



LESSONS FROM THE BOOK *of* MATTHEW VOL 1

*Inspirational and Life Applicable Lessons
From the Gospel According to Matthew*

JOSIAH OKHEAPE

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Vol 1

*Inspirational and life-applicable lessons from the gospel
According to Matthew*

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the bible.

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Introduction

Next to the book of Luke, the next most comprehensively written account of Jesus's time and events on the earth is the account of Matthew. In it are most of his parables, diverse healing campaigns, and several teachings.

I imagine you have been through a challenge of any sort before now and didn't know what to do or how to get yourself out of it. Even though you probably thought you had done all you should have done based on the knowledge of God you had.

The truth is, your freedom from the devil's vices and schemes is dependent on the level of truth you know, understand, and practice. Because God's word is both our spiritual food and also our wisdom manual for living.

Hidden in this book are several practical life lessons you can learn and imbibe as habits to live a victorious Christian life. They are 41 lessons in all, but incisively you'll be learning:

- How to overcome temptation.
- Simple principles for living like Christ

- Some secrets behind Jesus's works.
- Deep insight into the teachings of Christ and more.

The lessons shared in this book are all inspired by the Holy Spirit to aid and help the believer conform to the image of Christ. However, to make the most of them, you must;

- Come with an open heart
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see what you must learn.
- Humble yourself to reflect upon and repent where necessary.
- Go through contextual Bible passages from each text when necessary for more understanding.
- And finally, prepare to engage them with corresponding actions in your walk with God.

I see you becoming wiser and stronger in the knowledge of God's word through the lessons shared in this book in Jesus name. Amen!

God bless you!

God Weighs Your Seriousness

Matthew 2:13-14 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

Sometimes I am so busy, that I need to delegate some work to a friend or a junior one. But then when I look at the importance of the tasks or their delicacy, I sacrifice to do them myself.

That's me, how about God?

From the context of the scripture above, it hit me hard as the Holy Spirit reiterated these words in my heart and through my mouth, **God will not give something serious to an unserious person.** How? He knows your heart.

The life of the Savior of the world was committed to a man called Joseph. The Devil through Herod was ready to kill

an entire city of children if that was what it took to abort God's plan. But thank God for Joseph, he would heed the angels' warning. He left that same night.

What or who does your heart, beat for? What's your heartbeat for God like? How seriously do you take God's instructions? You can check by the things he's committed to your care.

If he hasn't committed so much to your care, it may mean you aren't serious with the things He probably told you before.

Yes! Jesus came to save us from perdition, but thank God for a man like Joseph, who will play his role in Jesus's destiny.

God is still looking for such men today. And by men, I mean both men and women. There's so much to accomplish for the Lord today, but he isn't in a hurry to give a serious task to an unserious son or daughter.

Prayer

*Father, thank you for the privilege to serve your interest.
I, therefore, ask for the fresh passion and zeal it requires*

to run at your every command in Jesus name. Amen!
God bless you.

God Cares About Your Fruits

Matthew 3:8-10 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Today it may seem enough to attend church regularly to earn the title of a **"strong Christian."** It may have even become a cliché in our ears, **"am a Christian"**, that we may have forgotten what responsibilities that name attaches to our lives.

However, we must note that Jesus never called anyone a Christian. Neither did the disciples call themselves Christians. It was the heathen spectators who observed the lives of early believers and how similar they were to Christ, which chose to call them Christians. This first happened in Antioch.

Today what does God expect from us?

Like John the Baptist said in the scriptural focus above, **we must bring forth fruits that show that we have been translated from darkness to light.** If your taste for the old things or the life you used to live hasn't changed, it is a call to examine your salvation personally. For by their fruits you shall know them; not by their Bible names, or religious appearances.

Moreover, you may be saved and not produce the kind of fruits you should; that's if you are not **"abiding in"** the vine. That's because it takes abiding in the vine, which is Christ (his word) to produce fruits from the vine. For no branch can bear fruits away from its vine. (John 15:1-4)

The truth is, with God; character is more important than power. That's how you first look like Him. By character I mean your integrity, your ability to be one with yourself. You are not someone else in Church and someone else in school or work, and then someone else at home.

So how do you bear fruits after the order of Christ? You must give yourself to his word. Remember, Gods word is the seed. When you sow it into the ground of your heart, you have given your heart something to cultivate. But that's not all.

You must follow up the seeds you've sown by watering, weeding, and nurturing, until your life begins to produce the fruits of the word you had planted. Weeding involve taking off the wrong habits that the word reproves you of. Then nurturing entails applying the word you are learning into every aspect of your life.

It is in doing this continuously, that you can begin to bear fruits after some time. Mind you, you must note that Gods word contains all kinds of seeds. Some sprout quickly and are soon ready for harvesting. Meanwhile some take more consistency and discipline to produce. I pray the Lord give you understanding. Amen!

Prayer

Father thank you for the grace to bear fruits after you. And so I choose to stay and remain in the vine, and I receive grace to continue to bear good fruits, that my life will become a display for your fruits, your characteristics, and nature in Jesus name. Amen. God bless you.

Temptations Are Tests For Promotion

Matthew 4:1-2 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

The word temptation for many brings fear, which even causes some to fall before they are tempted. But the word of God assures us that God will never permit a temptation that's beyond your ability to overcome, to come your way in the first place.

This calls for a change in our mindsets on this subject.

As we see in the context of the above scripture that; Jesus was even led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil; the Holy Spirit led him into it. Why would the Holy Spirit lead you to be tempted by the devil? That's because temptations are for our lifting in the kingdom.

However, we must study how Christ overcame so we can follow the same pattern to ace whatever temptations come

our way because they will.

- First, we see that he fasted.

Note that, our adversary is a spirit, not a human being. So, to be able to match him with the armory that we have, we must turn or tune to our spirits to overcome. This is what fasting helps to achieve.

- He prayed

If you will not pray, then you can't receive the know-how or strength to overcome. Fasting alone wouldn't do it. Remember it is God that teaches our hands to fight. He will do that as you engage in prayers. You will find that you just know what to do.

- He used the word

The Holy Spirit will remind you of all things you already have inside you, not what you never learned or were taught. So, if you don't make reading and studying the word important to your Christian walk, there's not so much the Holy Spirit can remind you of.

In all, we never outgrow temptations, they are God's test for our growth. The temptations you fail to overcome are the signs of your weaknesses. This means the proof of your strength is in the temptation you overcome.

Prayer

Father thank you for temptations are for my promotion and strengthening. I am therefore strengthened with might in my spirit and endowed with wisdom to continue to overcome whatever temptations come my way in Jesus name. Amen. God bless you.

Your Greatness Is In Doing The Word

Matthew 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

We are in a kingdom, and this kingdom has a King, by whose grace we are partakers of his kingship. Kingdoms have one way of advancing, and that is by taking territories.

So, our value in the kingdom of heaven, is to the level we can advance the kingdom by taking more territories. Therefore, we may all be believers, but with varying levels of authority. Not because the king is a respecter of persons, but rather because of the rate at which you are growing.

In the anchor scripture above, you will observe that you rise in this kingdom by not just knowing scriptures, but by doing them.

Growing up, I found out that believers have found a way

to explain away why they don't do certain things as scriptures demand or portray. They take the parts of scriptures they feel they can obey and neglect the others.

Well, as good as that may be, you will not grow that way. If you must grow, then you must learn what the scriptures say and do them. Instead of looking for ways to excuse yourself from certain instructions you consider to be difficult.

On the other hand, we teach and say the things we don't do. Relishing in the fact that the bible says these things, and we know and can recite them, but we don't do them.

It is God's expectation for us to both know and do the word. This is the only way to greatness in God's kingdom.

Prayer

Glory to God! God's word is my standard for living, I love and place God's word in high esteem in all that I do. And so I make a practice of doing all that God says, not just what I like to do anymore in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

Cut It Off

Matthew 5:29-30 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

I took some time off to really meditate on this scripture. How do I cut off my arm or pluck out an eye that causes me to sin? Today, I look around and I am not seeing believers who have done the same. Not even in the scriptures.

So, what was Jesus saying?

How do you cut off the habit of pornography or masturbating, how do you cut out telling lies or stealing? How do you cut off those sins that often easily beset you? Knowing that the battle is either lost or won in your mind.

Well, after much meditation, this is what I find to be true. You can of course run away from certain things that aid you to fall into sin. Like that bad friend, going to the wrong place, watching the wrong things. Etc. But that's not enough.

Why? Because most of these sinful desires are generated in the heart. These desires aren't just physical, they are also spiritual. How then, do you deal with the issues in your heart? How do you cut it off?

This is where prayer, the word, all intensified through fasting comes in.

Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

First, you must separate yourself from your sin. Put it away from you. Whatever draws your attention to such things must be put away.

What next?

Then pick up that deed that may have become a habit in prayer, and use the word and prayer to cut it off, before it cuts you off. This is not a once and for all kind of prayer.

But I promise you when that desire is cut off you will know. Learn the endurance of confessing your new nature in Christ and praying them into your life.

There are friends you can't cut off from just physically as well, and there are habits you can't break off from naturally. Why? Because they are not just physically attached to you. This is why you turn to your other side, turn to your spirit, through prayer and the word.

It takes living and walking in the spirit to live above sin. A weak spirit may find itself returning back to its old habits. So you must consciously stair up your spirit through diverse spiritual activities, such as; regular word study, a consistent prayer life, fasting, fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit, fellowship with other brethren just to mention these few.

Prayer

Father, in the name of Jesus I refuse to harbor anymore whatever habits that are detrimental to my walk with you, I cut off this (mention such habits) by the fire of the Holy Spirit now. Amen! God bless you.

The Mystery of “The Secret Place”

*Matthew 6:4 That thine alms may be in secret: and
thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall
reward thee openly.*

Most often when you hear about "**the secret place**", it is referred to as the place of intimacy with God; which is correct. But beyond this, it is a mystery.

In the context of the scripture, from where the above text was taken, we find that God's kingdom requires that we do things, such as: give alms, pray, and fast rather secretly, if we desire to see rewards from God openly. These are characteristics every citizen of God's kingdom must embrace gracefully.

Beyond this also, God desires to show us how things come to the open. Whatever we see on earth today, whether it was made by God or men, was first conceived in the secret. Not until it was conceived secretly, can it be brought to the open. You were first in the womb before you were born.

Everything follows this principle.

So, the night rules the day, and Jesus could say that **"whatever was done in the secret was done to be revealed."**

Therefore, don't give up on those secret assignments God has asked you to do. You may not be known today, but in time, your secret labor will reveal itself.

If there's anywhere to labor, it's in the secret. This is what wisdom demands, why? Because whoever labors in the secret will be rewarded in the open.

Many have missed this and are seeking public recognition without secret labors. The truth is, you may get public recognition, but it implies that you will fall short of expectations without secret labors.

Prayer

*Father thank you for unveiling this mystery to me.
Therefore I receive grace to continue to labor secretly,
in all aspects of life, both spiritually, intellectually, and
otherwise in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you*

Take No Thought about Your 'Life'

Matthew 6:25,33 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Is it possible to take no thought about your life, and then, beat those who have for all time sought after their well-being?

Well, don't take my word for it; Jesus said it himself. He wasn't quoted.

You may not understand this same point as quoted in Matthew 6:33 until you understand Matthew 6:25 which precedes it.

Take no thought about your life comes before seeking first God's Kingdom. Which is, his will on the earth, how that his kingdom advances with you, about being at his right place for you per time, and then you can expect all other

things to be added to you.

This for me is one of Jesus's hard sayings, but it is open to whosoever beliefs. Believing here is not in words, but rather in the obedience of faith. That is, doing the requirements attached to what you say you believe.

You must take no thoughts about your life before you can seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. You can't do the two at the same time. You will have to displease yourself to please God.

This is the higher life. This is God's desire for our basic operation on the earth. This is how God produces men who have died to the natural affections of this world.

However, it is a choice everyone can make. This was the life Jesus chose, and today we can agree that he didn't lack other necessities in his life and ministry. This is the key to greatness in the Kingdom of God—take no thought for your life.

Prayer

Father thank you for the reminder that you are more concerned about me than I am about me. I, therefore, receive grace to walk in this choice I have made today not to become anxious about my life, but instead to seek

your will and allow you to worry about me, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

The Narrow Way

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

According to Jesus, there are only two ways in life to tread. And it's either you are on the broad way or on the narrow way. From the above statement, I suppose it should be easy to identify the path you are probably walking.

However, reading down the passage, Jesus again points out the fact that many will be turned down on the last day; who thought they were walking on the narrow way.

Why? Let's see it from the words of Jesus.

Matthew 7:21-23 "Knowing the correct password—saying 'Master, Master,' for instance— isn't going to get you anywhere with me. What is required is serious obedience—doing what my Father wills. I can see it now—at the Final Judgment thousands

strutting up to me and saying, 'Master, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our God-sponsored projects had everyone talking.' And do you know what I am going to say? 'You missed the boat. All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don't impress me one bit. You're out of here.' (Message Bible)

So, what does it really mean to walk on the narrow way?

In my little experience, I find that the way keeps getting narrow. Why? Because Jesus keeps coming to take things from me. It is not just sinful things, but also things that may not be sinful, but take my time or attention off him.

Jesus's model of training requires that he comes from time to time as you grow to take things (such as weights and sins) he probably didn't say anything about when you got saved. There may be many things he couldn't just tell you almost immediately.

So, the proof that you are on the narrow way is the things you have to show that you have surrendered to your love for Jesus.

If your Christian walk doesn't take away from you the various lusts your flesh is entangled with. Or you aren't so

different from what you used to be like when you got saved, in terms of your character; then it's a call to check it. You may be off the narrow way.

Prayer

Father thank you, for what you make you can keep. I have chosen to love and serve your interest upon the face of the earth, I therefore ask that you keep me from wandering off the narrow way into the "not so broad" and destructive way—away from your will for me in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

“Faith” In the Roman Officer

Matthew 8:9-10,13 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

There are quite some faith expressions in the ministry of Jesus, but the faith of the Roman officer was so strong that it would marvel the author of faith—Jesus.

In my thoughts and meditation on the faith of this Roman officer I could not but notice the following:

1. His faith came from the testimonies of others.
2. His strong reasons were produced from the bosom of love for his servant and deep meditation.

I kept asking myself, how a gentile knew that distance wasn't a barrier to Jesus's authority over demons.

I saw that proximity (being close to Jesus in person) isn't the same as having faith to deal with a situation. Because a few paragraphs down the reading, Jesus accuses his disciples of no faith.

In all, here's a lesson to take home. If Jesus could marvel at the faith of the Roman officer, it's a fact that God is not responsible for your faith.

If you will stay on the word enough, and the testimonies of others as it concerns your situation, you can through deep meditation concoct strong reasons that will marvel the Father who is the author of faith.

Here's how to come up with a strong reason;

- Ask yourself, why should my prayer be answered?

The stronger the reasons you can find through word search and meditation and can properly litigate on the altar of prayer will produce a change of story.

It's not really about how long and hard you pray, even though that's part of it—your strong reasons also count for much.

The Lord give you understanding. God bless you.

Prayer

Father thank you for it is given to me to know and understand the mysteries of the kingdom. I, therefore, ask that the eyes of my understanding of scriptures be more and more opened up. That I may continue to see deep things in your word, in Jesus name. Amen!

The Birthright Called 'FASTING'

Matthew 9:14-15 Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not? And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.

Some things are better imagined than only just reading them. In the scriptural context of the above text, permit me to lend your imagination for a bit.

The disciples of John were intimidated by the way Jesus's disciples ate. Claiming that John made them fast so much. While Jesus's disciples were busy eating from one feast to another. In my mind, I can only imagine how John the Baptist made them fast.

That said and imagined, I must draw your attention to what Jesus said:

*"...the days will come, when the bridegroom
(Jesus) shall be taken from them, and then
shall they fast."*

Jesus didn't say we may fast, rather he said we shall fast.

There are strategic seasons in the year, such as: at the beginning, quarterly, and at the end, to mention a few. And while some are fasting to spiritually take the year, some are lounging, breaking bread, and all kinds of assorted delicacies.

The truth still remains that there are **'some kinds'** that probably hindered you last year, which will not go except by prayer and fasting.

Fasting is a spiritual heritage handed over to us. I call it one of our birthrights, which is a choice rather than a gift. For those who think that some people are gifted faster's.

You must choose to learn this spiritual exercise now. Because whatever isn't in your life now is probably never going to be in your future. If you can't make up your mind on your own, find people around you who can help you master this habit. Your present undertakings and your future accomplishments need it.

Like my mentor will say, may you not sell your birthright (that which belongs to you) for a morsel of bread. God bless you.

Prayer

Father, thank you for the spiritual exercise of fasting, which is available to me to take what belongs to me and to enlarge my spirit as I learn to know you more. I choose to spend myself in this exercise and I receive your grace to continue to grow in it in Jesus name. Amen

“Faith” In The Woman with the Issue of Blood

Matthew 9:20-22 And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

There is something about how the Holy Spirit through Matthew was able to show us how men used their faith in different situations to get what they wanted from God. This you will find in the 8 & 9th chapters of the book.

The faith of the woman with the issue of blood is one of the profound cases of extraordinary faith that I find. Why do I say this? Even though her name had been replaced with the unfortunate condition she faced. She made use of two principles to procure her healing.

What are these principles?

1. She heard about Jesus's testimonials. This you too can do through his word or profound testimonies of saints. You can find books on this too.
2. She took time to meditate on them and found how she could concoct her victory through them. Faith came to her from her meditation.

Things worthy to note;

- Her case was different from any other. But it wasn't a limitation to the power of God.
- How did she come up with the idea behind touching Jesus's cloth? With this, you should agree with me that faith is a personal responsibility.
- Lastly, faith is an agency in the Holy Spirit that can be drawn to you, if you would spend time in the word and meditate on it.

I just love the expression of this woman's faith. It took something from heaven without heaven noticing.

Although not shared in Matthew's account, Jesus was troubled because like he said virtue left him without knowing who touched him. This woman came with a touch of faith.

You can replicate the same today. All it takes is time on the word, testimonies, and meditation. You can bring things on earth from heaven that will marvel this generation.

Prayer

Father thank you for you are the author of faith. I ask that you renew and rekindle a fresh passion in me for your Word, that my eyes of faith open up to see wondrous things in your word, and that faith may be quickened in every area of my life, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

Why Are the Laborers So Few

Matthew 10:1,7-8 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

The above text is a continuation and an answer to the prayer, prayed by the disciples in the previous chapter. Remember, Jesus asked his disciples to pray to the Lord of the harvest, to send more laborers into the harvest field because the harvest was too much for one laborer to harvest.

Glory to God, the Lord of the harvest—which is the Holy Spirit answered that prayer almost immediately. This led to Jesus calling his twelve disciples and sending them forth with Authority and Power.

However, there remains a question; **why are the laborers still few today?**

The question is not why are Christians few? No! We have believers everywhere but not laborers. Is it because the Lord of the harvest isn't answering that prayer anymore, or is it because the harvest has been reaped.

Well here are some answers.

When we pray and ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers, he is not going to look for unbelievers to raise. As he did with Jesus, he called the twelve disciples.

The Holy Spirit answers by calling those who are already his. But there has always been a problem. The Holy Spirit doesn't just give you power. Yes! He doesn't.

He'll rather put you through a process. It is this process that makes the laborers few.

What is this process?

The same process he put Jesus through that qualified him to be a laborer, even the disciples as well.

I'll put the entire process in one word called **OBEDIENCE**.

The Holy Spirit begins to lead you into different spiritual routines, which some may call **the school of the Spirit**. It is only those who succeed that finally become laborers.

A clergyman's title is not equal to a laborer's. The proof that you have become a laborer is found in verse 8. It comes with a mandate,

- Preach the kingdom
- Heal the sick
- Raise the dead
- Cleanse the lepers and
- Cast out, devils.

This is what qualifies you as a sent laborer. The truth is you may not be there yet, but I have a question for you, are you in the process? Will the path you are treading now lead you into becoming a laborer in God's kingdom to harvest souls in his name? I'll leave you to ponder on those questions.

Prayer

Oh, Father! Make a laborer out of me. Help me to continue to follow your Spirit's leading in me until the fisher of men in me is defined. Mold me to become a vessel of honor, fit for your use alone Lord, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

The Laborer's Manual

Matthew 10:37-39 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 10, isn't a message to everyone. Jesus was speaking to laborers.

Like I said in the previous lesson, we have many Christians but very few laborers. Why? Because not everyone would love to pass through the process to become one.

Continuing in that line today. What does it take to surrender to this process? Such that as you do, you'll end up becoming a laborer for the master.

In the scriptural text above, you'll find what it takes to submit to this process.

"He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

What does it mean to lose your life for his sake?

It simply means to recognize that Jesus died when he shouldn't have died, just for me. So if I am reasonable, I'll give up the life I should have lived for myself, pick up the life he wants me to live for him, and run with it.

In summary that's what it means.

I know you have your plans, and you love God too, but not to the extent of giving up those dreams of yours for his will.

Well, Jesus also knows it was going to come to that, and he told us what would happen; **"if you love your life, you will end up losing it."**

Prayer

Father, thank you for the privilege to live for you in Christ Jesus. I, therefore, receive grace to lay down my ambitions, plans, and personal intents in all aspects of life, to pick up that which is your will or desire as revealed to me, and run with it, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

Sailing through Trying Times

Matthew 11:2-6 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

There are certain things that all men must go through, whether bond or free. However, the kingdom of God provides us a way of escape, that sees us win all the time—and that's **PATIENCE**.

Patience is a spiritual virtue that can keep the confession of your faith constant until it delivers. Many may claim that they are patient, but we don't know how patient you are until we see the test you have surmounted.

In the scriptural text for this lesson, I am baffled by the

fact that John heard the great things Christ was doing and decides to send him his disciple to ask if he was the messiah. This was the great man who introduced him into his ministry as the Lamb who takes away the sins of the whole world.

After, some thought, I could see that; trials are either our tickets to developing our patience in God or the stealer of our **JOY**.

I tell you this, Joy among other virtues that the believer has; is a force that keeps you standing. Without it, you are gone. Whatever takes your joy, has succeeded to take you out. For the joy of the Lord is our strength.

It is patience that helps you stay constantly rejoicing despite the situation you are in. It works hand in hand with faith. It holds you in faith until your faith delivers.

Why am I stressing about this so much?

Well, here's why! The ways of God are far different from our ways. The way he thinks is far higher than what we can ever think. So, in the place of prayers and diverse experiences and expectations, if you have been with the Lord for some time, you would have learned that he

doesn't show up when you expect him to. And that doesn't make him any less God.

We must develop our patience to wait on God in faith. Not wavering, no matter what the circumstance, to see your faith deliver its expectation.

Whatever it is you may be passing through, remember God has your best interest at heart.

Prayer

.....
*Father thank you for the grace to win in every trial,
through faith and patience. I ask for the grace to
continually grow the fruit of patience in my life as I give
myself to exercising your love in every aspect of life, in
Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.*
.....

A Shadow of Things to Come

Matthew 12:10-13 And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him. And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days. Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other.

In Hebrews 10:1 the Bible talks about the law being a shadow of things to come. Now, a shadow is a reflection of an image in the opposite direction of light pointed at it.

It is one thing to have the shadow, it is another to find the real image.

From the scriptural text in the above reading, Jesus tried to explain the thin line between the shadow of the Sabbath and the real essence of the Sabbath. Seeing that the then teachers of the law had chosen to hold on to a

shadow instead of giving their hearts to the real image.

The church today is not left out in the dilemma of choosing the shadow over the real image. This I won't dwell upon.

However, it is our responsibility to take hold of the real deal instead of clinging to shadows. How? By engaging the spirit of wisdom and revelation, prayers, and word study, to expand and bring to our understanding that which is truly God's heart on any subject.

In doing this you must be willing and open-minded to learn. Not having a closed mind, but giving the Holy Spirit an open heart to fill.

*2 Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able
ministers of the new testament; not of the
letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth,
but the spirit giveth life.*

Also, to safeguard from deception, you should have mentors who you believe and have proven over time. Who are ahead of you in understanding, to help check on your revelations so as not to deviate into error.

Prayer

Father thank you for the grace to be open-minded. I, therefore, ask that the eyes of my understanding, by the spirit of wisdom and revelation, be continually open, that I may continually access wondrous insights from your word, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

Are You Divided Against Yourself

Matthew 12:25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

The Bible is a book containing mysteries, history, principles, and prophecies, to say the least. Principles are the basis where other functionaries in the word find expression.

In the text above, Jesus unveils a powerful mystery, which is also a principle that governs our existence.

That no man divided against himself can stand.

Remember, we are a city, supposed to be set on a hill. We are also a house being built by God.

But what does it mean to be divided against one's self? Well, the answer is pretty simple. It means not being one with yourself, whether in words, or actions. Let me show

you a few examples.

At the beginning of a new year, you make decisions as to how you would do things differently. Which I think is great, setting new goals to accomplish.

Now imagine someone who says he would grow in reading more books this year and has no plan to buy any books or a reading plan.

Your desire is not in sync with your plan. You say, "I'll not talk so much as I did last year," but you still keep the kind of friends that will make you fail on that decision.

You have promised the Lord that you will walk closely with him this year, but you still sleep as you did last year. You probably want a great year, but you are not building any foundation now in your secret place for the year or your future to stand upon.

The truth is, I can go on and on. But what is the Lord saying? A house divided against itself cannot stand. Having desires, without sitting down to count the cost of fulfilling them will see you fail.

God wants you to prosper and excel greatly as his child. However, you have a role to play in it. God will not play

his role and yours at the same time.

Prayer

Father thank you for unveiling the mystery of oneness to me. I now ask for wisdom to set new goals that will aid my success in your will for my life and empowerment to pursue this plan with the right actions of faith in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

The Good Ground of the Heart

Matthew 13:3,23 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

The Bible says that good understanding procures favor. (Proverbs 13:15.) That means favor is not just a function of God's grace, there is a role that you also play to procure favor into your life.

The parable of the sower was just one of the many parables the Holy Spirit permitted Matthew to share out of the many Jesus told in his ministry escapade on the sea.

Why this parable?

Well, here it is! Many times, we have heard God's word, and probably thought that this parable was told to refer to sinners or those who don't know the Lord. And that only the last character knew the Lord.

Well, the parable was actually talking about children of God. And this happens to us every time. Each scenario Jesus painted happens every time you hear the word.

Jesus is both the word and the sower, and the proof that you understand the word just like the last character, is that you must produce fruits from it—at least 30%.

Many today have kept hearing about building themselves up in their most Holy faith by praying in the Holy Ghost. However, they have never set out time to learn this rich exercise of praying with their spirit.

The proof of your understanding of God's word is not in how many notes you take in Church, or how much of God's word you know; but rather how much of the word you do.

What makes your heart a good ground?

When you can produce the things you are learning from God's word, it means your heart is a good ground. Remember the word is the seed sown. Are you giving room to weeds to grow there? Are you sharing your heart with God and the devil? As a garden, are you concerned with the nurturing of the seeds of God's word sown there?

You are responsible for making your heart a good ground.

You are the one who decides what you permit into your heart. Now, that you study God's word is not enough. You must keep it away from the influence of anything that is not of value, or that doesn't give glory to God. If not, you stand the chance of corrupting the seed of God's word sown there. Weeds will keep seeds from producing as they should.

Understanding changes your ability to do the word and also affects the rate at which the word produces fruits in your life. The more you give yourself to the word, something changes in you, whether you know it or not.

Prayer

Father thank you for your word that is guaranteed to yield fruits in my life. I, therefore, receive grace to nurture my heart into a good ground where the seed of God's word can keep bearing fruits. Away from the anxieties of this present age and time, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

The Infiltration Plan

Matthew 13:37-38,44 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

In the days of Daniel, he gave an interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Talking about various kingdoms that will rise upon the face of the earth.

We are in the era of the last kingdom, and according to that prophecy or dream. God has already set up a kingdom, but we are yet to see it break all other kingdoms.

Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

That is the era we are in right now. You and I are God's infiltration plan, to break into pieces the last kingdoms.

However, what does this connote?

In the text above, while the good seeds were planted the enemy also came and sowed his, and they were permitted to grow together, but not to mix up.

There was a clear distinction between them, some were tares and the others wheat.

We must take note that we are the wheat and must maintain our integrity to accomplish the role already ordained of God for us in these last days.

It will take more than the regular Christianity we're used to, to infiltrate or break in pieces the kingdom of Iron & Clay. The fear is many will defer to the other side.

So, what does this call for? We must subscribe to the process of being built up by the Holy Spirit so that we can be sent into the various sectors and sections of the world system.

This is the plan, you are God's battle axe, to tear down the kingdoms of the world. And to lift up and uphold God's kingdom everywhere.

Prayer

Father thank you for making me your battle axe. I ask Lord that you unveil to me my role in this agenda you have for the earth at this time and empower me to play it excellently without fail in the name of Jesus. Amen! God bless you.

There Is a Treasure in YOU

Matthew 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

What is a treasure?

A treasure is a valuable substance; something very precious; something of high esteem to say the least.

I have found out that what men call treasure, to God is far less than what he calls a treasure. For his thoughts are higher than our thoughts, and his ways than our ways. (Isaiah 55:8)

In the text above, it says that there is a treasure hidden by God in you. How great this treasure is, it cannot be found on the surface.

You can be told about it, but until you see it for yourself, you will not find the grace to sell all you have to buy it; according to the focal scripture above.

He said, **"they that found this treasure"**, went to sell all they had just to be able to acquire or to purchase this treasure.

What does this mean?

It means that if you have not sold all that you have; if you're not giving everything up for this kingdom it means you have not found the treasure that is in you.

I can tell you about it, but not until you see it for yourself, you can't go and sell all that you have. The treasure in you is worth much more than everything you think you can ever have on the earth. But I have a question for you.

Will you allow the treasure in your life to waste? What will you do with the deposit of the treasure of God that is in you?

Treasures are not hidden on the surface. It will require that you dig and dig even further and further. The greater the treasure in you the deeper it is hidden in you. Also, if you will not dig into your spirit man you may never find the treasure that is in you. It is hidden in your spirit.

I learned from Dr. Myles Munroe that every seed has a tree inside of it. And so, your treasure is not in heaven, it

is inside of you. It takes a relationship between you and your maker to dig deep by the Holy Ghost, who searches all things to find the treasure hidden in you and to be guided on how to explore the treasure.

We are in the last days where you will begin to see the glory of the latter house of the Lord. This glory is so great. And is only for those who have found the treasures that are hidden in them, and will partner with the Holy Spirit to mine them to the world.

Prayer

Father thank you for the rich treasures you have deposited in me. I ask father for a revelation of the treasures you have deposited in me for your glory to be seen and manifested to my generation. That the treasures in me will not be wasted. Amen! God bless you.

From Little to Great Faith

Matthew 14:28-31 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Every living thing has an inbuilt capacity to grow. If a mustard seed can grow into a tree, little faith can become great faith.

In the text above, Peter out of all the disciples exercised his little faith, which later gave way to a boisterous wind. However, I learned a lesson from him—he became the only disciple to walk on water as Jesus did.

What if you fail? Yes! That's a possibility. But then what if you succeed? This is also another possibility.

Inbuilt in every child of God is **the measure of faith**. It is

what you do with yours that determines if it grows or remains little.

Apart from faith coming through hearing and understanding the word, faith grows when we exercise it. The proof that you believe is in the step you take, after receiving and believing the word.

Peter, amongst the other disciples, exercised the little faith he had and walked on water. After the death and resurrection of Christ, his faith brought over 3000 souls to repentance on the day of Pentecost.

What you do or don't do with your faith, is directly proportional to its growth. So invariably, you are responsible for the growth of your faith.

So start now, give yourself room to be filled with the word. Believe what it tells you as God speaking to you, and begin to take steps in line with what it demands from you. The measure of faith you don't use will eventually diminish to—no faith.

Prayer

Father thank you for your word that my faith grows as I put it to use. In the name of Jesus, I refuse to keep my

faith redundant. I choose to take steps of faith in line with what your word teaches me. Knowing that you respond to my actions of faith. Glory to God. Amen! God bless you.

The Heart & Act Connection

Matthew 15:17-19 Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

Understanding the heart and act connection means you can control the flow or movement of actions or activities. You can determine the outcome of events if you understand how or what it takes to produce a consistent result.

The same applies to Jesus's teaching in the text scripture above.

If you can control what gets into your heart, you can control your actions. The Bible says to be carnally minded, (to have your mind flooded with carnal things) is death. On the other hand, to be spiritually minded, (that is to have your heart set on spiritual things is life).

Why? Because whatever your heart is stayed on, as thoughts, will eventually become what you do.

So, therefore, it becomes your responsibility to have your heart set on what you want your life to look like. Whether it's spending time with God in prayer, fasting, word study, reading spiritual books, listening to edifying tapes, and other edifying materials to build yourself productively; it's all your choice.

But whatever you choose, will inform your actions. Your heart is the engine room of conception. If you allow junk into your heart, soon enough you will begin to live a junk life.

So, Solomon in Proverb 4:18 teaches us by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to guard our hearts. This is different from to guide. But you can deploy these two. As you guard your heart away from worldly junks, you can guide it to the things that edify your spirit man.

Prayer

Lord, I chose to guard my heart against the defiling influences of this world seeking to infiltrate my heart, and by your Spirit, I consciously sow the right seeds of

*your word into my heart in Jesus name. Amen! God
bless you.*

The Mystery of Thanksgiving

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

In God's kingdom, a mystery is a spiritual secret only available to his children by revelation.

In the scriptural context of the above text, Jesus among the other miracles he performed fed another 4000 men excluding women and children in the count. This happened to be the second time he performed this sort of miracle without stress.

Looking closely, at both times he performed these miracles; thanksgiving was a constant. Jesus always gave thanks, blessed the food, and began to break them (bread and fish).

Thanksgiving has in it the power to turn little into much. Adding thanksgiving to your so-called little can make it great. This is the Mystery!

As simple as that sounds, it is hard for many to understand and apply, that's what makes it a mystery.

It is therefore a wise choice, to exercise ourselves in the attitude of always giving God thanks. Not just to have little things multiply, but to procure God's mighty hand continuously in our lives.

It doesn't just multiply your little to great, it can preserve your blessings, multiply them and perfect what's left.

Prayer

Lord the grace for always giving you thanks is at work in my life in the name of Jesus. I make a habit of consciously and unconsciously giving you quality praise and thanks, knowing that in thanks and praises I carry your divine presence with me wherever I go. Amen! God bless you.

Satan & Self

Matthew 16:23-24 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

This may be a little hard on you, but it is the truth.

To him, whom you yield yourself to obey, you are a slave of. (Romans 6:16)

What makes it even hard is, that when you thought it was just your will to do what you were pleased with, the Bible says you have become a slave to the devil.

Here is the contrast;

Pleasing your flesh or self is to the devil; while pleasing the Spirit is to God. Let me help you understand this a little further.

In the scriptural contest of the text, Peter had just been

the one who had a revelation about the true identity of Jesus. And Jesus even showed us that flesh and blood couldn't have revealed that to him except God.

A short while from this same moment, Jesus begins to rebuke Satan for something Peter said. How or what does this mean? Peter was the one who spoke, did it have anything to do with the devil?

Jesus shows us in the next verse. He said; ***'if any man will ever be my follower, he must deny self.'***

Self is our will, and our will isn't God's will. That only makes it the will of someone else—the devil.

Now, what you desire to be may be good. And not wrong in God's sight, how can we equate that to the devil?

We were made to please God and him alone. The moment we seek otherwise, we go on the same path as the first Adam. And that path only leads to death—separation from God.

Matthew 7:21 Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

As long as it is not his will, you don't get rewarded for it. As long as he doesn't assign it, he will not be responsible for it.

The commandments of God are not grievous, even as the scriptures say. They are grievous to you, to the level of your walk in the flesh or the spirit.

Prayer

Lord, I receive grace to continually deny self in my walk with you. I desire to please you by doing your will, and in the name of Jesus, I do what pleases you always, Amen! God bless you.

The Power Side of Faith

Matthew 17:19-21 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

There is a power side to the workings of faith. The truth is you may win some battles without a great measure of it. But if you must break fallow grounds and advance in the grace available to us as God's children, you must add to your faith—**POWER**.

2 Peter 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith VIRTUE; and to virtue knowledge;

The Disciples of Christ in chapter 10 of Matthew had learned the process of casting out devils. However, in the kingdom of God, everything is in levels, that is there is an

order or a sequence to which spiritual realities are dispersed. That is why you must pay attention to your growth. Being a Christian for 10 years is not equal to growth. Growth only comes as you pay the price to submit to the workings of the Holy Spirit in you, and also doing the word.

Jesus said, **"if your faith was as small as a mustard seed, it would move a mountain."** That is, as small as you may think a mustard seed faith is, it has the power to move a mountain.

Every scripture has two sides; the revealed part and the experience. You may know many things in the word of God. But it takes practice and prayer to enter into their experience.

God is a God of power: he reigns by authority and rules by power. Prayer and fasting aren't just about seeking God for things. It is a place of empowerment. There is already a power seed in you, if you are filled with the Holy Spirit, with evidence of praying in tongues. But until you generate or stir this power, it would seem as if God hasn't given it.

Jesus gave them power in chapter 10, but in the text above

he told them how to get to the next level of power. You already received the Holy Spirit, now it's time to fan aflame the power in you.

A simple tip, to help you. Follow those who walk with God's power, you'll find out what they do. Others may have abused it in one way or the other, but it's no excuse to stay powerless. You must desire God's power if you would ever have it.

Prayer

Father, I crave the next level of your power in my life. That my faith may continue to produce in line with your demands for my life, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

Peace cum Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-22 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

There is something about peace in your spirit that has to do with your relationship with God. The world outside you may be in an uproar, but if you have peace within, then you are fine.

The Bible has so many instructions you must have to align with to guard the peace of God in your heart. Such as;

Ephesians 4:2-3 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

In the above scriptural text, Jesus went the extra mile to teach us that the church, with as small as two persons, can agree to cast out anyone who will not let the peace of God reign in their midst and have heaven back it up.

But you may already know that. However, Peter asked a question, to mean; how often must you keep forbearing, is it as long as the offender seeks mercy?

Even though Jesus gave a straight answer to always forgive, he told a parable to explain the gravity of unforgiveness.

You will be handed over to the tormentors until you probably come to your senses.

As you read this today, I can tell you that many are such that have been handed over to tormentors, who are yet to come to their senses to forgive their offenders.

You may ask what or who are the tormentors. Well, I can tell you that just as unforgiveness is hidden in your heart so also the tormentor's plagues are hidden. Most of which are manifested in secret sicknesses that refuse to leave. Because your faith will not work with unforgiveness. (Mark 11: 23-26)

It is my sincere prayer for you to receive grace to always forgive offenders no matter what they may have done. Because Jesus paid for all the wrongs we have done too.

The truth is, it's not about the gravity of the offense, why?

Because the Lord supplies the grace to forgive. It's not supposed to be done by your ability, but the ability he supplies.

Prayer

Lord thank you for the supply of grace to always forgive others when I am offended no matter how grievous their offense may be. I refuse to walk in unforgiveness anymore, I refuse to harbor past wrongs in my heart anymore. in the name of Jesus. Amen! God bless you.

Let This Mind Be In You

Matthew 19:4-6 And he answered and said unto them, have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, for this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Until the intent of a thing is known, abuse is inevitable. (Dr. Myles Munroe). In the scriptural text above, the Pharisees saw it fit to question Jesus about putting away their wives in what they call divorce. ***‘If it doesn't work, let's quit.’***

I may not dwell on marriage, but I want to show you a spiritual mystery. And what is it?

It's a spiritual law, that whoever does a thing, has to be the one or his kind to undo it or correct it. If God spoke something to be, only he can change it. If a man makes a mistake, only a man can correct it. If an angel does anything, only an angel can undo it or fix it.

With this understanding, you can see the gravity of the disciple's response. They said, "Then it is better not to marry." Why? Because, if God joined them in the first place, human divorce doesn't sustain the capacity to separate them. It will require the God who joined them to separate them.

So, this calls for care. Take heed not to jump to marital conclusions without adequate preparation. If God is the joiner, he has a good fit for you. But if he must choose for you, then you must entirely leave the choice to Him.

How? Take no thoughts about your life. Seek first the kingdom of God, and let him do the additions. Don't go looking for what is not lost, because you may find something that is not yours. His ways are higher and his timings are beautiful.

So, let this mind be in you. Only God can undo what he did. Marriage is God's will, and whatever he joins can't be separated by man. Divorce is not his will, he hates it. I pray the Lord to give you understanding, and that whichever situation you may find yourself in, you may do that which the Father is pleased with; whether you are single, engaged, or married.

Prayer

Father, thank you for the mystery of marriage—making two become one. I ask for the grace to wait on you patiently and be guided by your Spirit to make the right choice in my marital destiny in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

The Hundredfold Blessing

Matthew 19: 27, 28 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

I love the hundredfold blessing. It's a great promise that shows God's benevolence to those who serve Christ. However, this is a covenant that has its demands well stated, for anyone interested.

In the context of the scriptural text, the rich ruler was a diligent observer and doer of the law. At least that was what he said. But that wasn't enough.

It took Peter's question to help us see again the demands of the Hundredfold blessings. It, therefore, means that

being saved or serving in a position, or being conferred with a title doesn't cut it with this promise.

So, what is this demand?

Jesus said, "**Whosoever has left all for my name's sake.**"

This doesn't mean leaving your parents, your siblings, or your house. But there is a clause there. "**For my name's sake.**"

Just as Jesus said to the rich ruler, to give up his riches. So also, Jesus is the one who demands from you what you must leave to follow him. The aim is not to scare you, but rather to rid your heart of earthly attractions.

Another word for this is death.

John 12:24-25 Verily, verily, I say unto you,
Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground
and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it
bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his
life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in
this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

You may not be there yet, so you'll observe that Jesus hasn't asked you for anything yet. But the rich ruler showed some determination to move forward in his

relationship with God. This was the reason this was demanded of him.

Many are fine with coming to church and paying offerings and tithes—with no close relationship with God. For such people, Jesus is not going to ask you for much. However, if you desire to advance your relationship with him, there is a price to pay.

Luke 9:23-24 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

Yours may not be to sell all that you have. For Abraham it began with leaving his father's house alone, later he had to circumcise himself and his people, then again send Hagar away and his son, and climaxed in giving up Isaac.

So, it may be different for you, but it's the same process. But like Peter at the end, you will be sure that you have left all for Jesus. You will be sure he is the one calling all the shots in your life. You will be sure he has become your master.

Prayer

Father, are there areas of my life where I am withholding my complete allegiance to your will? Lord, I chose to yield them all to you, and I ask that you help me in the name of Jesus. Amen! God bless you.

Attaining Greatness in the Kingdom

Matthew 20: 25 – 28 But Jesus called them [unto him,] and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

God doesn't hate greatness, as many assume, for he is great himself. Many think that God just wants them to be small, humble, and quiet believers, who portray the religiosity of fearing God. Who aren't wealthy but are content.

Paul through the Holy Spirit said the desire to be a leader, is a good desire.

1 Timothy 3:1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

God's intent and desire are to share authority with his creation. So, he is not the King of subjects, but rather the King of Kings. But you must know how and what to do to live in the reality of this position. Yes! We are kings by birthright, but then living in the reality is a choice you must make.

Jesus in the scriptural text above, gave us how we become great in God's Kingdom.

This only happens by **SERVICE**.

For many today, they assume that to serve, they require a pulpit. But that's not what you need. To do ministry doesn't require a pulpit but rather people. If there are people wherever you are, then you already have a great place to serve.

Greatness in God's kingdom is attained by service. But I must say this. Service doesn't end with you wearing a choir uniform all your life, or being in the sanctuary cleaning unit. The first place of service is in prayer. Every other service is hinged on praying for the kingdom.

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

For the Apostles it was the word, for you it may be singing, cleaning, or ushering—praying for the advancement of God's Kingdom is the pillar upon which other services can stand, and be productive.

And that's just the beginning. For he who is faithful in a little shall be giving much. The end of service is to open you up to your real assignment on the earth.

As you keep being faithful to the little God has given you to do, a point comes when he'll open you up to serve your making to your world. Your kingship is not to rule people but to lead in your area of calling.

Luke 19:17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

Your faithfulness in serving is what keeps changing your level. Men may not see it. But he that sees in the secret, will always reward in the open. Jesus didn't just come to heal the sick, he came to die for the sins of mankind. That is what led to his eternal greatness.

Prayer

Father by the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, open the eye of my understanding to know the hope of your calling over my life and I receive grace to serve my purpose to humanity. In Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

The House of Prayer

Matthew 21: 12, 13 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

Whatever is being done in a place, conditions what that place would be called. Irrespective of what that place was originally built for.

A building can be called a church, but if what is done there cannot produce after the order of what God's original design for a church is, it has lost its essence.

In the scriptural text above, Jesus had to zealously drive out the merchants, who had taken the opportunity to turn God's house into a place of personal gain.

You may already be trying to guess where I am heading, but don't be too fast yet.

Now according to the scriptures, we are God's building.

*1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are laborers together
with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are
God's building.*

And Jesus paints a contrast. For my temple shall be called the house of prayer, and if that's not what is happening in your house, it has invariably become a den of thieves.

You may want to think about this. Is your temple a house of prayer? If not, then there's a lot of buying and selling going on there. Which isn't God's work, but the devils. For he is the thief, whose assignment is to steal, kill and destroy.

If you haven't heard this before, I may as well let you know that; the believer is not encouraged or advised to pray. We have been sentenced to a life of prayer. Except you don't value your faith in God—you cannot but pray.

*Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to
this end, that men ought always to pray, and
not to faint;*

The temptations are enormous, your flesh can't handle the deceit of the devil. Praying in your temple is what

makes it a house of prayer. It is what generates the light life that darkness cannot comprehend

So, look away from that building you go to once a week, yes it is a place we congregate to receive freshness together and to join ourselves in worship. But beyond that building, you are the house God calls, **"The House of Prayer."**

Prayer

Father thank you for making my temple a house of prayer. And so, therefore, I receive grace to maintain my prayer habit and watch. In the name of Jesus, I refuse to be weak or weary. The Holy Spirit helps my infirmity, therefore I continue strong in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

The Wedding Garment

Matthew 22: 11-14 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast [him] into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few [are] chosen.

There are parties and there is “The Party.” The Bible calls it a feast. But permit me to use a word you may be accustomed to. This party is the party of the Lamb.

I will not be talking much about the party, but about the ticket needed to enter.

In the scriptural text above, Jesus used two parables to teach about the grievousness of missing the “**Jesus's Party**” at the end of the age.

In the second parable, even though mercy was shown to ask the unfit, street hoodlums and all manner of people

to attend the feast. The king still cast a man out for not putting on the wedding garment.

Glory to God for his awesome benevolence and mercy that reaches out to us who were once slaves to sin and the devil. To give us a clean start and life, to begin with.

However, being invited into God's kingdom as you are, is not enough to stay where you were. You must clean up, and wear the wedding garment.

Let's look at it in the Scriptures;

Revelation 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Jesus is our righteousness, true. But his righteousness was freely given to us so we can walk in righteousness. If Jesus's righteousness that you received doesn't transcend into living right, then you may be thrown out of the wedding feast of the Lamb.

God will not break standards for anyone, not even himself. As long as you desire to spend eternity with the Lord, you must work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

You must walk worthy of his high calling for you.

1 Thessalonians 2:12 That ye would walk
worthy of God, who hath called you unto his
kingdom and glory.

Prayer

*Father thank you for the gift of righteousness that I
have received in Christ. So, therefore, I walk the walk of
righteousness, I keep my garment pure, away from
iniquity and filth in Jesus name, Amen! God bless you.*

Knowing God Is Exclusive To You

Matthew 22: 28, 29 Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her. Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

There are many things someone else can do for you. Even spiritually, there are several things that you can be assisted with.

However, there are exceptions to this. And this is one of them; **"No man can know God for you."** Take this to the north, south, east, or west; under the earth, and above it; this will not change. If it is about knowing God, the highest maybe, I can share my experiences. But that will never count for a personal encounter with God.

Jesus in the scriptural text above said something that drew my attention. He said, **"You do err not knowing scriptures and the power of God."**

The Sadducees came up with a very good and well-

concocted question. To them, they felt they would crack Jesus with it. But Jesus ended up cracking them with his answer and showed us certain truths.

How much of the scriptures have you sown into your life? Do you know the power of God? Are you like the Sadducees?

The Lord warns us in the scriptures, never to get to a place where we assume we have known enough.

1 Corinthians 8:2 And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.

Others can teach you scriptures, that's if you submit to learning, however, they will not build your faith for you. They will not experience scriptures or practice them for you.

The summary of this lesson is, little or no knowledge of scriptures and the power of God will cause you to err.

We must therefore continue to crave deep and deeper things in God's word, which are available to us. That we may stay off the path or those who err. You must give yourself time to read, study, meditate and practice

scriptures.

It is a personal responsibility, and a choice you must make. God is available to reveal himself, however, you must first draw near to him to find him already waiting for you.

Prayer

Father, I choose to draw close to you, in reading, studying, and meditating on your word and prayers. And I receive grace by your Spirit in Jesus name. Amen! . God bless you.

The 21st Century Pharisee

Matthew 23:3-4 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

In the scriptural context of the above text, Jesus spends a good amount of time reproving the lifestyle of the Pharisees to the multitude and his disciples. I guess some of them were there too, but he probably didn't care.

It always has been a temptation to always raise my eyebrows at these sets of people. And in my imagination, I see them dressed all sanctimonious and false, that I just dislike them.

However, if that's how you feel too, or have worse feelings for them than I have, you may miss out on what Jesus is trying to teach.

It wasn't about a set of people, but rather a way of life.

And so, we want to put together these characters that Jesus so abhor and define a Pharisee in our day. Such that even when you sleep or are awake, you must be sure that you don't possess their traits.

What are some of these characteristics?

- They know God, but have little or no experience of God.
- They live life for the show, a "**hypocritical lifestyle**". Living for self-glorification and serving God's interests at the same time.
- They know so much about God and can teach with eloquence and excellence, but they don't practice what they preach.
- They can pick on the minor things and miss out on the major things as touching the heart and purposes of God.

So, who is a 21st-century Pharisee?

He is a child of God who has by his works and kingdom service made himself an idol of worship rather than God.

This may not be a perfect definition for you, but that means you can coin yours from their character traits. But

what the Holy Spirit is asking you is. Are you a 21st-century Pharisee or do you have some of his traits?

It is not enough to criticize the men who bore that name, because they enviously killed our Lord. We must check to see if we are running with any of the traits that Jesus so condemned.

Prayer

Father, I ask that you search me and know me, are there areas of my life that negate your word or make me a 21st-century Pharisee? Please open my eyes to see them, so that I may walk completely upright before you in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

Casualties of the End Time Pt 1

Matthew 24:11-13 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Thank God for Bible prophecies. What this means is that whatever it is that is happening and will happen has already been spoken through prophecy in the scriptures.

One of these prophecies is found in the scriptural text above. It says; ***'because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.'***

Hmmm! And we have seen today that iniquity abounds, it is getting worse and worse. Things that used to be done in the secret are now been showcased in the open. However, should this affect your love for God? And what happens when your love wax cold?

I'll take the first and I should also cover the second as you read.

Iniquity abounding or becoming the norm of today's world can affect your love. How? It's hard to stand out, to say no when everyone is saying yes. Like Daniel and his three friends did. The things you could get easily, you may have to either stand your grounds, neglect them or pay a bribe to get. And the list goes on.

The love of many will wax cold, I can tell you that with the rush for what to eat and where to live. It's happening so fast already. But what is the remedy?

Daniel answered the same question in his prophetic writings.

*Daniel 11:32 ...but the people that do know
their God shall be strong, and do exploits.*

Only those who know their God shall be able to keep their love for God burning hot. You can't know God from just your head, it will not survive the temptations now and ahead. It is the encounters you have had, that have bored a mark in your heart that will keep you seeking after God in these evil times.

And Jesus said, **"It's only those who endure to the end, that will be saved."** It will require a whole lot of patience cum

endurance. And these are fruits, not gifts, which you must cultivate and do so **NOW**.

If you don't have a close walk with God, you may already be a casualty of these last days. Attending church is not the same as knowing God, proximity is not equal to a relationship. If you must know the Lord, you must seek after him, and do so with all your heart.

Prayer

Father thank you for the warnings already spoken of this time and for the understanding you have given me to know them. Therefore, by the Holy Spirit, my love for the Lord doesn't wax cold and I receive grace to continue to seek the Lord now that he may be found in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

Casualties of the End Time Pt 2

Matthew 24:42-43 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

The casualties of these last days will be enormous. By casualties, I don't mean for those in the world, but rather many who will fall from God's grace in the church. It's not like I love to bear bad news, I am just reciting what the scriptures say.

The Devil has a technology many are not aware of. It is called the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

This technology helps him make believers think they can walk in sin and still please God. It gives believers the notion that they can get serious with God later, quit that

bad habit later, or intensify prayer someday soon.

It is known as the grace mentality. A call to lasciviousness, a place where sin is taken lightly, and not for the wickedness that it is. The problem with this is that sin will take you farther than you are willing to go. It will keep you longer than you wanted to stay. It will cost you more than you can afford to pay.

When you take a look around you, you would observe that everyone who ever thought they could get away with sin eventually never did. Why? Because of the deceit that sin carries—its wages are death.

Also, you must have found out now that changing old habits and making new ones isn't so easy. And so, the above scriptural text recommends that you build your life to Jesus' prescription of a "**WATCHER**".

That's the only way you will not stop. What does this mean? Build an attitude of prayer around your life and do whatever it takes not to quit. Build a spiritual lifestyle that you must keep up, and never quit no matter what. That's how your spirit man gets built up and can defend you against the temptations in today's world and the days to come.

Watch and pray, for you know not when. Don't hibernate to wait for the trumpet, that's never going to help you. You will get weaker and weaker by the day.

Build a Spiritual habit around your life that keeps you in touch with God. Keep at the instructions he has given you to carry out. Another way of saying is, **“occupy or get busy with his assignments.”** Not just anything.

Prayer

I refuse to be a victim of sin and all unrighteousness. I receive grace to watch, pray and stay consistently watching, serving your interest for my life and destiny in the name of Jesus. Amen! God bless you.

The Parables for the Servants

Matthew 25:1,13-14,30 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

After Jesus had answered the 3 questions his disciple asked him concerning the temple and the last days, he had an admonition for them. And he switched as usual into parables to teach them.

Now for you to understand parables, you must find the first one that defines the terms used for others in the sequence. An example is Jesus's parable of the sower. If you don't understand that, then other parables with it are locked up.

Jesus made a statement in the last lesson about being watchful. As the only root of escape for the elect. This launched him into the next set of 3 parables, not about the world but his servants. If you isolate any one of them you may miss its intent.

The 3 parables are talking about two kinds of servants.

In the first parable, the servant who is found worthy is given control over all the master has. While the other shall be appointed a portion among the hypocrites.

In the second parable, there are ten virgins, whom you can call ten servants as well. The prepared servants had access to the wedding feast and the other 5 were denied access. Because they were not ready when the bridegroom came.

In the third parable, 3 servants were portrayed. Two were profitable with their graces, or gifts or assignments they were given by the master. Meanwhile, the last servant hid his talent and therefore was unprofitable. The first two were rewarded with more responsibility and the last servant was cast into outer darkness.

These parables as painted by Jesus are the three positions either the faithful or unfaithful servants will bear.

So, my question to you today is, are you useful to God? Are you a profitable servant? What value do you have before the king?

It is not just about making heaven, it's about seeking his kingdom and partnering with God to bring his will on earth as it is in heaven. So, you can choose to be the faithful servant who is also a wise virgin bringing profits to the kingdom of God.

Therefore, the qualities of a good servant are; he/she must be faithful, wise, and profitable.

Prayer

Dear Father thank you for the grace I have received to be your servant. I receive afresh your grace to remain faithful and profitable to you, as I obey your instruction and do your biddings for me in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

The Ministry of the Believer

Matthew 25:35-36,40 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Apart from a specific calling that God has for the believer, the primary demand of God for all is to serve **“our making”** to the world. Another word for it is to minister.

While someone thinks am talking about a pulpit. I'll say again, that you don't need a pulpit for ministry, what makes a ministry is the availability of men to serve.

As Jesus concludes his answer to the three questions his disciples asked him, he began to mention various areas of ministration that every believer should have the opportunity to serve.

Man is spirit, soul, and body, and so God has allocated us

to serve in various capacities to his glory. Looking at the scriptures above, you may be tempted to think that those are just physical avenues to serve.

However, taking a closer look, you will notice that man doesn't just feed on physical food but also intellectual and spiritual food.

You will also notice that, apart from drinking physical water when thirsty, there are many spiritual fountains to drink from as well. These are all functions that should be serviced by the believer to his world.

I may not have mentioned the rest, but I think you can apply the two examples I gave to the rest. However, the fivefold offices are ordained by God to bring us into the fullness of our various ministries to the body of Christ, not just your local assembly—even though you may begin there.

What this calls for is to go back to your maker to find out what plans he had for you before the world began, then work towards your calling, as he'll guide you to your clan, (A spiritual lineage of people who have similar spiritual traits with you.) to learn and be trained.

Meanwhile, take the opportunities you have to practice, and grow your faith by serving God's kingdom where you are. Beginning from Judea, then to Jerusalem, Samaria, and the furthestmost parts of the earth.

Prayer

Dear Father, thank you I now am aware that you have a plan for me to serve others with the abilities you have freely given to me. I, therefore, ask that you open the eyes of my understanding to the areas of my gifting's that I may show forth your glory to my generation. Amen! God bless you.

Falling Off the Mark of God's High Calling

Matthew 26:14-16 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

Like David would lament at the death of Saul, **"How are the mighty fallen."** Who would have thought that a man whom Jesus raised or walked with for three and half years could betray him?

Judas was part of those who knew Jesus in the open and as well as in the secret. He was part of those who went out to heal the sick with the power Jesus gave the 12 disciples. He was part of the disciples who shared bread and fish for the thousands that Jesus fed.

How could it have been, that under such cover of grace and power, Judas could still be a tool in the devil's hand?

In my meditation about this for some time, I have come to imagine the God of love who would do anything, and even give his life to save me and you. How could he let Judas go, how could he watch the devil waste this man's life? He prayed for Peter, didn't he pray for Judas?

Then I concluded, that as powerful as the Lord is, I am ultimately responsible for the outcome of my life. The same goes for you. **You are absolutely responsible for the outcome of your life.** Not the devil or demons

Judas was totally responsible for the outcome of his life, not because God who is the God of love prepared him to betray Jesus.

I want to ask you now, what are those weights or sins that easily beset you that you have not taken seriously to cut off from your life? The Bible says to mortify or kill the deeds of the flesh by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom 8:13)

Whatever you don't deal with now is waiting to be used as a tool in the hand of the devil against you. What will the devil find in your life right now that he can use against you? He found stealing, greed, and love for money in the hands of Judas. And he used it against him.

He hasn't changed, he is still in the business of going to and fro looking for those he would find attitudes and traits to use against them. Take heed!

Prayer

In the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I separate myself from every weight and sin (mention such weights or sins) that easily beset me. For I am dead to sin and alive unto righteousness, therefore sin cannot dominate me anymore. Thank you, Father! Amen! God bless you.

Overcoming Temptation through Prayer

Matthew 26:38-41 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Jesus has at this time mastered the art of prayer. But for the first time, we see him in today's reading ask his disciples to watch with him in prayer. His humanity began to kick in, his soul was heavy with sorrow even unto death, looking at the things he must suffer ahead of him.

Amid all these things, he showed us how to overcome; **PRAY! PRAY!! PRAY!!!**. Jesus prayed one prayer over an hour. And probably did the same for about 3 hours.

Prayer, most times isn't about getting an answer from

God. It may just be to receive grace, strength, or ventilation in your spirit. According to Phil 4:7, most times what the Lord releases is his peace in your heart. At other times he may be silent and just allow you to press into him for more.

Temptations will abound, they are the only way we rise as children of God. Temptation allows you to change rank in the spirit. Most of the time, like we see Jesus passing through this last temptation; it may become heavy on us, but then there is a solution not to get ourselves worked up with the temptation, but to retire unto prayer.

Worry and anxiety will bring depression. Depression will bring sadness and sorrow, and when this happens you will lose your joy. And your joy is where your strength is, that's what the devil is after. If he can get your joy he has gotten you; for the joy of the Lord is our strength.

At the end of Jesus's prayer, the Bible tells us that angels came and ministered to him. God did not deliver him from the temptation but he gave him the strength to pass through it.

And so, it is written, **"when you pass through the waters, they shall Not Overcome you; and the rivers they shall not**

swallow you when you pass through the fire he shall not kindle upon you." But that you will not pass through these things is a joke from the pit of Hell.

While Jesus turned to prayer, Peter who had boasted about what he had made up his mind to do, was sleeping.

Temptations or trials are spiritual tests made manifest in the physical through circumstances of life. It will be foolish to think that you can win a spiritually orchestrated battle with your made-up mind alone—you will surely fail.

So, let this mind be in you, we rise with temptations. The temptations you overcome are proof of how strong you are. For if you fail on the day of adversity, it is a sign that you are not strong enough. (Proverbs 24:10.)

Prayer

Oh dear Father, thank you for revealing to me that temptations are tests I must pass to change levels spiritually. I, therefore, receive grace to always stand to resist whatever temptations that come my way, being steadfast in the faith, giving glory to you, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

The Positive Side of A Fall

Matthew 26:74-75 Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

Not every fall is disastrous if we know what to do to get back up. But must you fall in the first place? Must you miss it or experience failure before you learn? Well not always, if you also know what to do.

In the scriptural contest of the above text, something struck my heart. Even though all the disciples said they would not deny Jesus as Peter said also, we saw that they were nowhere to be found. So, the focus was Peter, why? He loved the Lord exceedingly much.

However, at this time he was yet to really understand that love wasn't enough.

Here's my point today.

There are many instructions we receive from scriptures or God that we may not know the value of until we fail woefully.

You don't know how important fasting is to the believer until you begin to go back to your past habits. You will not know the importance of Luke 18:1 until you are so weak in the things you used to be very strong at.

Yes! You can avoid a fall or failure in many things, but they help to teach you that human nature is frail and utterly depraved; so, you can totally depend on God. This is why we so much need the help of the Holy Spirit.

The man was originally built to be a dependent being, you can never have it any other way. It's either you depend on the Holy Spirit or the devil will help you unknowingly. Any time you decide to take independence from God like Adam, what it is you missed is you just switched sides. You are either obeying God or the devil.

Now that I have said the above, how do you respond to a fall?

- Reconcile with the Lord. (1 John 1:9.)
- Forgive yourself.

- Forsake the past.
- Move forward.

Peter reconciled with God, even though we saw him weep so bitterly. He forgave himself. Then let his past go and became the leader of the first Apostolic Revival—he moved forward.

If you learn from the fall of others and your mistakes, you will find that you wouldn't need to fall so much. However, when you miss it, I have shown you what to do to get back up, if truly you love God.

The difference between Peter and Judas was, that Judas was a thief and Peter was a lover of the Lord. They both fell but love gets back up, but the thieves never do—he intended to use him in the first place..

Prayer

Father, I choose to pay attention to your instruction to me, so that I do not fall flat on my face. I, therefore, receive empowerment by your Spirit to follow up with my choice this day. I refuse to miss it and stay down, I always rise, forgive myself, forget my past, and move forward in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you

The Movie Called "LIFE"

Matthew 27:14 And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

Every movie according to man's standard has a budget, actors, a stage, or a shooting area. There is also a script each actor follows and a pre-determined end by the writer.

I may not have mentioned all, however, all of this is to ensure that the story which began as a thought in the writer's heart can be told for others to see.

God is the writer; all men and angels alike are actors. He already has a pre-determined end in his heart, and if you know anything about God, you know that they will all happen with or without me and you.

So, God doesn't need you, if you think he does, then rethink it. If you go off, he doesn't have a problem with a replacement. And just in case it delays, he has all the time—he made time in the first place.

I may not dwell on this so much, but I have a word in my heart to share with you. Life is not an assumption to assume anything at all. What we've had in the past, where we try to come into alignment with God after going so far away from his will, will not do you any good today because God is moving faster now

In Matthew 27, Jesus had peeped into the script of his life and had received the grace to play it. So, we saw him keep quiet like a fool who didn't know that he was going to die.

There are certain things you are going through you should embrace and likewise others you shouldn't tolerate. But two factors affect this.

- First is, do you even know what is written in the script of your life at this time
- Secondly, do you have the wisdom of what to do to either find it, embrace it or disallow it?

This may seem a very big thing to you, but with God, it's not. If you would learn to wait on him, ask the right questions, forever pant after the knowledge of his word, partner with his Spirit; you'll find that these things I speak of are possible.

You can know your script and find grace to play your role, to make the most of what's in the master's heart for you. And while some people are wondering where we are from, Jesus already said, we are like the wind. (John 3:8.)

In the end, we don't count as having anything with God, when our lives are not telling the story that God has already written of us. So, you must strive to get it right. You may begin as a toddler, but because every living thing grows, you will grow to become stronger in playing these roles as they are revealed to you.

Everyone except Jesus thought him crazy. But he saw the prize that was set before him and received grace to pay the price to get there. This is where the problem has always been—our ability to see.

Prayer

And so Lord I ask for the ability to see. My eyes are open to see your thoughts for my life and destiny, and also I receive the grace to play my role as you would desire me to in the name of Jesus. Amen! God bless you.

Don't Waste It

Matthew 27:41-43 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

Considering the extent to which Jesus was mocked, both physically and mentally, you may be tempted to think that the Father would have maybe changed his mind or throw in some quick stunt. Well, that wasn't the case.

God's will or purposes far supersede the shame or mockery on your part to glory. So, as he did in Jesus's case, there might be no response, if you must have to drink from that cup, he'll let you have it in full dose.

However, as I said in the previous lesson if you have seen your script, then you'll know what to pray for or how to navigate through the season of temptation.

In my Meditation on what Jesus had to pass through I was

tempted to be all remorseful about what Jesus had to go through—which is good. But being remorseful is not the Father's will for us today. Jesus is today seated at God's right hand and his death isn't just for our salvation. But also, our partnership with him to reconcile the world back to him.

God went the extra mile from Genesis to Matthew, 42 generations to get himself to us at a great price. His burden is that you and I don't waste it.

What are you currently making of the price Jesus paid? Are you wasting it?

Salvation is a means to an end. What man lost in Eden wasn't salvation. He lost his relationship with God which was a criterion for dominion on the earth. So, salvation brings us back to God to return to God's original will for man.

I had to pray for myself, Lord let me not waste this great price you paid. You made me for a definite purpose, I receive grace to fulfill it, Lord. Amen!

You can pray the same for yourself if you desire to play your role in God's big agenda for your life. That's what

counts to God—doing his will.

For what shall it profit you if you gain the whole world, (which I think no single man can) and miss out on what truly mattered to God. Or even in the process lose your soul to the devil. (Mark 8:36.)

One thing that baffles me, is that there's no second chance to redeem your soul after losing it on earth here.

Prayer

Father thank you for the great price you paid in Christ to save me. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit to help me win through this journey. Therefore it is my utmost desire to live for you and your purposes in my life. I ask that you'll continue to uphold and strengthen me, that my life will bring you the glory that you deserve. in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

ARE YOU BORN AGAIN?

The content of this book is written to aid believers in Christ make the most of their lives. Living with the principles Christ taught for practice and continuous victorious living. However, if you are not born again or haven't received Jesus into your life as Lord and Savior: the principles shared in this book may not work for you.

If you aren't sure or are yet to make this decision, please pray the prayer below with all your heart.

Prayer of Salvation

Heavenly Father, I believe in Jesus Christ, the son of the living God. I believe that he died for me and I believe that God raised him from the dead. And he is alive today. I declare with my mouth Jesus Christ is Lord of my life from this day. And by my faith in his name, I receive eternal life into my spirit. Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul. I have eternal life right now in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

About The Author

Josiah Okheape is a Christian blogger, a Teacher of God's Word, and a Youth coach with over 3 years of experience, working with young people in his local Church. He has a passion for teaching the word and writing. He has had the privilege to serve as a Youth leader, Sunday School Teacher, and Children's teacher in his local Church, where he currently still serves. He is also the author of the book, "[12 Keys to Reading Christian Books.](#)" Which is available on Amazon, Kobo, and Okada books. And he lives in Abuja, Nigeria.

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LESSONS FROM THE BOOK of MATTHEW

VOL 1



Mistakes are part of life and living, but are mostly as a result of the lack of knowledge. God's word on the other hand is man's wisdom for living. And in this book, "Lessons From the Book

of Matthew" the author portrays 41 life applicable lessons from Matthew's account of Jesus's life, time, and works on the earth.

In each lesson he analysis a problem and proffers a solution for the 21st century believer. Ranging from overcoming hard times, living to please God, living free from sin, improving his prayer habit and more.

The author is a Teacher of God's word and Christian blogger, passionate about helping others see the hidden mysteries of God's word. He has had the privilege to serve as Youths leader, Sunday School Teacher, and a Children's teacher in his local Church, where he currently still serves. He is also the author of the book, "12 Keys To Reading Christian Books." Which is available on Amazon, Kobo, and Okada books. And he lives in Abuja, Nigeria.