistry, physics and whatnot. Bring everything under God's leading and ask for His leading...His approval. His revelation of the person and vision are important.

## **MY MISSION**

My mission is simple...simplify kingdom truths for believers.

*Then all the people went away to eat and drink. They sent some of their food to others. And they celebrated with great joy. They finally understood what they had been taught. [Nehemiah 8:12 ICB]*

## **FAITH, FAITH, FAITH**

Why does our Pastor preach faith, faith, faith all the time? Can't we preach any other thing? Faith is a simple yet difficult subject for many. His emphasis on preaching tries to bridge the knowledge in your head, to connect with the resident faith in your heart. It is why you've only started getting it when you complain about it being too much.

The issue is this, once you grasp the truth and it's settled in your spirit, you are good to go, all you need to do is change faith for faith and keep on going. Ask people that have bought and changed cars.

Buying the first car is usually the toughest. Once you have it, all you need to do is trade it, add a little on it and you get something better...you get? That is why Pastor keeps emphasizing on it. He wants you to buy your first car, both faith wise and literally. Once you have gotten it, your own is to keep utilizing and adding to it. When you utilize faith, you will not be tired of hearing it...it's like adding to what you have, to buy a better car. Do you get it? Pe o complain yen, o mean pe o o ti get e!

Faith is the currency of the spirit.

## **PRAY**

As powerful as God is, He cannot answer your heart's desire until you pray.

## **FATHERHOOD AND SONSHIP**

Fatherhood and sonship are very delicate matters, I am so afraid to tread upon. I'll just share this...

I first understood what fathering/mentorship was from fellowship. It was a concept that was well rooted in Christian circles, but the fullness of the knowledge came to me when I was in the university.

Then we didn't need to do this, but because of current climes, I will assay to say I speak concerning "Christian" mentorship, or what I call fathering. If I remember clearly, Bro. Nezer gave a short history lesson. Remember that 300 movie (the one where we had to skip a lot of scenes...ehn that one). So, the leader dude left his son in the care of his trusted right-hand man and friend (I think he was injured or something). The man's name was Mentor (English version o!)

So, a mentor is someone who takes the role of a father...do you get? Alright! So biblically, fathers are supposed to have spiritual oversight of their children. I have known a few people whose parents were their mentors. I don't mean seresere stuff o! They had the rule and oversight over them.

One of the criteria for this is fathers see you in your destiny, they have God's blueprint for your life. But unfortunately, many parents have fallen short of this standard. The cares of life and many other stuffs have shifted their focus (you will sha eat and go to school). So, what God does is to link you up with mentors who take that position of fathering spiritually. You get?

Now after this teaching, we were told to go and pray and trust God to lead us. Many people just looked for the most "spiritual" people in the fellowship. Others reached out to their home pastors. It was a requirement for joining the workforce. "Who is your mentor?"

I have also realized that anytime I explain, preach or teach this, the natural response is for people to reach out to ask for a mentorship relationship. Many who want to

be called fathers jump at the opportunity. I, knowing better, prefer to not burden myself with such responsibilities I have not been given by God.

You see, it is a critical relationship, just like marriage and church family. Both parties must be led by God into the relationship. I am usually weary of people with "plenty" sons and daughters. A father (mentor) takes spiritual oversight for you, this means they serve as a shade and covering, as well as provide guidance and instruct you on the road of destiny. It is not one to be taken lightly or serviced halfheartedly. I'll rather you don't have a spiritual father over your life than have a wrong one or have a bad relationship with a good one.

Many times, I've been alerted and averted from evil because I had a spiritual covering. I know it may sound deep, but if you are not into those kind of stuff (which you should be), it's better not to go looking for fathers here and there. I once spoke with a young lady who was about to get into a relationship. "Have you spoken to your mentor about this?" It was only then she made the move to talk it over with them.



The fact that she even had three got me worried. When you inform your father about things, instead of seeking his counsel...this is a pitfall. When God gives you a torchlight to lighten your path, don't go through the potholes of life only to put on the torchlight to check your damaged feet. Your father (mentor) acts as a garrison to your life. When I see many "we are no longer together" stories, I just shake my head because I know there was no active fathering involved. How will I tell Rev. Ogundare that Aan and I are no longer together...is my head correct?

Fathers bring processes and divine deposits into your life. So many of the graces I enjoy are as a result of the fathering I am under. The devil knows this, so he decided to bring his fake gospel. He brought up mentorship in secular spaces and it spread like wildfire. Due to similarities on the word "mentor," people started teaching secular principles as gospel, when it didn't apply.

We started hearing that you can be mentored by ministers from afar, the same way Robert Kiyosaki was mentoring some people with "poor" dads. When we asked, "who is your mentor?" we started hearing Hagin,

Baba Adeboye, Oyedepo, Areogun. Have you met this people? No! How then are they mentoring (fathering) you? They said through books. Hmm.

Next, the secular space brought up the concept of peer mentors. Having people within your age and performance bracket who can guide you etc. And the trend also entered the church, where we had taught these fathering as being within the ministry offices, people were now open to mentors in other fields of endeavors as replacement for spiritual fathering.

They said since they were not going into ministry, they needed someone who understood the business space. We tried to explain, it is not a business thing. You can still have someone to advice you in business, but you need spiritual fathering. Alas! The damage has been done. Once again, our choice of words had brought us to where we are today. Spiritual fathering is not the same as secular mentoring.

Now we have people who are guided by "successful" mentors and peer mentors who have no spiritual covering and oversight. They have lost their way and chase after

material possessions. It may fool others, but men of destiny weep for the loss of giants and the men who would have done exploits. You see doing stuff is different from purpose.

Doing stuff will get you the praise of men, purpose will get you the backing of heaven. I have found so many times, people are moved more by earthly possessions than the workings of the spirit of God. That is what you get when we have preached materialism instead of gospel truths.

Fathers help you chart the course through your successes and seeming failures to arrive at the point where God wants you. They keep you in check, constantly reminding you of the plan and purpose of God for your life. Many people are living for the earth and do not have anything in heaven...there is the truth of eternal rewards.

Don't be caught up in a dysfunctional relationship where you are being called son and you know no fathering is going on. Don't be deceived into believing you can continue on your own. You need a God appointed father to have good success in life.

## **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

Church membership is not a walk-in something. In fact, like every other association where your freedom allows in law, you are not bound by the rules of the church till you become a member. It is why churches like Foursquare have categories like worshippers and then card-carrying members, they don't deceive themselves.

Personally, before I put in for membership in any church, I always give a three-month probation period. This is even after I'm led to go there. It is like a litmus test, I will take services, meetings and instructions seriously, just like any member and watch my life in three months. If after that period I have not seen any difference, then we go back to the drawing board.

Now, not many churches have a formal structure, so I'll advice once you are certain about your church family, you walk up to your pastor and introduce yourself. Let him know you would like to be a member of the church, and if he's ready to accept you. A wise pastor will not jump at this.

In my home church you're required to bring a letter from your previous church or Pastor, or you provide his phone number, so they call and inquire concerning you.

Shey o le to yen ni? Yes! Even harder than that. You see, you joining as a member is a deeply spiritual activity. Some people change church every year just to join the ushering, take the keys of the church and rob it clean, rinse and repeat.

As you pray and get a leading to be a member of a church family, your pastor also prays to receive you as a member. Usually this follows a process of training and special teaching on the fundamental doctrines of the church. You need to sit down, review it and discuss it with your pastor on the aspects you are not clear about, for clarity.

Be intentional about your walk with God. Where attention goes, energy flows and result shows.

Rev. Olusola Areogun

Don't say something doesn't work when you have not worked it out, everything in God's kingdom has a principle

of operation. Church members don't argue about tithes, offerings, seed sowing, commitments, fasting, praying, night vigil, communion, speaking in tongues. When I see people arguing about it, I'm like "shey member naa leleyi." Didn't you know they do all these things before you joined as a member.

Truly there's a lot of misnomers that need correction. Your pastor prays, counsels, and ministers to you. He is there at your wedding, your naming, your family's burial ceremony. He teaches and instructs, provides a covering and intercedes on your behalf...you agree to that one. But when it is time for tithes and offering, you squeeze your face. It is that time you know it is not in the New Testament. When they ask you to sow a seed for the church project, you say God will build His church. SMH

There's no fight in church. If you don't like paying tithes (as per say even the 100% is not enough for you), it is better to go to the place where they don't collect it, instead of vexing your spirit every Sunday when they call for tithes. I personally believe if every church goer tithes

correctly, the church will not need to raise other forms of financial commitment that ridicule it.

### **HARD GUYS**

You see those people that form hard guy in church...they don't praise God, don't shout glory to God, don't dance, don't "lift holy hands," they just sit in a corner and squeeze face like the weight of the world is upon them. Watch them at the football center, or when watching a movie, or at a party, or during sports, or while playing games. What moves men is a very strong indicator to the condition of their spirit.

### **NICODEMUS RELATIONSHIPS**

Don't be in a Nicodemus relationship. Let people know you are engaged to marry. Selah. If you are single, announce it. Climb on a tree if you must, just ensure your "Jesus" sees you. I am saying be a Zacchaeus.

Don't allow Nicodemus relationships around you, even if the brother is a programmer don't do coded relationships.

Even Jesus had to define his relationship. "Who do you say that I am?" Sister ask him "what are we?" Don't let someone use you for scaffolding only to remove you after the house is complete. If he will be angry, let him be angry...but let him sin not!

### **Responses**

*I Stan, in fact I double Stan self.*

*I have seen someone who on top this "let's keep it quiet, low key, I don't like to do social media" thing, the guy was double dating (P°). He later broke up with the lady, last last it was coded heart break she had oh, who could she turn to except those of us she told codedly too.*

*"Hehehe, set awon programmers." + (family battles, start early...)*

### **INTENTIONAL FAITH AND MUSIC**

Actively engage the lessons and the supply of the spirit you got today in your life and endeavors tomorrow. Take time to be still, avoid junk music, images and videos that will corrupt your soul. Live sensitively, wake up with a



song, a praise, a thanksgiving. Walk in the spirit and see yourself soar.

*Jesus went on to say to all of them, If anyone wants to follow me, he must say no to the things he wants. Every day he must be willing even to die on a cross, and he must follow me.'*

[Luke 9:23 ICB]

When the questions about secular music came up in church, it ended in agreeing to disagree because we couldn't reach an agreement for the truth. The smart brother argued that if secular music was a sin, then we shouldn't sing the national anthem or watch children's cartoon. Once again terminology had caused us to lose.

Now we know we are free and bondmen to righteousness, but we are also aware that spirits are carried by music. When Saul was tormented by an evil spirit, David was hired to play the harp. Music permeated the atmosphere making it uncomfortable for the spirit to stay. We also know that Elisha requested music to be able to receive a word from God.

*Now bring me someone who plays the harp. While the harp was being played, the Lord gave Elisha power.*

[2 Kings 3:15 ICB]

Now if while the harp was played, the Lord gave him power, then it means when some other music is played, either the devil motivated you or power is drained from you. You get?

*When the evil spirit from God entered Saul, David would take his harp and play. Then the evil spirit would go out of him. And Saul would feel relief. He would feel better again.* [1 Samuel 16:23 ICB]

Now the freedom we have in Christ means we are no longer bound, we can choose! But we must ensure our choices align us with godliness and not take us back. Music is spiritual. I will confess, our ministers have only just begun to pick up, but if you search there's always the kind of music genre you want that will not take you back. I learnt this from Nezer. The truth is this, many people don't even have a genre of music they like. By God! There is a praise on your inside that you can hum and sing to God.

There are days where you may not be able to exercise yourself in spiritual things, having good spiritual songs helps you keep the freshness. I recommend putting on worship music before bed, you wake up earlier, refreshed and your spirit is alive unto God. Same thing with messages, try it!

Many a times when I sleep off watching a movie, I wake up abruptly only to see a sensual scene or some demonic ceremony in the movie. My spirit is active and knows this is wrong! Has it happened to you too? Your inner man is active and alive, do not coat it by listening to junk that dulls your reception.

We are getting to the days where a single move can determine life or death, victory or defeat, glory or failure. Your spirit is your greatest asset...develop yourself. Pursue after things that makes for a quick and sensitive spirit, to be able to pick things from God.

That your neighbor does it, doesn't make it right. If it takes you 30 or more minutes to settle down in the place of communion, it's because of coatings and rubbish. Have you found yourself thinking about some secular songs

while in prayer or in fellowship? That is demonic trafficking using the songs. No song should exalt itself above the knowledge of Christ in your life.

One chorister even sang a worldly song by mistake and converted it. I knew "Bobo yi o pure!" Make room for the Holy spirit to flow and move in your house, your car, your office (yes! Nobody hates a little Don Moen in the background). Let your heart continually be linked in praise to God.

Like I will always say, try it and see the results. Take a one-week trial and see if you are not a different person. Use Spotify or one of the music streaming apps (they give at least one-month free bonus). Choose a playlist. I'll recommend:

Hillsong

Mosaic Msc

Bethel Worship

Elevation Worship

Jason Upton

Juanita Bynum

Bishop GE Patterson

Just try it for a week. Be intentional about developing yourself spiritually. Like I tell people, even if you do not care about your life, care about the lives of the ones you love. Your sensitivity might be the only thing that rescues them from the jaws of Satan, death and hell.

### **NUMBNESS**

You now watch music videos with naked ladies and explicit content. You now freely watch movies with sexual acts and demonic ceremonies. You are comfortable watching two men or two women engage in intimate acts. Numbness.

### **HIGHS AND LOWS - HILLSONG**

When it feels like the dark lingers longer than the night. When the shadows feel like giants. Are you chasing me down? Tell me where could I run; from your light where could I hide? Hemmed within your precious thoughts, there's no hiding from your love.

Highs and lows, you're with me either way it goes. Should I rise or should I fall? Even so, Lord your mercy is an even flow. You're too good to let me go.

Should I dance on the heights, or make my bed among the depths? Your mercy waits at every end, like you planned it from the start. Should the dawn come with wings, or find me far-side of the sea? There your hand still fastens me, even closer to your heart, oh.

Highs and lows, you're with me either way it goes. Should I rise or should I fall? Even so, Lord your mercy is an even flow. Should I rise or should I fall? You are faithful through it all. You're too good to let me go.

Highs and lows, you surround me either way it goes. Should I rise or should I fall? Lord you're with me through it all, oh. Highs and lows, in the rhythms of your grace I know. Should I rise or should I fall? You are faithful through it all, and You're too good to let me go.

~Hillsong

## **ESTIMATION**

I understood this early...don't put yourself in a position where the words of your blessers cannot take root or have effect. Too many times, we are but picking out faults or looking down with scorn those who have our blessings in their mouth. When you identify your Blessor, do not let any voice, either reasonable or illogical mess up with your estimation.

When your estimation is tampered with, your ability to receive and retain is gone. Many people receive words, touch, anointing, mantles etc. from blessers they have ridiculed and wonder why it does not work for them. They wonder why it's working for this other person...check your estimation.

*He is only the carpenter. His mother is Mary. He is the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters are here with us. The people did not accept Jesus. Jesus was not able to work many miracles there. The only miracles he did were to heal some sick people by putting his hands on them. Jesus was amazed that they had no faith. [Mark 6:3,5-6 ICB]*

When you consider your Blesser in the flesh, you miss it by a wide margin. No great work of faith has been established by familiarity or contempt. Never make ineffective the voice of blessers in your life.

### **LONG PRAYERS**

Duration in fellowship has always been a point of back and forth. At one point, there was the one-hour rules, but then what was one hour if your heart was not there. Then there were the communion folks.

When we treat prayer as what it is, we can trace the origin and foundation. For if the foundation be destroyed, what can the righteous do? My friend Sami says one of the beautiful things of the Christian faith is the fact that we can approach God and call Him Father "Abba."

When we realize this loving relationship between Father and child, and we embrace the love Christ has for us as His bride, we understand the place and position of prayer. God wants to commune with you so badly than you want



to, it is why He keeps drawing you to Himself. God wants you to choose Him, it is what makes for the flow of love.

If you've been/are in love, you'll understand the passing of time is one that is not discussed, in fact it doesn't matter, you are just in some sort of eternity. Some people even escort each other to and fro before they agree to part ways. This is what prayer should look like. There are times when God draws me to prayer, and there are times I go to Him also.

The concept of time came as a form of help, to help new believers develop a life of communion with God. The flesh that once ruled by the dictates of the nature of sin, still doesn't want to keep still. Placing time helps you put it under subjection. I remember when I was placed on my first 30 minutes, I will pray so long and hard only to check the time and it's just 4 minutes past. Funny thing is, when I reached the mark, I want to go on...in fact it's then I begin to remember things I want to talk about.

When you incorporate the discipline of time, it helps you to schedule your day. If God knows He can meet you specifically at a set time, it makes Him gladder...of course

you're open to communication throughout the day. But having a set time shows you are interested in the relationship. Aan & I try to talk for at least an hour every day, we could be gistless, but we just enjoy each other's company. Not every day is for gist, some days just look at her and say "fine girl," and vice versa, enjoying each other's company.

So, while timing is for discipline, at no point in time should you think that you have "performed your duty," because you spent "time." It is not the time spent per se, but the quality of your communion with Abba. This was the problem with most folks. "Did you pray (commune) today?" "Yes, I did my one hour and I also read my five chapters." What did He say to you?

Don't also fall into the "quality not quantity" ditch. There is something like quantity, Jesus spent forty days and forty nights (quantity). Just like a loved one will say "are you leaving already?" God wants to spend time with you. + It's a relationship. Sometimes He comes to my room, or I go to heaven, we fix appointments at the park too (He's always on time). When you are in a relationship, time is

inconsequential, but before you get to that sweet bliss, let time be your school master.

## **QUICK INSPO**

In the feeding of the 5,000, there are a lot of misconceptions that have trailed the story and the explanations. I will make some clear deductions.

*Many people followed him because they saw the miracles he did to heal the sick. Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him. He said to Philip, Where can we buy bread for all these people to eat?(Jesus asked Philip this question to test him. Jesus already knew what he planned to do) [John 6:2,5-6 ICB].*

Now people were following Jesus from place to place because of the miracles that He did. Jesus' compassion was moved to feed them, and it was obvious it would cost a lot to do that, even the disciples exclaimed that it would take a year's worth of salary. But Jesus knew what He was going to do. When you follow Jesus, he looks out for you.

Jesus *always* has a plan for you, even though you do not seem to have one. Counting the cost of any endeavor doesn't invalidate the possibility of miracles, in fact to be able to appreciate a miracle you must count the cost.

I grew up in a balanced home, with one of my parents being an optimist and the other a realist. Now, I wouldn't expect people to move along chasing miracle without so much as a plan, even if it is to knock on a door and beg for food.

Have a plan, it's no crime! But once you receive the plan of Jesus, be ready to submit your plan to His. Now, Andrew found a boy who was willing to give his lunch of five loaves of barley bread and two fishes...I told you people have plans, if that boy could pack a lunch, people also have some sort of plan.

It is interesting because the story is always told like they did not have or could not get food to eat, no! The place was a desert and they needed to go to the towns and farms to get something to eat. That was why the disciples asked for Jesus to dismiss them early, so they could go sort out their feeding plans.

When it seems like you are being delayed, particularly when you are steadfast in faith and waiting earnestly on God, God makes provision for you.

Now I don't believe in a company of 5000 men (excluding women and children), only one boy brought lunch. He was the only one who was willing to give it out for the master's use. When God stirs you to give, do it! It doesn't matter if there are more financially buoyant individuals there, who could probably get it done without breaking a sweat. What God seeks is obedience. What brought the young boy into the records of heaven (many boys have had lunch throughout the ages, but he will forever be remembered) is his simple obedience.

God asked for his lunch (afternoon /midday) not his breakfast or dinner. God wants the most productive part of your life, don't give him "ajeku" or your evening food. I'm pretty sure the young lad was hungry. It's easy to give up your breakfast when you know there is lunch, it's easy to give up dinner when you have eaten lunch. Give God the best period of your life!

The young lad gave the lunch to Andrew, a disciple of Jesus, not Jesus. Many people are looking for Jesus to give to. Your pastor, that man of God, that servant of God that asked is asking on behalf of Jesus. The boy didn't have to wait for Jesus to ask him. Yes, there are charlatans nowadays, but if you'll look in your spirit, you know deep there is a conviction to give, give and do it wholeheartedly as unto the Lord.

What you are giving may not look like it's enough...give it to Jesus still! "But it is small and looks ridiculous," give it to Jesus still! "But others have given," yes! let yours also be among. Jesus can take your lunch, use it to satisfy the world and still leave you in abundant excess. Somebody needs this today.

### **GOD'S VESSEL**

I am troubled, yet not distressed. Perplexed, but not in despair. Cause I'm a vessel full of power, with a treasure none can compare. Persecuted, but not forsaken. Cast down, but not destroyed. I'm a vessel full of power, with a treasure from the Lord.

I'm a vessel full of power, with a treasure from the Lord.  
So, thank you Father for your power, it has resurrected  
me. Oh, the painful circumstances, that my poor soul  
could not flee.

Bruised and battered, but not broken. Brought my sin  
back, from sin I am free. Cause I am a vessel, got a whole  
lot of power. With a treasure, delivered me. I'm a vessel  
full of power, with a treasure from the Lord.

Thank you, Father, for your power, it has resurrected me.  
Oh, the painful circumstances, that my poor soul could  
not flee. Oh, oh, oh, oh. I'm the vessel full of power, with  
a treasure from the Lord.

I'm a vessel, you're a vessel full of power, you've got  
power from the Lord. I'm a vessel full of power, treasure  
from the Lord. I'm a vessel full of power, with a treasure  
from the Lord.

## **GROWTH**

I'm becoming more aware that maturity in kingdom is more about dependence on God's power through His spirit and not being independent in ourselves or abilities.

## **CONSECRATION**

Let me want you want, oh my dear Lord. Let me love what you love, oh dear Lord. That is how you designed life to be Lord. Help me Lord to live how I ought to live.

Oh Lord take me to the place where I have no will that is separate from Your will. Oh Lord take me to the place where I have no choice that is separate from your choice. To be lost in you is my desire, to be all for you, is all I want.

Let my life bring you joy and not pain Lord. Let me live in your plan for my life. That is living life at it's very best Lord. That is living to glorify your name.

Oh Lord take me to the place where I have no will that is separate from Your will. Oh Lord take me to the place



where I have no choice that is separate from your choice. To be lost in you is my desire, to be all for you, is all I want.

Set me free from myself, oh my dear Lord. From the ways of the flesh, set me free. So, I can avoid the ways of regrets. So, my life can bring pleasure to you Lord.

Oh Lord take me to the place where I have no will that is separate from Your will. Oh Lord take me to the place where I have no choice that is separate from your choice. To be lost in you is my desire, to be all for you, is all I want.

I heard Juanita Bynum sing it under the anointing and somewhere I knew I had heard it before. Pastor Paul Enenche and family.

## **SUBMISSION**

Remaining under the mission. When they ask are you submissive, ask for the mission.

## **CONTROLLING THE NARRATIVE**

Whoever controls the language, controls the narrative.  
Whoever controls the dialogue, wins the argument.  
Christians need to speak up and speak out! My emphasis  
on language and narratives. Consider how the modern  
world has re-evaluated the issue by rewording it.

Abortion - women's health care issue, women's choice

Foetus - unviable tissue mass

Strip club - gentleman's club

Gay marriage - equality, love wins

Swamps - delicate wetland

Illegal alien - undocumented immigrants

Gender confusion - expressing how you identify

Pornography - adult entertainment

Pedophilia - sexual orientation #LoveisLove

Adultery - entanglement

Child - underage woman

When we allow for a rewording, we lose the argument. It  
is a subtle cooking of a toad by gently raising the heat.  
Jesus was not politically correct. Jesus offended many  
groups of people. Jesus was not an "inclusive." We must  
be ready to take a stand.

You see how all those matters begin to look permissible just by a simple rewording. I have been doing a lot of study and realize that when the devil cannot be the source of your information, he tries to be the interpreter of it. Be careful.

### **BAALAM'S DONKEY**

One thing we all need to realize in this age is that even Balaam's donkey spoke. Does it make it a man? No! Should we now regard it as a servant of God? To put it in local parlance...spirit can borrow someone to use, it doesn't make the person spiritual or mature.

Even a faulty broken clock is correct twice a day. Think about it.

### **SCHOLARSHIP EXPERIENCE**

Apply for scholarships. They are numerous, if you can get multiple, do so. It's your way of relieving your parents and enjoying your life. I got wind of the ExxonMobil

scholarship from Ush Marsh. He just told us about it and I was on the look out. Turns out you need a community to be able to track these things when they come out.

So, it happens that a day to the application closing was when the notice was placed on the noticed board. I spent the whole day at the HOD's office, getting his signature. It's also a good thing to regularly request for your transcript from the registry/exams, and records after each semester.

After applying, I had even almost forgotten about it when my roommate told me he had been selected, I was happy and went to the library to get the newspaper (three years old already). It was in the collections area now and I had to wait for the library staff to finish his lunch before he pointed out where I could search for it. I searched the papers for that day and finally found my name...it was surreal, seeing my name in a national daily.

Interestingly, the exam was just two days away, and I joined my roommate who had already been preparing to go to Ibadan. We got to Kakanfo Inn only to be told there was no accommodation arrangements for us, even

though we came from afar. We spoke with the staff to even let us loaf around and maybe sleep on the couch in the reception later at night, but it was a 24-hours hotel, and we could still see people trooping in as at 10pm. We later got a guest house in the area.

After settling for a price which we all made contributions to (about five of us), the manager told us to wait at the bar that the room was "busy." Like play like play, we had to wait till the two fellows who had just had a romp finished their rendezvous. The sheets were not changed, and my spirit was not comfortable with sleeping on that bed. I left the bed for the other guys and slept on the floor.

I woke up early to pray outside and just told God to have mercy on me. I wasn't prepared, I'd had a rough trip and almost caught a cold. I guess I thought my suffering would compensate for the blessing I was asking for.

We woke up, had our baths and got to the venue. It was packed full and one could wonder where all these Nigerians came from. Some were brought by their parents, others came like us from their schools, you could tell by the groups and clusters that were formed. We got

to the registration desk and the lady who was to process me said civil engineering wasn't a part of the Geosciences.

I was like "no ma!" All my sufferings flashed before my eyes, and I desperately told her that we had geotechnical engineering which was Geoscience (I had read about all the areas of civil engineering after my "fortunate" swap from electrical). A man (the supervisor I guess) just appeared and asked what the problem was. She explained and he said just let him in. I believe he just didn't want a young boy to come all the way from Akure only to be turned back, especially since his name was on the list.

I was happy about my small victory and it kind of gave me an inkling that God was with me. We entered a large hall, and my next challenge wasn't a human being but air conditioning. I was already vibrating before they gave us the sheets. Interestingly, they placed me in a central seat far away from those machines of evil, spewing out icy cold mist. I focused on the exam and really went through it like a breeze, the abstract reasoning was my forte, even

during the days of dragnet. At the end we all said it was good, so we all waited for the results to come in.

As things go in Nigeria, we all had forgotten anything about exams when I saw my matric number on the notice board. I went to see Mrs. Madu, the secretariat staff who shared the news with me...this sparked off a very cordial relationship between us. That was it, of course I went to tell Ush Marsh and shared my testimony in fellowship.

The money didn't come when I needed it to pay school fees, so my parent still did all that and when the funds came in...omo, I was a big boy! For the last tranche one could apply for an extra amount towards project, and I solicited my project adviser to help fill the forms and sent it with a cover letter.

I had graduated and was serving when the funds came in. Interestingly my laptop had broken down at the time. Only for me to get to Agbara to withdraw my last N2,000 and met N120,000 there.

It's still on my CV and transcript till tomorrow. I remember going to the ExxonMobil office at Lekki, me sef was like "I was an ExxonMobil scholar." Those little things matter.

### **INTENTIONAL GROWTH**

Character development and financial literacy happens consciously, you must take deliberate efforts towards them. I see so many people who are spiritually up there and revered, but their character and people skills are zero. Hot ministers of God living in poverty and hand-outs. It should not be so; God wants us to have a full robust life. Don't get so carried away with your spiritual gifts and talents that you don't work on your attitude please.

Being intentional about your growth as a Christian involves some level of focus. Focus on that aspect where you need the supply of the spirit and press into God to bring you deliverance and salvation. For instance, if you catch yourself in the act of lying, you don't gloss over it. You take it up in the place of prayer after searching out what the word has said about it, and then you receive a



supply of grace to end that. Don't have this fancy idea about growth without any intentionality.

It's the reason when we were caught on vices, the elders placed us on fasting and prayers, to take that "spirit" away from our lives. It was a focus with intention. Access to God is not a badge to be displayed, it is purposed towards becoming more and more like Christ.

The Holy spirit witnesses on your inside things per time you need to deal with. It takes a conscious overruling of that inward voice to go astray. What is the Holy ghost telling you to deal with today?

## **POLITICIANS**

Low key, these politicians are still primary, secondary, poly, university mates and guys. If you've ever been to a meeting of senior men, you'll know what I'm talking about. The same way, gists, and attitudes you'll get from young men is what you'll find there, it's just levels that have changed.

There's one with wife (formerly girlfriend) problems, one that drinks too much, one that has borrowed from everybody (though he's borrowing millions now), one that sleeps around (Playboy back then), the one that is a pastor (SU back then), the Prof (bookworm back then), the activist (aluta guy back then), the troublemaker etcetera.

### **THE BLINDNESS OF FOCUS**

The past week, I've had to zoom in on my work, while zooming out a whole lot of stuff. As a photographer, I understand this...when you focus on a subject, you lose sight of the environment.

### **FINDING BALANCE**

Finding the right balance between both world is the mark. But so far, the definition of balance that abounds is, finding a way to manage everything at every time. I was trusting God some years back in school for balance in my life and he taught me this simple concept

In secondary school physics, when you had a ruler with different weights, to find the balance, you moved the fulcrum towards the weightier side to give the less weighty end a larger moment of force.

He taught me this...balance is knowing what matters at every point in time and focusing on it. This doesn't mean you neglect the others, but you tilt your attention towards the issue that requires your focus.

The holy spirit has had to teach me again and again. I remember in my second year, I woke up late and insisted on having my devotion, "nothing beats or will take away my devotion." As I opened the Bible, He spoke simply "go and read your book we can talk later."

I've had to be taught this lesson repeatedly God recognizes legitimate work he ensured the two elders who weren't in camp got their portion of the spirit even when they were away.

## **MEDITATE**

What makes a man ask God for a bakery when another asks for a loaf of bread? It is beyond aspire to perspire, dreaming or ambition. It is a heart enlargement, when your heart is aligned to the purpose of God.

There is success and there is GOOD success. #Meditate

God is love

God is good?

What is good?

What is good success?

## **SEASONS**

Within the last five years, I watched God take me from the public space on things to focus more on myself, and different individuals on a personal level, an experience that was worth much more than gold to me. It made me understand a lot of things better, how people really think and not necessarily how we believe they should think.

I believe the real work of impartation and discipling is done on a personal level. When you can reach into the cares and concerns of people and teach them how to navigate life, you are a blessing to them.

### **CHURCH PROGRAMMES**

When people make snide remarks about churches holding programs on Monday mornings or weekdays, I just smile. The church must be responsible to God and the people by delivering God's counsel, it is the wisdom of everyone to know when and how they can legitimately attend.

Live stream technology was first used to enable those who couldn't legitimately make church attend and be a part of it. Understand focus selah.

### **GIFTINGS AND PERSONLAITY**

Your giftings and abilities can be channeled for God's use and the blessing of mankind. You don't have to inhibit

your personality, turn it to God to use. I used to know a young lady with a warm, infectious personality, she would get to you even when you didn't want to be gotten to.

She would joke, poke and be a PITA (Pain In The Ass) till you lightened up or gave into what she wanted, many people felt she was going to be difficult to handle, but I watched God use that personality for His own purpose.

I was a very likeable person and if not for Jesus, I would have ended up a playboy or worse. I have brought people to Christ more often through that than I've done preaching.

I am also very logical and can carefully analyze situations and pattern, it has helped me "argue" the Christian faith to those who ask for an answer.

### **SAMI**

Sami (my Bangladeshi Muslim friend) goes to church today...brethren pray for us!

No one enters a furnace and is not burnt...#HolyFire

## **CHURCH STRATEGY**

I always encourage churches to embrace a strategy that makes it easy for members to bring people to church, create an ambience and have a dedicated team that takes up the responsibility of following up people, leaving the members to go fish for other men.

## **DIVINE COINCIDENCES**

You've just got to love the holy spirit...I and Sami got to church today, and the preacher was teaching on why Christianity is true, not confrontational, just stating the truth.

How spot on that can be, it buttressed all that we've discussed about. Now Sami is coming to church again next week.

Glory to God!

## **A PRAYER**

Jabez prayed to God of Israel. Jabez said, "please do good things for me, please give me more land. Stay with me, and don't let anyone hurt me, then I won't have any pain." And God did what Jabez had asked.

## **SPIRITUAL EXERCISES**

Prayer, reading God's word, fellowship, communion, praise, worship etc. All those things only have meaning in context. Ministry is men, men is ministry.

Personally, I preferred going from house to house as a cell leader than taking a message in the pulpit. Like Job's friends, you can see through the facade people put up in church and many times all you can do is sit there with them as you trust God for the right words.

I've seen the spirit at work on those visitations...being able to pray for and minister to people in a private personal space. Awesome miracles to the glory of God! Leave the pulpit for the clergy, focus on your ministry.

## **THE WORLD IS SPIRITUAL**

When I tell people the world is spiritual, they don't listen. Everybody wants to perspire to acquire. I preach labor and the dignity of it, but I also understand the non-physical workings of the earth.



The Bible even makes distinction between the "earth" and the "world." The world is a system, a very spiritual system.

I was discussing recently with a colleague who's about to get engaged and he let me know that in the last one month of his making plans towards it, he's gotten calls and messages from his exes. How do you explain the unforced rhythms of life?

He even caught one checking him up on linked in... why now? Why at this moment? A senior colleague of mine got to a point in his life where he had to spend some time at the mountain top. You won't count him as spiritual, but he had an understanding that his life needed a turnaround. He talked then about his encounters and how he was able to get victory.

I have watched every step he has taken in the past nine years succeed...and each time, I am reminded of that period when he went there to seek God's face. I mean compared to his contemporaries; he has been able to scale heights that even most of them have not dreamed of yet.

How do you explain that nudge to call someone, only to find out they were going through something at that point in time? Ask any successful businessperson, they will tell you they were just at the right place at the right time with the right resources. It doesn't just happen by "strategic planning."

## **SCIENCE**

I learnt something valuable in Church yesterday...science doesn't prove anything, scientists do, just think about it. Science provides data but the interpretation is still in the hands of scientists.

## **LOVE GOES ON – FIREFLIES**

Where can I run from your presence, where can I flee from you, even if I hide on the highest mountain, you are there. Where can I run from your presence, where can I flee from you, even if I lie on the lowest valley, you will find me there.

Deeper than any ocean, your love goes on and on and on and on, higher than any mountain. Your love goes on and on and on and on your love goes on and on and on and on and on.

And if I clothe myself in shadow where I fade away from you, even if I fall to the deepest darkness, love surrounds me still. Even if I fall to the deepest darkness love surrounds me still, there is no ending to your love that holds on and won't let go, love that won't leave me on my own

Love don't let me go, don't let it go, there's no where I can run, there's no where I could hide, there's no where I could go that you won't find me.

## **CHURCH ROLES**

I have always believed everyone has a role in church that is spiritual, even the so-called "big men;" people who have been blessed materially and with possessions. In these days, their roles have even become prominent, not just in funding the gospel, but also affirming those things

spoken as true. You see, we live in a modern-day world that is moved by results. We need men and women who can calm the younger generation, explaining to them that those same principles of faith and godly living were what established them and made them great.

We need those men who others can look up to as results and products of the ministrations and anointings carried by the church body. Don't be fooled, they abound, but many times they prefer to be behind the scenes supporting with funds and resources.

Owners of companies and leaders of industries who can tell a branch manager to "calm down" with the foolishness that tries to find expression with the change of material status. When the usher in your church is your Professional National Association President, you cannot but go where they ask you to sit.

## **FAITH AND PATIENCE**

In the leading of the spirit, God gives you undeniable evidence to assure you. Hence, we safely conclude that

in the leading of the spirit, patience is vital. In being patient, you affirm God's leading.

### **TURN ON THE LIGHT**

What happens when you've been in darkness too long is you begin to develop other sense organs to be able to function; touch, smell, hearing etc., and your sense of sight gradually progresses into becoming vestigial. You might even lose your sense of sight completely. Animals that live in the darkness (2000ft) of the oceans have no need for sight.

When such comes into the light, it doesn't matter the intensity of that light, the sense organs are still not sensitive enough to use sight as it ought to be used. Usually, we will fall back to other senses we have come to trust over time; hustle, strategy, marketing, connect etc. We have tried them, and even though they are not perfect, that at least work occasionally.

When we open our eyes to see the glorious light, we do not stumble anymore. When you can see the ditch, you

don't need to feel around to know it's there. In vain is the snare placed in the sight of any bird. When you can see, you make tangible progress.

Ever been in a dark room? You almost get pushed by the darkness, and you must regain your balance. You begin to seek the familiar; a wall, a chair etc. to navigate your way until you get to the switch. When you turn on the light (Up NEPA!) All things become clear.

Nothing is hidden...even the cockroaches and rats know something is different and go into hiding. Oh, the wonders of light! You make speed, accuracy, clarity, precision, you come into a place where you cannot only help yourself, but others too. If your mum asks "where is the Vaseline?" You can scan the room and report "it's in the second drawer." Glory to God!

## **OBESITY**

I have always been very limited on what I eat, not for any reason, it's just the way I am. But you see this place eh, you've gets to watch and pray, lest obesity catch you like an armed robber. #WatchTheWaistLine

## **PRAYER**

When prayer meetings spring up, I am glad. No tangible thing of God on the earth has been birth without prayers. Check your life, the instances of rapid and spontaneous advancement can be traced to moments of prayers and intercessions made either by you or on your behalf, it's the law of the spirit.

Prayer, hence, should not be motivated by feelings, but by the understanding of its necessity. Leave the naysayers alone and travail on your knees. Those family prayers you discounted were small deposits from which you made and/or are making withdrawals. But note, you cannot do company business on a kiddies saver account. Pray.

Pastor Sam Adewuyi made this clear, the Bible teaches there is a clear difference between the Spirit (*Pneuma*) and Power (*Dunamis*).

Imagine you bought Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) and just stored it without putting it to work in a generator, all you have is spirit and if you are not careful, you can choke on it. But engaging it generates the power you need to run

your purpose. Utilizing the spirit to generate power for your life should be a priority. You should be able to point to consistent results obtained from a life of walking by faith.

## **FAITH**

*1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

*2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.*

*3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

*4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*

*5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*



*6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

*7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*

*8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.*

*9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:*

*10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

*11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. (What have you done by faith?)*

*+17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,*

*18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:*

19 *Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.*

20 *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.*

21 *By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.*

22 *By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.*

23 *By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.*

24 *By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;*

25 *Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;*

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

27 *By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*

*28 Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.*

*29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.*

*+30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.*

*31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.*

*32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:*

*33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.*

*34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*

*35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:*

*36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:*

*37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;*

*38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.*

*39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:*

*40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.*

(All by faith o!)

What have you done by faith? Not by mental calculations or secular principles of aspiring to perspire. Not hustling or scheming your way. What have you done by faith?

## **DEPENDENCE**

There is a dependence on God that transcends material possessions, skill or mental prowess.

## **REST**

Rest is a commandment.

Rest is a place/position/location.

Rest is a mentality/consciousness

Rest is a presence/aura/ambience. Rest is our covenant right.

Rest is a springboard/launch.

## **BELIEF**

The disciples asked the Lord "what shall we do that we may work the works of the Father?" Christ's response still echoes today "only believe."

"Believe" is the foundation of everything we will accomplish for God on the earth. Our convictions will bring us into confrontations with systems, realities, ideas that seek to negate it. The works of the Father involves superimposition of the ideals of the kingdom to any other.

It is why when Peter and John met the lame man at the temple gate, their conviction brought them in confrontation of a reality of lack, shame, sickness and

disease. The only work they did was believe, they were so convinced of the power in the name, and its ability to restore that he looked on him and said "silver or gold have I none, BUT WHAT I HAVE, I give unto thee, in THE NAME OF JESUS, rise up and walk."

He was convinced that he had the name and believed in the potency of the same. Will you do good works? Only believe! You cannot do not much for God beyond what you can believe Him for.

This is a central theme in scriptures. Jesus gave thanks at the tomb of Lazarus. He was convinced, He believed in the ability of the Father to redeem and restore. What do you believe?

### **NEVER LOSE**

Never lose your fight! UMA

Never lose your dream! UMA

Never lose your loving! UMA

Never lose your amazing! UMA

## **LOOK BEYOND**

We must always learn to look beyond the physical as Christians. Bill Johnson has taught me a lot in this regard. Sometimes we get used to the way we believe the spirit must move that we fail to recognize Him and His motions in other things. We must learn the person, the presence and the power, not multifaceted manifestations...how many can you get gan?

The prophet dipped the tree into the waters, and it was made sweet at Mara. This doesn't necessarily mean that we have been called into an "agbo" (natural herbs) ministry. The woman touched the hem of His garment and was made whole, doesn't mean we form a sect of "Hemenites." It is the same spirit at work in all, follow that spirit.

## **THERE IS MORE**

What are you believing God for? Don't get into a place of comfort or settle for what feels like a "dream" life, there is more.

## **LIFE**

When you recognize some non-negotiables, you can begin to innovate. This is the way we solve problems. When you injure a finger, you know the non-negotiable is cutting off the arm or the finger, so you can then begin to figure out how to care for it.

If we do not establish the boundary conditions, we cannot fully solve any problem because there are no constraints. Abortion is first a life issue, if we place this constraint, we can begin to consider all other alternatives. It is disgusting to hear things like "a clump of cells," "an electric pulse," "fertilized eggs."

When we understand the sanctity of life as a constraint in this matter, we can begin to truly solve the issue. Abortion is not a contraceptive option or "day after" pill. Some say "what about rape cases?" I have counselled with rape victims, and I can tell you the pain of their abortion is worse off. Two wrongs do not make anything right.

While it is difficult to console them, because they sometimes blame themselves for the action (rape), it is more difficult to get them to forgive themselves for



aborting the pregnancy. That decision solely rests in their hands. When you understand life, and the emotional trauma that comes with taking one, we will stop pontificating on issues like we are not humans.

God said don't have premarital sex, you said no! You started with contraceptives meant for married people to plan their family, now you are snuffing out lives because of your foolishness.

What about life threatening pregnancies? Law was extracted from the divine law, read the first and second chapter of John Knox. "Thou shall not seeth a kid in its mother's milk." It gives a value both to the baby and the mother. You cannot permit the death of both baby and mother. Doctors leave this decision to the parents and in most cases, take the best decision under the given circumstances.

We are not dumb or trying to say there will be no issues surrounding the constraints, but we must first have them. If you are bothered about the existence of the child after birth and how many kids are in foster care living horribly, then you should consider that before engaging in *coitus*,

or start advocating against fornication. Don't talk about abortion like it's Ludo.

If you don't want children, go and tie your tubes and be free to fornicate.

*"Just 1% of women obtain an abortion because they became pregnant through rape, and less than 0.5% do so because of incest"*  
*Guttmacher institution.*

Yet the battle over exceptions for both has garnered outsized attention in the national abortion debate. Let's know who we are advocating for o! I have said my own! Don't hide 98.5% fornicators under 1.5% of other issues. When laws against abortion come up, the first thing people talk about are rape and incest victims. Let's be guided o!

E reach to commot your church o! When your Pastor says "you see, there are several issues surrounding abortion" ninu church. Aiyé ti wonú ìjo.

*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient. [Romans 1:28 KJV]*

## **FEAR**

You can control people if you can get them to be afraid or fearful.

*For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Tim 1:7*

## **PLEASING THE FATHER**

Jesus did not care much about being misunderstood by the religious folks. His goal was to please the Father. The more we pay attention to Him and what He seeks, the more we see His presence and His hand at work.

## **WORSHIP**

Worship might move you to sing, singing might move you to worship. All the focus must be on Him and Him alone.

## **PERSON, PRESENCE, POWER.**

We know the person, we honour the presence, we ask for the power. This is the way.

## **GOOD WORKS**

We all have been called to good works. This is what the Father preordained before the foundation of the earth. Ever imagined what we would have been doing on the earth if the fall never happened?

Do you know what the milky way and the galaxies were created for? They were created for each person to rule and reign over by the word of His power...to cause to become, and to do good works across the heavens.

Therefore, even if you find it hard to decipher what to do or what your purpose is, commit yourself to doing good works. Jesus was always doing good; He was anointed for good works.

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good and*

*healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. [Acts 10:38 KJV]*

Doing good is not only for Mama Do Good, but also a general command to everyone. Within your space, focus on what "good" you can do. This is how we express the love of Christ. Any love that does not put the "good" first is not divine. And we have learnt from Christ, we do not force or intimidate others for their own "good." Love demands choice and the freedom of will.

*Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victim may be the most oppressive. It would be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may sometimes be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do with the approval of their own conscience.*

[C. S. Lewis]

Do as much good as you have opportunity. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts and this love constrains us to do good. You will have to carry out several manual

overrides to cancel the goodness Christ's love has placed in you.

*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. [Galatians 6:10 KJV]*

But I have been burnt by people?

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth 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 KJV]*

They have crucified and killed Jesus, if they burn Him too, "no pees." Dead men don't burn. E shock you? If you are still being burnt, better carry yourself to the cross. Like Bro. Gbile will say "you are not dead yet, there is still Mr. Self is alive in there somewhere."

But they are my enemies!

*Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he is thirsty, get him a*

*drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness.  
Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by  
doing good. [Romans 12:20-21 MSG]*

Shock them! Surprise them with goodness! Get the best of evil! Commit yourself to good works today. We are salt, light, and yeast...we can change the landscape of reality by our existence. Let the world see Jesus in your eyes, show them love they cannot deny.

*I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me  
[Philippians 4:13 KJV].*

We are called salt and light because we change reality by our existence. But salt is nothing without its saltiness, and light is nothing without illumination. We have been called to good works.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

Aim for sustainability and then progress. A sinusoidal life might look exciting, but the true test of maturity is stability. "Boring" sometimes is a sign of maturity and stability.

Don't seek out storms that will rock your boat in the guise of "testing," God has not called us to foolishness.

Stability is the springboard for excellence. Our parents understood that...ensuring you had a roof over your head, food in your stomach and an education. You may not have gotten bikes, computer games, a trip to London, but you were always sure to eat at least one good meal each day, you could always bank on that. Once stability is established you can excel.

*"Boring can be a good thing. Sometimes it's a sign that everything is as it should be. Too often we don't appreciate it enough when our lives are peaceful or stable, and we instead go look for turbulence and then complain when we find it."*



## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

There is no way to end this volume than to ask yourself questions. Questions that will reveal your person, your desires, your proclivities and ultimate end. I believe knowing ourselves and the identity we carry is critical to the kind of life we live and experience.

*I said, "There is no hope for me! I am doomed because every word that passes my lips is sinful, and I live among a people whose every word is sinful. And yet, with my own eyes I have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."*

*Isaiah 6:5 GNT*

Being truthful to yourself is the first step to living free. Take out time to be quiet and answer questions about your person truthfully. Find out how your answers match up with the Word of God and desire to make changes where needed.

*For he who is free is not bound, and he who is bound is not free*  
*~ UMA*

## **A Simple Prayer to Receive Jesus Christ as Your Saviour**

Dear Heavenly Father,

I come to You in the Name of Jesus.

Your Word says, "...Every one of them will come to me, and I will always accept them" (John 6:37 ICB), so I know You accept me and I thank You for it.

You said in Your Word, "Anyone who asks the Lord for help will be saved" (Rom. 10:13 ICB). I am asking, and I know You have saved me now.

You also said "...If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from death, then you will be saved. We believe with our hearts, and so we are made right with God. And we declare with our mouths to say that we believe, and so we are saved." (Rom. 10:9-10 ICB). I believe in my heart Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe that He was raised from the dead for my justification, and I confess Him now as my Lord

Because Your Word says, "... We believe with our hearts, and so we are made right with God ..." and I do believe with my heart, I am now made right God in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:21 ICB) ... And I am saved!

Thank You, Lord!

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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