Daily Tonic

SERIES 2 • VOLUME 1 • |[30 DAYS DEVOTIONAL]|



REVEREND TEMILOLU A. ALIU

CHRIST'S INVADING FORCE

Daily Tonic... your daily inspiration for a vital, sustainable, and reproducible close personal walk with God

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Rev. Temilolu A. Aliu

CHRIST'S INVADING FORCE INC.
Cebu City, Philippines

Let's Get You Started!

Dearly beloved,

You are about to embark on a 30-days transformational journey, and it is my joy to guide you through these 30 days.

As you use this devotional, please take it one day at a time and ensure to follow through with the reflections, action points, and prayer points.

You should get a separate book to document your daily reflections and to journal your progress with the action points.

When answering the reflective questions, don't give short answers like "Yes" or "No". Be as exhaustive as possible. The more exhaustive you are, the more effective this devotional will be for you.

I surely will love to hear from you at the end of these 30 days. I want to know how this devotional has blessed you and what God has done in your life through this 30-day journey.

This devotional is good for personal use as well as for peer group discussions.

My prayer is that this 30-day devotional would tend to your spiritual growth, be a light unto your path, and supply practical wisdom that would make you a better person.

Yours,
Rev. Temilolu A. Aliu
The Visionary, Christ's Invading Force

> "The Bible is a life manual. If truly you believe in it, then you must be living it. It is the final authority on all matters of faith and morals."

Popular opinion does not take precedence over God's word. So don't ever think that societal standards can make what the Bible says on any matter outdated. For instance, even if the supreme court has ruled in favor of same-sex marriage, it doesn't change the fact that it's a sin that God frowns at.

See, not even your feelings can invalidate the word of God. If the way you feel about a matter is different from what the Bible teaches on that matter, then you feel wrong and you must bring those feelings into alignment with the word of God.

As a true believer in Christ, you cannot cherry-pick what to believe in the Bible. It is either all or none! The Bible must be your ultimate guide not just for your 'religious' beliefs, but also for your moral values and way of life.

Any time you hear what the Bible says on an issue, all arguments on that issue must end.

1 Timothy 3:16 [MSG)
Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, *and* training us to live God's way.

REFLECTION
Is there any area of my life where I am not fully submitted to God's word? Do I have any personal opinion that conflicts with what the Bible teaches?

ACTION POINT
Write out a few areas where you are not totally sure or fully convinced about what the Bible teaches. Meet with a respected Christian to explain the Bible's position to you, do personal studies on the explanations given, and accept it wholeheartedly.

PRAYER POINT
I surrender all to you today O Lord. I choose to align with your word in all areas of my life henceforth. Please help me so to do in Jesus Name. Amen

> I know you love to say 'Please, God' daily in your prayers, but make sure you are also living to Please God daily in your words, thoughts, and deeds.

The prevailing thought in the minds of many believers is how to seek God to satisfy their pleasures and make their lives better. However, what the Bible teaches is that our first priorities as Christians should not be our own pleasure, but God's.

It is good to pray daily "PLEASE, GOD" and ask him to satisfy your pleasures. It shows that your faith, hope, and trust are in Him. But then, you should pay more attention to how you live to PLEASE GOD daily in your words, thoughts, and deeds.

The true measure of your Christianity is in how well you please God, not in how many of your prayers are being answered. So begin to focus more on how you are pleasing God daily, than on how much of your daily needs are being met.

Your ultimate pleasure should be in the fact that you are bringing pleasure to God. You, and indeed all things, were created for God's pleasure!

Revelation 4:11 (KJV)
Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

REFLECTION
Do I consciously live my life to bring pleasure to God. Is pleasing God my priority in all I think, say, and do?

ACTION POINT
After every 3 hours interval today, pause for 5 minutes to reflect on how well you have pleased the Lord thus far in the day. Project on your plans for the next 3 hours, and rehearse how you would bring pleasure to God. You can make this a daily practice.

PRAYER POINT
Father, please let me find true pleasure in pleasing you. Give me the kind of heart that seeks to please you at all times in Jesus Name. Amen

> The Bible likens your thoughts to treasures. Bad treasures are still bad, even if you are not bringing them out. You should not put up with them at all.

Whenever a thought crosses your mind, understand that it is an indication of the treasures in the storeroom of your heart. Whenever any sinful or evil thought crosses your mind, don't just ignore it. Address it head-on.

The mistake that many of us make is that we pay attention only to what we 'bring out', and ignore the fact that evil treasures may still be lurking in one corner of our hearts. We don't take our thought-life as seriously as we take our actions.

Bad thoughts in your mind are like spoilt eggs. A spoilt egg 'safely' hidden in one corner of your room would eventually smell for all to perceive. It is only a matter of time!

Bad thoughts in your mind are like seeds. They may be safely hidden under the soil. But sooner or later, they will begin to germinate for all to see, unless they are plucked out.

Luke 6:45 (ABPE)
A good man brings forth good from the good treasure that is in his heart and the evil man brings out evil from the evil treasure that is in his heart.

REFLECTION
Do I pay close attention to my thought-life? What are the evil treasures I have noticed in my heart? You may write out a few scenarios that you can recall.

ACTION POINT
Each time an evil/sinful thought crosses your mind, write it down and get at least 5 Bible verses that addresses that matter. Memorize those Bible verses before the close of the day. Recite them out loud (with your mouth) each time those thoughts cross your mind again.

PRAYER POINT
Father, I ask you to please sanctify my heart and mind today. Help me to be pure even in my thoughts in Jesus Name.

> Time spent with God is not just time well spent. It is time best spent. More accurately, time with God is not merely spent. It is invested!

Time is the currency of life. Whatever you spend it on is an indication of where your heart is. What you will become tomorrow is determined by what you do with your time today.

A lot people do everything else with their time aside from spending time with God. Some make out just a little time for God as if they are only doing so to mark a register. They do not thoroughly fellowship with God on a daily basis.

If you can make out quality time for God daily in your personal closet, as well as in corporate gatherings of believers, you would be making an investment that will make up for your seeming inadequacies in life and change your life for the best.

The investments you make in your spiritual life will be your leverage when the natural is insufficient or inadequate.

Acts 4:13 (BSB)
When they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they marveled and took note that these men had been with Jesus.

REFLECTION
How much time do I spend with God on a daily basis? How many times in a week do I fellowship in corporate gatherings of believers? Do I take these times seriously enough?

ACTION POINT
Set aside quality time to worship God, study your Bible, and pray daily. Start from today. Also make sure you attend at least one worship service, Bible study, and prayer meeting each weekly. Don't do these as mindless routines. Take them very seriously.

PRAYER POINT
Father, please let me find delight in spending time with you. Let me understand the true value of fellowshipping with you in worship, in the word, and in prayers. Let your Holy Spirit guide me as I commit to spend quality time with you daily in Jesus Name.

> "Don't expect to conquer the world when you have not conquered yourself. Don't expect to subdue nations if you have not subdued your flesh."

Self-control and self-discipline are two things that many people lack these days. However, these two virtues are very pivotal to true Christian living.

Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. When you have self-control, it means that you can effectively curb your impulses. You can say NO to the wrong things even when everything inside you want it. You do not allow your weaknesses to control you.

Self-discipline, on the other hand, means that you can stay on the right path even when you are tempted to do otherwise. You can say YES to the right things even when they are not comfortable.

You need both of these virtues if you will conquer the world and subdue nations. Don't expect to take the world by storm if the storms in your own life are still tossing you to and fro.

Proverbs 16:32 (NLT)
[It is] better to be patient than powerful. [It is] better to have self control than to conquer a city.

REFLECTION

Do I exercise self-control and self-discipline in my day-to-day living? Do I deny self-gratification when I know it's wrong? Do I stay on the right path even when I am under severe pressure or faced with strong temptation? What adjustments do I need to make?

ACTION POINT

At the end of each day, sit down to reflect on how well you have faired in exercising self-control and self-discipline. Be radically honest with yourself as you do this.

PRAYER POINT

Father, please grant me the grace to exercise self control and self discipline daily in Jesus Name.

> True success in not in an unbroken streak of victory. It is in an unbroken streak of learning. You don't win all the time, but you can learn all the time.

The path to personal excellence begins with the desire to win. But there are odds and hurdles along that path. A man that is truly on the path of success may fail and fall sometimes, but he quickly picks himself up, learns from his mistakes, and forges ahead toward victory.

Whenever you make a mistake, you would have to choose one of two options – learn from the mistake or repeat it. If you learn well from your mistakes, you would not repeat them. But if you refuse to learn from your mistakes, repeating them is inevitable.

Don't let anyone tell you to just 'move on' from your mistakes. No. Learn from them before you move on. That is what keeps the future safe, and makes success attainable.

It is in the process of learning from your mistakes that you grow. This truth applies to all areas of life – spiritual life, finances, career, academics, relationships, etc.

Proverbs 26:11 (ERV)
Like a dog that returns to its vomit, a fool does the same foolish things again and again.

REFLECTION
Do I usually take responsibility for my mistakes or look for others to blame? Do I take time to evaluate my mistakes and learn from them? How often do I repeat the same mistakes?

ACTION POINT
At the end of today, write out at least 3 mistakes that you made. What lessons have you learnt from them? How would you handle the situation better next time? You can make this a daily practice.

PRAYER POINT
Father, please grant me wisdom to learn from my mistakes and grace to forge ahead toward victory in Jesus Name.

> Forgiving others is between you and God. It is one of the ways to appreciate God for the forgiveness you have received through the shed blood of Jesus.

Sometimes it feels like forgiving others is between you and whoever offended you. But that is not the picture that the Bible paints. God expects you to forgive others because you have, yourself, received the utmost kind of forgiveness that cannot be merited.

Forgiveness is one of the major ways to prove that the will of God takes priority above your emotions. You feel hurt, but you let go because God said to do so.

If you have to wait till the person apologizes or till the hurt has passed, then you are not acting on the authority of God's word. You are acting based on your emotional disposition.

That ought not be so. We should simply forgive because it is the right thing to do, not because the person deserves it or because we feel better about the situation.

Colossians 3:13 (NIV)
Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

REFLECTION
When someone who offends me truly apologizes, do I genuinely forgive them? How about those who do not apologize, do I hold on to the grudge or just let go? Is there anyone currently that I am yet to forgive?

ACTION POINT
Let go of every grudge and offense today. Forgive everyone who has offended you whether they have apologized or not. You could send them a heartfelt message of forgiveness and seek theirs too.

PRAYER POINT
Father, I choose the way of forgiveness today. I receive grace and strength to forgive even the inexcusable in Jesus Name.

> Sizing yourself up with others and/or measuring other people by your own standards is a very ugly game, and you must refuse to play it.

This game of inferiority and superiority is becoming more and more popular. People are constantly comparing themselves with others to see who is better. This often does not end well.

When you compare yourself with others, it fuels either of two things- pride or insecurity. You either feel proud that you are better or feel insecure and inadequate because it seems the other person is better. Neither of these is good for you in the long run.

You are unique, and you have your own unique set of strengths as well as weaknesses. So be grateful for your strengths and remain humble.

In the same vein, be inspired by others in the area of your weakness and become better while you remain secure. Comparisons are absolutely unnecessary and they fight shy of wisdom.

2 Corinthians 10:12 (KJV)
… But they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

REFLECTION
How often do I compare myself with others? What effects does it have on me when I do so? Is there anyone I am always comparing yourself with? Why? Is this healthy for me?

ACTION POINT
Make up your mind to quit comparing yourself with others from today. Whenever such thoughts arise, appreciate God for who you are and for what you have. Then think about how you can draw inspiration from others in a bid to become a better 'you'.

PRAYER POINT
Lord I thank you for who you have made me and for what I have. Rather than wallow in fruitless comparison, help me Lord, to draw inspiration from others and become a better me in Jesus Name.

> Confidence without ego is the perfect recipe for excellence. The lesser your ego, the more likely you are to excel at what you do.

It is good to be confident. You almost would not be able to excel at anything tangible if you lack confidence. But when your confidence swells beyond appropriate measures, you become inflated with ego.

Ego is a form of pride, which the Bible says goes before a fall – let's call it a hard fall! But beyond just pride, ego adds a tint of arrogance. Your sense of self-worth and self-importance rises so high and your foremost desire is to fuel it all the more.

Most people would not easily admit that they have an ego problem. But if you are self-centered, very individualistic, setting unrealistic goals, constantly comparing yourself, crave recognition and respect, always defensive, and easily offended, then you most likely have an ego problem and you should work on it.

The true Christian life must be devoid of ego. Is your life devoid of ego?

Romans 12:3 (GNT)
And because of God's gracious gift to me, I say to everyone of you: do not think of yourself more highly than you should. Instead, be modest in your thinking, and judge yourself according to the amount of faith that God has given you.

REFLECTION
Am I self-centered? Am I individualistic? Do I set unrealistic goals? Am I constantly comparing myself? Do I crave recognition and respect? Am I always defensive? Am I easily offended? Do I have an ego problem? What can I do about it?

ACTION POINT
Think of 5 things that your ego has prevented you from doing. Do all the five today. Repeat the process once every week for the next 3 weeks.

PRAYER POINT
Lord, please protect me from the snare of ego. Make me truly humble and tender at heart in Jesus Name.

> Let the voices of caution that God has placed around you be able to speak freely into your life. Therein lies your safety as you go through life.

The voices of caution in your life are those people that God has placed around you to perform a reality check each time it seems you are missing the mark. They may seem overbearing at times, but wisdom demands that you always give them the free-hand to say what is on their mind at all times.

You usually would know who these people are in your life, and they are not too many. Your spouse and your pastor are definitely in the number. Maybe a few others too. But they cannot be too many.

Whenever these people are telling you how they feel about something in your life or you are doing, listen carefully to them and don't give them an attitude. Otherwise, you may dissuade them from being candid with you. If this happens, it is you who will lose out.

It is always to your advantage to have a positive attitude towards taking wise counsel and constructive criticism from the right people. Whenever you refuse to do so, you are setting yourself up for a fall.

Proverbs 11:14 (NKJV)
Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

REFLECTION
Who are the voices of caution in my life? Do I allow them to speak freely into my life? When was the list time they criticized my actions? How did I respond/react? How seriously do I take their counsel? What adjustments should I make.

ACTION POINT
Send a text to the **voices** of caution in your life to tell them how much you cherish their opinions, criticisms, and counsels. Let them know that they are always free to tell you everything on their mind and ask if there is anything they've been wanting to tell you.

PRAYER POINT
Lord, please make my heart humble and tender towards the voices of caution in my life in Jesus Name

> One of the greatest forms of disservice you can do to your destiny is to receive grades from someone who is not authorized to assess you.

I know it is nice to get compliments and to be celebrated. But if care is not taken, people can celebrate you out of your divine destiny. These people are not always sycophants, sometimes they are just people who are not authorized to access you.

Some people will be impressed by your talent and charisma. They would rate you high but inadvertently shortchange your destiny. They sometimes expose you untimely without allowing you to be thoroughly groomed.

You must have people in life that are impressed by your performance. But those who are authorized to assess you are those who see beyond what you are doing, and take interest in who you are becoming.

Your boss may be impressed that you are the best cleaner in the office. In fact, he may give you an award every year, But your true assessor is your father who has been shouting that you should go get a degree!

Proverbs 19:20 (NET)
Listen to advice and receive discipline, that you may become wise by the end of your life.

REFLECTION

Who are my true assessors in life? How do I respond when I receive their candid assessment? Do I tell them things when I am afraid they would scold me, discipline me, or counsel me to do otherwise?

ACTION POINT

Write out at least 5 ways that you will apply this teaching in your daily living as you walk the road of life and destiny. Start taking actions on them immediately.

PRAYER POINT

Father, make me humble at heart and grant me wisdom to take advice, instructions, and discipline from my true accessors in in Jesus Name.

> You cannot move mounts until you move your mouth. One of the rules of engagement in the Spirit realm is resident in the use of words.

Beloved, don't ever despise the power of your words. They can either make or mar you. See, there are many mountains that will not move until you open your mouth and say so.

In fact, there are many mountains that would not even be there in the first place if you did not open your mouth to speak carelessly. So, you must learn how not to speak carelessly, faithlessly, or negatively.

You must be deliberate about speaking faith-filled positive words over your life on a daily basis. It is by your words that you are either condemned or justified! The moment you gain mastery over the use of words, you have gained mastery over your life.

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

REFLECTION
In what ways have I ensnared myself with my words in the past? Have I gained mastery over the use of my words now?

ACTION POINT
Make sure no negative words proceed from your mouth from today. Be very deliberate in speaking faith-filled positive words over your life. Write out a list of words to confess over your life at the start of each day. Declare those words over yourself consistently on a daily basis.

PRAYER POINT
Father, please help me to gain mastery over the use of my words. Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips in Jesus Name.

> If you are ignorant of the believer's authority, you will be limited in your expression of the divine life and in enjoying the dividends of salvation

There are different forms of authority on the earth – physical, religious, political, positional, etc. But the highest form of authority is spiritual authority. Now, the most basic form of spiritual authority is the believer's authority – the authority that every believer has in Christ.

You can't afford to live your life as a Christian, ignorant of the authority you have in Christ. If you do, the devil will cheat you black and blue.

Your personal relationship with God fuels this authority. However, you must understand it, take your place, and walk in dominion, enforcing this authority over every operation of darkness that tries to gain access into your life.

God has given you authority over every power of the enemy. You should, therefore, not be tormented by fearful thoughts, nightmares, sickness, poverty, misfortune, etc. You have authority, so exercise it and run the devil out of business in your life.

Luke 10:19 (ESV)
Behold I give you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you

REFLECTION
Have I been exercising the believer's authority the way I should? In what ways have I permitted the enemy in my life due to ignorance of spiritual authority? What should I do to change this?

ACTION POINT
Set out quality time today to make decrees over you life, using the believer's authority. Any time you see the enemy at work in your life, your vicinity, or your possessions, take authority in the spirit and rebuke him.

PRAYER POINT
Lord I ask for grace to be ever conscious of my place of authority over the devil and over all his operations in Jesus Name.

> "The true practice of Christianity does not sacrifice this present life. Rather, it empowers you to succeed in it, subdue it, and glorify God with it,"

It is true that our reward is in the life that is to come. But you must understand that this present life will be your testimony even in that life that is to come. So you cannot afford to live it carelessly.

It is good to look forward to the coming of Jesus. But we must occupy till He comes. While you are heaven-bound, nothing should stop you from being earthly relevant. Being a Christians does not in any way mean that you should be a low-life.

The true measure of Christianity is not how much you have lost taste for success, wealth, and greatness on earth. It is in how much you have lost taste for taking pride in those things. It is in how much you desire to glorify God with those things, rather than gratify yourself.

Never embrace any form of mediocrity using Christianity as an excuse. Reach out for success and greatness, and glorify God with them.

Matthew 5:16 (KJV)
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven.

REFLECTION
Do I have a legitimate success goal in life? Is my light really shining for all to see and glorify God? In what areas do I need to improve.

ACTION POINT
What opportunities are available for greatness and success. Map out how you intend to make the best of them and commit your plans to God in prayer.

PRAYER POINT
I refuse to embrace failure and mediocrity in life. I choose to glorify God through success and greatness. I subdue and take dominion on this earth in Jesus Name.

> Freedom can be a curse if there are no righteous restrictions to preserve you. True freedom is being able to find joy within the bounds of God's allowance.

One of the hallmarks of maturity as a Christian is that you are guided by righteous restrictions. The teaching of grace that tells people casts off all restraints is called licentiousness.

Any doctrine that teaches you to disregard all rules and conventions is false and unscriptural. While we must not go back into legalistic bondage, we must not become so free that we insult the spirit of grace.

God's grace is sufficient both to wash away our sins and to empower us to live a life that is free from the power of sin. That freedom from the power of sin is genuine freedom, and it is a product of grace, which teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly passions.

As a Christian, you must have your boundaries defined by the word of God. God's law should be written on your heart, not thrown into the trash can!

1 Corinthians 15:34 (NLT) [GWT]
Think carefully about what is right [come back to the right point of view], and stop sinning. For to your shame I say that some of you don't know God at all.

REFLECTION
Have I deliberately kept on sinning after I claim to be saved? Is this right? Do I see God's grace from the right point of view?

ACTION POINT
Take time today to meditate on Romans 6, Hebrews 10, Titus 2, 1 Thess. 4, and Gal. 5. Write out your personal reflections on the right way to view God's grace with regards to sin.

PRAYER POINT
Lord, I choose to embrace your righteous restrictions. I would not be carried away into licentiousness by the wind of false doctrine. I open my inward parts to you O Lord, engrave your laws in my heart in Jesus Name.

> The enemy's work is always tied to the visible, while God's work is always tied to the invisible. So you must train yourself to see with the eyes of faith.

Many times, what the enemy is doing is very to your physical senses. Whereas, what God is doing does not become apparent until you allow yourself to be guided by the faith.

You must train yourself to always look beyond the visible and watch out for what God is doing in every situation. This starts with having the mindset that all things are working together for your Good

So, even in difficult situations, rather than feel dejected, eagerly watch out for what God is doing; how the situation would eventually turn around and work out for your good.

There are two questions you should always ask – What is God doing through this situation? What is God doing about this situation? Again, the answers may not be immediately, but persevere and train yourself to always be on the look out for these two answers.

Hebrews 11:27 (NET) [personal emphasis]
By faith, he (Moses) left Egypt without fearing the king's anger [which was the apparent thing], for he persevered as though he could see the One who is invisible.

REFLECTION

Do I maintain a positive poise in difficult situations? Am I sometimes skeptical of God's involvement in my life? Am I always on the look out for what God is doing? How would I rate my perseverance when what God is doing has not become so apparent to my physical senses?

ACTION POINT

Take time today to meditate on Jer. 29:11, Rom. 8:28, 1 Pet. 1:6-8, 2 Cor. 4:16-18. Write out your personal reflections on how you ought to respond to life's situations.

PRAYER POINT

Father, grant me the eyes of faith and grace for perseverance in Jesus Name.

> Words are not ordinary. Every word you speak releases a spirit in three directions — your life, your audience, and your vicinity.

Words are creative in nature; they are not ordinary. Each time you release a word, you are activating the operation of certain spirits.

Most people are not cognizant of the power of words. But there are quite a few people who Know how their words may affect their lives, and that of the people around them. However, not all of these people know that their words can affect their vicinity too.

I want to enjoin you to cultivate the habit of speaking peace over your vicinity. Speak peace and declare blessings upon your home, office, city, nation, etc. on a daily basis. Don't join others to declare evil over the land.

The words you speak would determine whether your city is exalted or overthrown.

Proverbs 11:11 (KJV)
By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

REFLECTION
Am I conscious of the words I speak and their effects? When others are speaking ill of the land, do I join them? What should be my response and disposition to such conversations from now?

ACTION POINT
Speak peace and blessings over your vicinity (home, office, city, nation, etc.) today. Watch carefully how you use your words henceforth. Remember that you are releasing and activating spirits as you speak. Think of someone you know that speaks ill of the land, and share this with them.

PRAYER POINT
Father, train my tongue to speak peace and blessings at all times. By my words, my life would be secure, my audience would be blessed, and my city would be exalted in Jesus Name.

> "Accept responsibility for your today and assume responsibility for your tomorrow. Taking responsibility for your life is one of the prerequisites for personal excellence."

There are many options if you are looking for where to pass the blame for what your life looks like today – your background, circumstances, people, or even God. But one of the prerequisites for personal excellence to accept and assume responsibility.

All that life owes you is an opportunity. It is your responsibility to make the best of the opportunities that life presents you. It doesn't matter how your today looks like, look for the opportunities that are around you, however little, and make the best of them.

No matter who you think has the capacity to help you, the truth is that they do not owe you anything. Don't let a sense of entitlement make you bitter and irresponsible. These will rob you of your tomorrow. Take responsibility today and take charge of your life!

The day you accept and assume responsibility is the day you take charge of your life and enlist for heaven's commitment. A man that refuses to accept and assume responsibility would remain a victim of circumstances and of other people's decisions.

Judges 12:3 (NIV)
When I saw that you wouldn't help, I took my life in my hands and crossed over to fight the Ammonites, and the Lord gave me victory over them…

REFLECTION
Do I have a sense of entitlement towards anybody in life? Do I operate with a victim's mentality? Have I truly accepted responsibility for what my life looks like today? Have I assumed responsibility for how my future would look like?

ACTION POINT
Change your mindset today. Get rid of victim mentality and the sense of entitlement. Write down 5 practical decisions you are taking in light of what you have learnt today. Look for a trusted friend and share your reflections and decisions with him/her.

PRAYER POINT
Lord, let me have the courage to accept and assume responsibility for my life. Give me, O God, a sense of responsibility in Jesus Name.

> "Success is not a result of perfection. It is a result of persistence and progress. You may not be perfect, but if you make persistent progress, you'll surely win."

You may not be perfect, but there must be habits that you practice daily and a process of growth that you are committed to. Persistence and progress will give you the skill set for success and growth in your walk with God and in all areas of life.

If you focus on being perfect, it is only a matter of time before your confidence falls apart. And once your confidence falls apart, everything becomes gloomy and you feel you are not even cut out for success.

You know where the issue is? You are cut out for success, but you are not cut out for perfection. No human can be perfect and completely flawless. So expecting to be perfect is like chasing the wind.

Your daily habits is what builds your character and brings out excellence in you. The process of growth you are committed to is what would equip you with the skill set for success. Indeed true success is a product of persistence and progress.

Romans 2:7 (NIV)
To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, He will give eternal life.

REFLECTION
Am I persistent in the little things that will propel me towards success in my walk with God and in life? Am I committed to any process of growth?

ACTION POINT
Decide the daily habits you must practice and the process(es) of growth you must be committed to if you would progress towards success. Openly declare these to two people that can hold you accountable

PRAYER POINT
Lord, I receive grace for persistence as I walk with you and as I go through life. Please Lord, from today, begin to connect me to every process of growth that I need in Jesus Name.

> Your attitude has a stronger influence on your life than the power of God. Bad attitude can wreck more havoc in your life that the devil can possibly orchestrate.

Whatever happens in your life – good or bad, is not as important as how you respond or react to it. This is what attitude is all about, and how strongly it can influence your life. In the same vein, what you do is not as important as how you do it. Indeed, attitude is everything.

Don't underestimate the power of maintaining a good and positive attitude towards life. A great deal of the success and fulfilment you would have in this life will be a direct consequence of your attitude – how you see things and how you respond to them.

Your attitude has a strong influence on your thoughts, actions, and the vibes that you give. Good attitude is the mother of success and fulfilment. Bad attitude is the mother of failure and weakness.

Train yourself to have the right attitude towards life and to express it very consistently.

Philippians 4:8 (CEB)
From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise.

REFLECTION

What does my attitude towards life look like? Do I have any negative attitude that is affecting my life? Have I been infected by the negative attitude of someone around me? How? Whose positive attitudes have influenced me the most in recent times? How?

ACTION POINT

Move away from those who are infecting you with negative attitude. Become closer to those whose positive attitudes have influenced you recently. Leverage on these to get rid of bad attitudes, and to build good attitudes.

PRAYER POINT

Lord, please help fix my attitude and change me from inside out today in Jesus Name.

> The consequence of too much haste is too little speed. You would make better progress in life when you are not hasty in making decisions and taking actions.

It is natural to sometimes think that haste will give you father results, but wisdom teaches otherwise. When you are hasty, you would make lots of irrational decisions, and take too many regrettable actions.

Indeed, patience is a virtue that you must have as you go through life. Those who are hasty often make avoidable mistakes that that take much more time to repair and thus slow them down in life.

So, for anything you are trying to achieve in life, take time to evaluate the merits, pay close attention to details, focus on the things that matter, talk to relevant people, and plan with due diligence. This way, you may seem slow in making decisions and taking actions, but you are towing the noble path.

Proverbs 19:2 (NET) [CEB]
It is dangerous to have zeal without knowledge [willingness and stupidity don't go well together], and the one who acts hastily makes poor choices.

Proverbs 29:20 (BSB) [personal emphasis]
Do you see a man who speaks [decides, acts] in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

REFLECTION

Am I hasty in giving my opinion, making decisions, or taking actions? Do I look very well before I leap? How often do I jump to conclusions, stumble in words, make irrational decisions, or take regrettable actions?

ACTION POINT

When you are making a major decision, explain your entire thought process and how you arrived at your decision in a voice note. Play the voice note to yourself after 6 hours, evaluate the merits, and make necessary adjustments. Repeat the process again and again until you're confident that you've made the right choice.

PRAYER POINT

Lord, please subdue my hastiness and make me patient in all my dealings in Jesus Name.

> "The true measure of your wisdom is not what you are today. The true measure is what you are doing today to prepare and preposition yourself for tomorrow."

What your life looks like today is not the true measure of how wise you are. You may be at your best today, but you will only remain relevant in the future if you have spent today to prepare and preposition yourself for that future.

A future that you are not prepared for is not likely to be in your favor. The value of preparation cuts across all areas of life – finances, ministry, career, family, destiny, etc. In fact, whenever you receive a prophecy from God, it is a call to preparation.

You know, God is always preparing you for something. You may not have the full picture of what God is preparing you for, but you must not joke with the divine process with which He is preparing you and the people through whom He is preparing you.

A man that fails in the place of preparation will inadvertently fail in the place of manifestation. His success will be an error that life will automatically correct because he would not be able to sustain it.

Proverbs 6:6-8 (ESV)
Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread [ahead] in summer and gathers her food [ahead] in harvest.

REFLECTION

What am I doing now to prepare for and invest in my (financial, ministerial, marital, career, children's, etc.) future? What has God said concerning my future? How am I preparing for it? What divine process am I faithfully going through currently?

ACTION POINT

Evaluate everything and everyone you spend your life with. Disengage from those that have no positive bearing on your future. Shift your focus to people and activities that are pivotal to your tomorrow. Discuss your decisions with a mentor

PRAYER POINT

Lord, make me truly wise and guide my steps as I prepare for and invest in my future in Jesus Name.

> A man is bound to fail when his gifts/talents outruns his character. Tragedy looms when a man's gifts start giving him things that his character cannot handle.

Bible says that a man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men. Your gifts and talents are that powerful. So was Samson's gifts! But his character never matched his giftings and that was his undoing.

There are many people who would celebrate your gifts. But be sincere enough with yourself not to allow them push you ahead of your character. Appreciate people that call your attention to your character while others are celebrating your gifts.

When you think of the kind of future that you want, also think of the kind of character that can handle the trials and temptations that come with that future. As you develop skill and ability for your future, also develop character and integrity alongside.

It is easy to be blindfolded by your gift. It is easy to be deceived by the praise and admiration of many. You can easily be deceived by your achievements, accolades, and all. But at the end of the day, those things will expose your weaknesses and mar you if you rise higher than the strength of your character.

Proverbs 4:23,26 (NLT, AMP)
Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Consider well and watch carefully the path of your feet, and all your ways will be steadfast and sure

REFLECTION

Are there character flaws I have noticed in my life? How are these flaws inimical to my future? What can I do about them?

ACTION POINT

Step aside from every role that the strength of your character cannot handle. Take time to work on your character before you return to them. Discuss the practicality of your decision with a trusted mentor.

PRAYER POINT

Lord, please do your strengthening and refining work in my life. Help me to grow in character and in integrity in Jesus Name.

> Never let your thirst for confirmation outpace your thirst for conformation. Your quest should always be to confirm God's will so that you can conform.

When you go to God in prayer about an issue, it is normal to sometimes have your own personal preferences. However, don't ever fall into the trap of praying to confirm your own will.

When you go before God either in prayer or while studying scriptures, your quest must be to confirm His will so that you can conform to it. Don't seek to confirm your own will so that you can continue with it. Remember, God sees deep into your heart.

Whenever your thirst for confirmation outpaces your thirst for conformation, God sees it as an idol set up in your heart and it displeases Him. It is deceitfulness, don't you think? How can a man think He can deceive the Omniscient? Isn't that preposterous?

Regardless of your personal preferences, always go to God with a sincere heart, absolutely willing to do His bidding no matter what. Such is pleasing and endearing to God.

Ezekiel 14:3 (NIV)
[God said to the prophet], Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all?

REFLECTION
Was there a time that my quest for confirmation outpaced my quest for conformation? What happened? How did it end? Which is prevalent in my life now– a quest for confirmation or for conformation?

ACTION POINT
Take note of areas where your quest for confirmation is getting out of hand. Checkmate them immediately by humbly admitting before God and making immediate adjustment.

PRAYER POINT
Lord Jesus, I repent of every idol I may have set in my heart. I humbly come before you today with a contrite heart, seeking to always conform to your will. Guide my steps O Lord, and let me meditations be acceptable in Your sight in Jesus Name.

> "The devil was displaced from his original place in heaven, so he takes delight in displacing men from the place of their destiny. Don't ever let him displace you"

When the devil was displaced from heaven, he started a vendetta mission which includes displacing like he was displaced. He started with Adam and Eve, and got them displaced from the garden of Eden.

And even till date, the devil is still in the business of displacing people. You must however make up your mind that you will not allow the devil to displace you.

As a believer, don't let the devil displace you from your spiritual position of righteousness in Christ. As a married man/woman, don't let the devil displace you from your home.

Don't let the devil displace you from critical relationships in your life, the process of your destiny, your Church family, etc. Guard the places where God has positioned you jealously.

The devil will bring trials, temptations and all sorts in a bid to displace you. But your mind must be made up to do all I takes to maintain your proper place everywhere God has planted you.

1 Corinthians 7:20 (BBE)
Let every man keep the position in which he has been placed by God.

REFLECTION
In what ways has the devil displaced me in the past? What can I do about it? In what ways is the devil trying to displace me now? What must I do to keep my place?

ACTION POINT
Share your reflections with a friend of like-mind. While talking with your friend, identify your divine placements in life. Talk on was to ensure you are never displaced by the devil.

PRAYER POINT
Lord Jesus, help me to keep my divine placements in life. I refuse to be displaced by the devil in Jesus Name. Amen

> One major factor that determines your spiritual strength is the kind of people in your close circle of friendship and intimacy. Don't make friends carelessly

The Bible, in many places, cautions us not to choose our friends carelessly. In fact, one of the firs things that begins to happen as you get serious with God is that your circle of intimacy begins to change.

If you walk with the wise, you will become wise. Folly, on the other hand, begets folly alike. Make friends with people whose life exude wisdom and not folly.

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. This is not only about marriage. Don't form an unequal yoke in friendships and alliances too. You should be friendly towards unbelievers, but don't become friends with them.

Make friends only with those who will be a positive influence in your life. People who can walk side by side with you on the journey of faith, purpose, greatness, and of course fun and happiness.

Do not mix with strangers, they will devour your strength and reduce you to a piece of bread – one that is not properly baked.

Hosea 7:8-9 (ACV)
Ephraim, he mixes himself among the peoples. Ephraim is a cake not turned. Strangers have devoured his strength, and he does not know…

REFLECTION
Who are my 3 closest friends now? Are they positive influences or negative influences? In what ways has my life changes since I started moving with them? Do I want to continue being friends with them?

ACTION POINT
Dissociate from wrong friends. Send a text to those who passed the test on your reflection. Tell them how much of a positive influence they have been to you, and how much you cherish your friendship with them.

PRAYER POINT
Lord Jesus, I surrender my friendships and interactions to you today. Guide me Lord Jesus, and grant me wisdom to mix with the right people in Jesus Name.

> Don't be obsessed with convenience or remain in your comfort zone. Comfort Room is not a place you stay in for too long. Break the limits of your comfort!

God is concerned about your comfort, but He is primarily committed to your future and destiny. A man that is preoccupied with comfort will miss God by many miles. That is why comfort must never be your goal in life, else you will settle for way too less.

Indeed, we all have our comfort zones. But if you will make anything meaningful out of your life and harness the fullness of your capacity and potentials, you must step out of your comfort zone.

Yes, you may feel safe and secure in your comfort zone. But really, the safe option is usually not the best option. Choosing the easy option is mostly settling for less. You will not break new frontiers if you cling to the safe option.

When you hide in your comfort zone, you have trapped yourself in a fenceless prison. You must break out of that prison if you will fulfil God's plan and purpose for your life.

Genesis 12:1-2 [paraphrased]
Now the Lord has said to Abram, "Get out of your [comfort zone] to the place I have ordained for you. Greatness and blessings await you there"

REFLECTION
In what way have you remained in your comfort zone? What has this cost you so far? What will it cost you in future? What strategies can you develop to help you break out of that comfort zone?

ACTION POINT
Start pushing the edge from today. Do a 3 minutes pep talk for yourself, encouraging yourself to take the leap. You may prefer to write it out first, then stand in front of a mirror, and read it to yourself.

PRAYER POINT
Lord God, I need strength and courage to break out of my comfort zone and to break new frontiers. Lord, please let me catch a glimpse of the big picture. Let me not be limited by the concerns of my convenience in Jesus Name.

> "No man can negotiate with satan or make peace with him. You cannot appease the devil; you must resist him. He doesn't stay away, but you can make him flee!"

Who doesn't want a smooth sail and easy ride through life? We all do. If only there was no devil, things would have been just like that. But then, the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent taketh it y force.

Beloved, if you are not prepared to fight against sin; if you are not ready to wage spiritual warfare against the devil; if you are not determined to win victories for the Lord, then you are toast!

As you go through life, you must draw upon God's grace to fight against your own sins as well as the attacks of the enemy.

Yes, as a believer, you are already on the winning side. But you must make up your mind not to be a casualty on the winning side.

Ephesians 6:12-13 (KJV)
For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

REFLECTION

Am I complacent in fighting against sin? Have I been resisting or permitting the devil's attacks in my life and family?

ACTION POINT

Read Ephesians 4:14-17, itemize the components of the whole armor of God. Do you have them all complete? In what areas are you lacking? Make decisions that will help you grow in those areas today. You may also speak to someone who can help you.

PRAYER POINT

I resist the devil today. I refuse to permit him in my life henceforth. I resist sin and spiritual attacks in Jesus Name.

> "You must have an assignment in Zion that God can put your name to. It is not enough to be a son, you must be a serving son."

It is not okay to be a nominal Christian that is not making any contribution whatsoever to the kingdom of God. If indeed you are a son of God, then you must be serving somewhere in His house.

Until you begin to mature into our assignment, you have not truly matured as a Christian. One of the marks of maturity is that you are responsible for something and you are faithful and consistent in doing it.

The place of your assignment is one of the places where God is checking you out. God's grace and anointing will meet you in the place of your assignment.

Don't despise any assignment that you are given. Take it very seriously and do it with excellence, faithfulness, and consistence.

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

REFLECTION

Do I have an assignment in my local assembly? If yes, how committed am I in the place of my assignment? If no, what opportunities do I have to take up an assignment?

ACTION POINT

If you have no assignment, volunteer for one today. If you have to go through a training process, begin it today. Establish a clear plan on how you intend to become better in handling your currents assignments if you have one.

PRAYER POINT

Lord Jesus, please let me be found faithful as a steward. Let the Father take delight in my service in Jesus Name.

> God gains entrance into your life by His Word. Don't spend too much time being influenced by the voices around you rather than God's word.

Words have a greater influence on our lives than we possibly can imagine. The words you are constantly exposed to will determine your mentality and your realities in life. You cannot be better than the quality of the words that you hear.

You need to develop a hearing ear that is inclined towards the Lord and shut to all conflicting voices. Give utmost attention to what God is saying to you through the pages of scriptures, through sermons and books, and through the instrumentality of your spirit.

Tune your ears away from contrary voices that do not align with scriptures, may corrupt your heart, plant fear in your mind, or worse still, blaspheme against God and His Holy scriptures.

One of the ways to refine your heart and safeguard your spirit is to purify your hearing. Nothing you hear leaves the equation of your life the same. It becomes an addition to your life.

Mark 4:24 (ACV)
And he said unto them, Watch what you hear: by what measure you measure, it will be measured to you: and to those who hear, it will be added to you.

REFLECTION
Who and what do I spend my time listening? What are they adding to my life ?

ACTION POINT
Get one Christian literature and start reading today. Ask a trusted source to recommend 5 good Christian movies for you. Watch them during your leisure.

PRAYER POINT
Lord Jesus, please incline my ears towards your words. I receive grace to hear your words aright and to tune my ears away from the vile and vain words in Jesus Name.

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Rev. Aliu is a vibrant preacher, a prolific writer, and a mentor of leaders. His passion for the gospel is highly contagious, with in-depth understanding of the principles of the Kingdom, and a deep passion for the manifestation of God's Glory.

The Lord spoke to him clearly in a vision some years ago, saying "I have commissioned you with CRITICAL VOICE, AND SIGNS, AND POWER" Indeed, he is a voice to the nations, and God consistently confirms his word with diverse signs and wondrous display of God's power.

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