CHRIST'S INVADING FORCE



DAILY TONIC

BY REVEREND TEMILOLU A. ALIU

... YOUR DAILY INSPIRATION TOWARDS A VITAL, SUSTAINABLE AND REPRODUCIBLE CLOSE PERSONAL WALK WITH GOD

• • •

FEBRUARY 2019 EDITION

Daily Tonic

…Your daily inspiration towards a vital, sustainable and reproducible close personal walk with God

Rev. Temilolu A. Aliu

CHRIST'S INVADING FORCE INC.
Cebu City, Philippines

INTRODUCTION DEVELOPING INTIMACY WITH GOD

Text- Philippians 3:10- "That I may know him…"

In this era, 'staying connected' has become big business… with all the available devices- Smart phones, Tablets, Laptops etc. and with the advent of social networking facilities and instant messengers. These give us instant access to build and to foster relationships with just about anyone across the globe! But how much time do we actually spend to build the most important relationship of all? How much effort do we invest in connecting with God on a daily basis?

DAILY TONIC is your daily inspiration towards a vital, sustainable and reproducible close personal walk with God. This daily devotional will gear you towards a better and a more consistent relationship with God.

As you make use of DAILY TONIC this month, set your heart to seek God. Let your heart cry be, "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is" (Psalm 63:1). Let nothing distract you from your personal fellowship with God this month; don't be too busy that you do not observe your quiet time. Don't get entangled in the affairs of life!

Before reading the daily devotional, I implore you to spend some time praying and worshipping God; and after you have read the devotional, spend some time in prayer and spend the day meditating on what you have read.

Let your watchword be "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation." (Psalm 119: 97-99).

Grace, Mercy and Peace be multiplied unto you!

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

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 1

TOPIC:

THE VALUE OF KNOWING HIM

Text- 2 Corinthians 2:14- "But praise to God who makes us strong to overcome in Christ, and makes clear through us in every place the value of the knowledge of him"

Beloved, there is something called "The value of the knowledge of God", and it is God's will and desire to manifest this value as clearly as possible through every believer, including you, in every place.

In some other translations, the word 'value' is rendered as 'fragrance', 'aroma'. In fact, Contemporary English Version of the Bible says "like the smell of a perfume"

The expression used by Paul in this verse stems from the fact that in those days, after a battle, there were incense-bearers in the procession of the conqueror; this was an essential part of the triumph of a Roman general. The smell of the incense was to alert people that the conqueror had come.

This is a picture of how your life should be as a believer. Everywhere you go… office, school, market, boardrooms, etc., there should be an aroma that radiates from you, bearing witness to the fact that the conqueror, Christ whom you have on your inside, has come.

See, your life must be a testimony to everyone around you that it indeed pays to serve Jesus! Your seriousness in school; your work ethics; your performance at your job; your conduct in marriage; your business involvements; your speech and your every action must make it clear everywhere you go that there is value in being a Christian.

I want you to ask yourself, when unbelievers around you observe your life, will they see the value of the knowledge of God? Will they be encouraged or discouraged to join you in following Christ?

Beloved, you must take serious care to make sure that your life is not a mockery to the Christ that you profess. Understand that the testimony of your life may determine the eternity of family, friends, classmates, coworkers, business partners, and even strangers.

There are countless unbelievers that have been discouraged from following Christ because of the things they have observed in the lives of certain Christians. You often hear those unbelievers say of those Christians, “I don’t want to be like them!”

Beloved, will your life be a testimony that it pays to serve the Lord? Will your life make clear the value of knowing Christ? Will your life provoke unbelievers to want to know your God?

You have been equipped with the knowledge and the power of God. This same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to quicken you, and to empower you to shine as light everywhere you go, and to make clear the value of the knowledge of Christ like the smell of a perfume.

PRAYER

Lord, I yield myself as your workmanship. I will consciously and cautiously live a life that speaks well of my faith. Please make clear through me in every place, the value of knowing You.

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 2

TOPIC:

A SENSE OF DIRECTION

Text- Deuteronomy 2:3- "You have compassed this mountain long enough: turn you northward"

Today's text, Deuteronomy 2:3, is one of the very popular verses of the Bible. Preachers and motivational speakers often use it to encourage people to leave their comfort zone, to do things differently, to strive to be better etc. We hear them echo time again "You have compassed this mountain long enough!"

However, there is another phrase in that verse that is less emphasized – **"Turn you northward".** If you're looking for messages that will gear you up to go faster, get stronger, and do better, you won't have to search too far before you find more than you possibly can exhaust. In contrast, not much has been said on having a sense of direction.

What exactly am I doing with my life? Why did I choose this career path? What next after this phase of my life? What am I doing in this relationship? ... These questions, and many similar ones, are the heart cry of someone searching for a sense of direction in life.

Dearly beloved, striving to acquire and achieve more with our lives without first answering the question of direction; without having a clear sense of direction, makes for a life that is filled with dissatisfaction, frustration and lack of fulfilment.

No doubts, if you strive well enough, you will acquire and achieve a lot, maybe even to the point of living larger than life, but none of it will seem to make sense at the end of the day.

See, it is good that you are encouraged to take steps towards a bigger, brighter and better tomorrow, but it is more important that you have a sense of direction, and are taking steps in the right direction.

There are too many people living life with no sense of direction whatsoever. Some on the other hand, have a 'direction' they are plying, but constantly feel like they are chasing a version of themselves that they were never meant to be. Life does not have to be that stressful and frustrating.

Vision without direction is a perfect recipe for frustration. You will understand how bad this frustration can get if you've ever gotten confused about the road, and missed your way while heading for an imporatant meeting (for example, a job interview).

It is then that you'll realize that when you are on a journey, the man that knows the direction is more important than the man that knows how to drive!

It doesn't matter how well you drive, or how much you speed… Both the skill and the effort will end in futility and frustration if you have no sense of direction, or if you are moving in the wrong direction.

It is good to go far; it is good to go fast; but it is far more expedient to know where exactly you are going. It doesn't matter how early you earned your PhD or how brilliant you are, all will come to waste of you do not channel your life in the right direction, or if you have no sense of direction at all.

If your life will be meaningful and satisfying, don't focus on trying to climb a tall ladder, or trying to climb faster, only to realize that the ladder is leaning against the wrong wall.

Instead, first settle the question of direction – follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, set clear-cut goals, work diligently to achieve those goals, don't be carried away by popular opinion, don't engage in unhealthy comparison and competition, don't be afraid to take risks, and rely on God for lasting joy and true satisfaction.

PRAYER

Lord, please give me a sense of direction in life; show me my path in life, and lead me in the way I should go. I come humbly to you today Lord, let me find lasting joy and true satisfaction in you as I hearken to your voice in Jesus Name.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 3

TOPIC:

CHRIST SHOULD BE OUR FOCUS

Text- Hebrews 12:2- "Having our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith…"

There is always something that gets your attention in Church, be it your home Church, or a Church you are visiting. These attention-grabbers can easily shift your focus away from Christ if you are not careful.

A Church may have a striking architectural design, good interior décor, an amazing choir, an energetic pastor, etc… but we must never shift our focus to any of these things when we go to Church. Christ must remain our focus.

We must be careful not to get caught up in the physical things we see, or the way we feel with certain people or things in Church, so much so that we miss out on the reason why we are there in the first place – to worship and to fellowship with the Lord.

There are two major themes contained in the concept of focus, namely attention and concentration. So then, when we say Christ must be our focus when we go to Church, we mean to say that He must have our full attention, and we must concentrate on Him, and on His word.

See what Paul says in Colossians 1:8

> *"And He (Christ) is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things, He might have preeminence"*

Christ is the head of the Church, and as such should have preeminence in all things – in the worship, in the preaching, in our interactions with one another, in every single thing we do in Church, and most importantly in our individual hearts and minds.

Beloved, as you go to Church today, you must allow Christ to occupy the forefront of your mind; focus on Him so much that He becomes more real to you than the person sitting next to you.

In order to accomplish this, we must give heed to Paul's admonition in Colossians 3:2 – "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth"

Talking about Stephen, Bible records in Acts 7:55-56:

> *"But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened…"*

Beloved, it is those who look steadfastly into heaven; those who set their affection on things above; those who make Christ their focus that will behold the glory of God, have an encounter with Jesus, and experience open heavens. Will you be one of them?

Happy Sunday, beloved! Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.

PRAYER

As I go to Church today, I resolve to make Christ my focus and set my affection on things above. As I do these, I will behold the glory of God, have an encounter with Jesus, and experience open heavens in Jesus Name.

MONDAY
FEBRUARY 4

TOPIC:

GOD SAID "NEVER"!

Text- Judges 2:1 "… Have brought you unto the land which I swear unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you"

You must have heard this expression before – 'Never say never". This expression is borne out of the common knowledge that the word, 'Never', is a strong word, with very serious implications.

When someone uses the word, 'Never', he means to say that the matter in question is not up for any kind of debate or reconsideration, either now or in the future – near or distant. His mind is made up! This kind of commitment is not to be taken lightly at all.

It is therefore worth our serious attention and deep reflection whenever we hear God say, 'Never'. When God says so, He is conveying a sense of resolute commitment on a matter that is a done deal; a matter that is not subject to review come what may.

One of such times God said, 'Never' is in our text today…
He said, "I will never break my covenant with you"

See how God further buttresses this in Psalm 89:34

> *"My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips"*

See beloved, we can rely on the faithfulness of God because he neither breaks his covenant nor goes back on his promises. We can rest assured, knowing fully well that we serve a covenant-keeping God.

I want you to realize that the devil cannot do anything to revert the promises of God; he cannot do anything to reduce the ability of God; and he cannot do anything to rid God of His faithfulness.

The devil knows that all the promises God in Christ are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us (2 Corinthians 1:20). But he wants to blind your eyes to that truth, so that you will not release faith for the things that God has promised you, and for the dividends of the New Testament.

Beloved, let your confidence in God be unwavering. Release your faith for the fullness of everything God has covenanted with you in Christ, and for every promise He has made to you both in the pages of scripture, and personally in your own life.

Let your faith in God be rock-solid because He will not break His covenant, nor alter the thing that is gone out of His lips. He will do just as He has said concerning you.

> *"God is not man, one given to lies; neither is he a son of man, that changes his mind: Does he speak and not do what he says? Or does he promise and not come through?"*
> – Numbers 23:19

Certainly not!

He has said, "I will never break my covenant with you"

PRAYER

Father, I declare my unwavering confidence in you, and I release faith for every dividend of the New Testament and every promise you have made to me. I begin to see tangible expressions ad manifestations of your covenant and promises today in Jesus Name.

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 5

TOPIC:

GOD SAID "NEVER"! (2)

Text- Hebrews 13:5- "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee"

Yesterday, I mentioned that the word 'never' is a strong word with very serious implications. Whenever it is used, it conveys a sense of resolute determination and commitment on a matter that is not subject to review or change.

As such, whenever God uses the word "never", we ought to give thorough consideration to the matter under discourse, and pay close attention to its implications.

In our text today, we see another place where God said 'Never'
He said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee"

I checked for the dictionary meaning of 'Never', and this was what I found:

> *"At no time in the past or future; on no occasion; not ever"*

So then, when God says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you", what he's saying is that at no time whatsoever; and on no occasion whatsoever will he ever leave you or forget you.

God has resolved within himself to never abandon you, or leave you to handle life all by yourself. His presence with you is ever abiding; His participation in your life is ever sure. Isn't this amazing?

See what God said to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 31:6

> *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you"*

Beloved, you are not alone in life; God is solidly by your side, so do not be afraid. Be strong and courageous! God is your very present help.

I like how the writer of Hebrews completed his thought-line in Hebrews 13.

After he had said "God will never leave you nor forsake you" in verse 5, he went on to say in verse 6,

> *"So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."*

Jesus said in Matthew 28:20,

> *"… Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age"*

Dearly beloved, I want you to know today that God is always with you; He will always help you; He will always love you; He will stick with you through thick and thin. He will never leave you nor forsake you.

Shalom!

PRAYER

Lord, I declare my unwavering confidence in you. I know that your love, help, presence and participation in my life are ever sure. So, I receive strength and courage from this assurance as I daily live in Jesus Name.

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 6

TOPIC:

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

Text- 2 Corinthians 5:20 "Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ…"

In the world today, the apex in showbiz is to get an endorsement deal. Most artistes, athletes and the likes want a brand that will name them as an ambassador. They get special benefits from the brand and promote the brand passionately and display it proudly.

When we come to the diplomatic sphere, an ambassador is a citizen of a country, who has been accredited as an official envoy of his/her country to another country, to reside there as a personal representative of the government.

Going by the explanations given above, what does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ? What does it take to be one? What is an ambassador supposed to do? How should an ambassador behave? A lot of questions beg for answers.

You see, salvation is the greatest endorsement deal you can ever receive. What you got saved, you received an endorsement deal from Christ. This qualifies you for special benefits from him, and compels you be promote his 'brand' passionately by preaching the gospel.

Furthermore, we understand that as Christians, God has called us out of this world and transferred us into His Kingdom (John 15:19, Colossians 1:13) so much so that Paul said in Philippians 3:20 that we are citizens of heaven.

This implies that although we live in this world, we are but official envoys of the Kingdom of God to this world. We reside in this world as personal representatives of the government of heaven!

It is such a great privilege and distinct honor to be an ambassador for Christ; to be chosen to be an ambassador to represent the greatest and only God there is, the Lord Jesus Christ.

In his book, "Designed to Be Like Him", J. D Pentecost says and I quote,

> *"There can be no higher goal. There can be no higher ambition. There can be no higher purpose than that which the Word of God puts before us as the chief end of the child of God, to glorify God. The greatest goal in the believer's life is not his own enjoyment of his salvation. His highest goal is not learning the truths of Scripture, nor even teaching and preaching the Word. His greatest goal is to live Jesus Christ so that men may know the Father."*

Our true vocation as believers is being an ambassador for Christ. As such, we must live a life that represents Him correctly, be in constant communication with Him through His word and through prayers, and speak His message to the world knowing fully well that we are backed up by His authority.

PRAYER

Lord, help me forthwith to live circumspectly and fulfil my assignment as your ambassador to this world in Jesus Name.

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 7

TOPIC:

TOTALLY SOLD OUT

Text- Matthew 13:45-46 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

Ravi Zacharias once told the story of a boy who loved collecting marbles. The next door neighbors also had a little girl who had a lot of candy.

One day as they were playing, the girl said to the boy: “If you’ll give me all of your marbles, I’ll give you all of my candy.” He replied that he would think about it.

He thought about it that night, and on the following morning, he hid a few of the marbles in his room and offered the rest to the little girl for all her candy. He got home and was very happy about how ‘smart’ he was.

Funny enough, that night, he couldn't get to sleep. He tossed and he turned all night long because he was so troubled. Can you guess what troubled him so much he couldn't sleep? What troubled him was the thought: “Did she really give me all of her candy?”

That’s how it goes in your relationship with Christ. He is constantly calling you to be totally sold out for him. You see, you can’t want all of Christ and all He can give without first, giving all of yourself to him. If you try to ‘play smart’ like that little boy, it’s you who will lose out in the end.

See the story in Luke 9:57-62

> *As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”*
> *He said to another man, “Follow me.” But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”*

> *Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."*

Basically, what Jesus kept emphasizing was this: "See, if you're not going to give me everything, then don't bother following me at all". Truly, Jesus wants to give you a lot of 'candies' but he is interested in all your 'marbles', not just some…He wants it all.

For Jesus, it's ALL OR NONE!

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I am completely sold out to you. I choose to be totally sold out to you Lord. I give it all to you Jesus, withholding nothing!

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 8

TOPIC:

CRUCIFY THE FLESH

Text- Galatians 5:24 – "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

When we analyze our text today, few things become clear to us:

- The flesh has passions and desires
- Christian living is incompatible with the flesh
- Therefore, we crucify the flesh (with its passions and desires)

But then, what exactly is the flesh? It definitely does not refer to your skin or physical body. To understand the context in which the Bible used the word flesh here, let us look at Romans 8:7-9

> *"The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ."*

The first thing I want us to see here is the contrast between those who are in the realm of the flesh and those who are in the realm of the spirit. Bible identifies those who are in the realm of the Spirit as those who belong to Christ. These are the people that Galatians 5:24 talks about with regards to crucifying the flesh.

The hallmark of the flesh according to Romans 8 is that it is hostile to God (that is, in enmity with God), does not submit to God's law, and indeed cannot do so. Bible tells us that those who are in the flesh cannot please God!

When you give your life to Christ, you are translated from the realm of the flesh to the realm of the Spirit. This gives you the ability and the willingness to please God with your life, and to submit to God's law. If this is not true of your

Christianity, then it is not real Christianity. If this is not true of your salvation, then it is not genuine salvation!

Furthermore, the flesh is the part of you that wants to rebel against God's law. It is that part that fights to resist your transformation into that new man that you are in Christ. The devil constantly seeks to use the desires and pleasures of your flesh to keep you enslaved to our old habits and sinful attitudes.

How do you do this? Paul gave us the answer in Galatians 5:16, "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the desires of the flesh". I therefore, implore you today beloved, to walk in the spirit, thus crucifying the flesh with all its passions and desires.

You live in the realm of the spirit, so you can and you should please God with your life. Shalom!

PRAYER

Lord, it is my desire to please you with my life. Holy Spirit, guide me to walk in the spirit, so that I will not fulfil the lusts of the flesh.

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 9

TOPIC:
CRUCIFY THE FLESH (2)

Text- Galatians 5:24 – "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

As we proceed with the second part of this discussion, I want to point out the fact that the flesh has 'works'.

> *"Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."* – Galatians 5:19-21

To give us a proper context to this verse on the works of the flesh, Paul said to the Galatians in Galatians 5:13 – "It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom to indulge the flesh- as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom..."

So we see here that it is absolutely wrong to use our freedom in Christ to justify indulgence in the passions and desires of the flesh… Oh yes, we are under grace, not under the law! Praise God for that… but listen, that is not and should not be used as a license to gratify the flesh with all its passions and desires. It is in fact a license to crucify the flesh with all its passions and desires.

It is for this reason that Paul admonishes the Galatians saying, "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the desires of the flesh". How then do walk in the Spirit?

Paul said in Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

The way we live in the realm of the Spirit, and walk in the Spirit is by Faith...

Simply by Faith! We must however understand that there are two dimensions in the appropriation of faith when it comes to crucifying the flesh.

1. The Fight of Faith
   In 1 Timothy 6:11-12, Paul said to Timothy, "But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

   The fight of faith involves consciously and intentionally fleeing from sin (all the passions and desires of the flesh).

2. The Works of Faith
   Paul, writing to the Thessalonians, in 1 Thessalonians 1:3 said, "We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

   There are works produced by faith. These are the things you consciously and intentionally do in yielding every part of your body to God as instruments of righteousness.

Are you fighting the good fight of faith? Are you producing the works of faith? Think about these, and make necessary adjustments in your daily living.

PRAYER

Lord, it is my desire to please you with my life. Please help me Lord, to fight to good fight of faith and to produce the works of faith.

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 10

TOPIC:

YOU HAVE A PART TO PLAY

Text- Romans 12:4-5 "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

Many times in scripture, Paul used the human body to illustrate the relationship between Jesus Christ and the Church. He pointed out that Christ is the head of the body.

> *"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence"* – Colossians 1:18

Now, we know that our head is the part that directs the rest of our body into meaningful activity. In the same vein, Christ, the head, seeks to direct His body (The Church) into meaningful activities of His will.

The Church, which is the body of Christ, is made up of everyone who believes in His name and has accepted Him as Lord. This means that every true believer in the world (including you) is part of His body.

Bible says in 1 Corinthians 12:14 & 27 "Now the body is not made up of one part but of many… Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it".

So we say, the body of Christ consists of many members and as such, the body of Christ is diversified. People from every race, color, land, and nation are all part of the same body.

You see, a head without a body is as useless as a body without a head. The head is important, but so is every member of the body. A body which does not have all of its members is limited in what it can do.

For instance, a man with no legs cannot run a race. A man without eyes cannot see the stars. A man without arms cannot climb a tree. It therefore, goes on to

say that every member in Christ's body is very vital and important to Him. Every member in Christ's body has a particular function.

When you examine the different parts of your body, you find that your toes and ears do not serve the same purpose; neither do your eyes and feet. Likewise in the body of Christ all members do not have the same use. Instead, every member has his own function.

Narrowing this down to the local Church setting, it means you have a specific function in your local Church; you have a special work or duty; you have a part to play!

Don't be a bench warmer in Church. You should be playing an active role and contributing your quota to the growth of the body of Christ through your local Church.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to recognize my specific function as a member of the body of Christ, and grant me the measure of faith and strength required to fulfil that function in Jesus Name.

ENROLL IN OUR BIBLE SCHOOL

If you have been blessed by DAILY TONIC, and you desire to further sharpen your knowledge of God, and enhance your relationship with him, we encourage you to enroll in our Bible School – Kingdom Institute.

If you don't have time to sit in the classroom but desire deeper knowledge in the word of God, sharing the Gospel and defending the Christian Faith, our Diploma of Ministry program is designed for you!

- Learn at your own pace!
- Earn your certificate from your own home!
- Refine your spiritual disciplines
- Develop the skills for interpreting scripture
- Increase your knowledge of God and His Word
- Sharpen your abilities for effective ministry
- Learn how to communicate Christian principles to variety of audience

You can take all our courses from the comfort of your home, and study at your own pace.

Your certificates and diploma will be mailed to you by courier upon successful completion of all academic requirements.

To learn more about our Bible school and/or to enroll, click HERE or contact +63 995 395 4803 (call, SMS, or WhatsApp)

MONDAY
FEBRUARY 11

TOPIC:

REGULATE YOUR EMOTIONS

Text- Romans 12:9 "… Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good"

You might have read the verse in today's text before, maybe even many times already, but I want to share with you one of my reflections on the verse – the fact that God commands us to regulate (or even if necessary, change) our emotions.

I want you to understand that the structure of this verse does not lend to any form of objectivity whatsoever. In other words, the verse conveys the idea that what is evil is not determined by what you dislike… Rather, it says what you dislike should be determined by what is evil. There is "That which is evil", dislike it!

Is this a joke or something? How will the Bible say we should dislike "that which is evil"… what if it is something we like already? Should we just change our emotions just like that? Is this even possible? Isn't this going to be difficult?

The list of questions you have right now are probably endless. But you see, if God requires that we should hate that which is evil, it means it is actually possible for us to. Agreeing with this fact is the first thing we must do before we can actually "abhor that which is evil"

Contrary to what you may think, you have control over your emotions. You have control over what you like and what you dislike.

As a married man, it is possible for you to meet another woman that you like. If this happens, the covenant of marriage restrains you from going after her, but much more than that, that covenant mandates you to kill any emotions that you have developed.

A decent man respects the marriage covenant and regulates his emotions; a wicked man disregards the marriage covenant and follows his emotions; a weak man doesn't know what to do – he's caught up in between his emotions and pleasing God. He feels he's helpless, but that's not true.

It's the same thing with mood swings. You know, it just happens… nobody plans for it. In fact, there is a cyclical pattern for women; they are expected to

have mood swings at certain points in their monthly cycle, or at least, that's what we have been made to believe.

Beloved, you have power over your mood! You can choose to be happy; you can choose to be lively, you can choose to detest sin, you can choose to stop feeling like a woman locked up in a man's body, you can choose not to fall in love with that unbeliever… you are not a slave of your emotions!

The bottom line of Christina living and spiritual growth is actually not about changing our behavior; it is in changing our emotions. It is not about willpower; it is first about the emotions… that inner intensity that drives willpower.

PRAYER

Father, please grant me the grace to regulate my emotions; grace to abhor evil and cleave to that which is good in Jesus Name.

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 12

TOPIC:

REGULATE YOUR EMOTIONS (2)

Text- Romans 12:9 "… Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good"

As much as there are scriptural standards that delineate good from evil, and we are to subject our lives to those standards, we are also required to subject our emotions to them… to have what is evil, and love what is good.

Unfortunately, the innate tendency and the training of the systems of this world is to love that which is evil and hate that which is good.

Take for example, if you are watching a movie where a rogue who has done so much evil is at the verge of being caught by police men, what calculations usually go on in your mind? How he must be apprehended, or how he can escape arrest?

Let's examine another movie scenario. A man whose wife went on a trip decides to bring his mistress home. While he's with the mistress, his wife changes her plan, and decides to come home early. How would you feel at this point in the movie? That he must be caught, or that he must not be caught?

These are few examples to show that while you may not be committing crime, or living in sin, there may still be an issue with your emotions. The question is, do you really dislike evil or you just avoid it?

I have met with, and had the privilege of counseling a good number of people who seem to be victims of their own emotions… They are so caught up in the way they feel about a matter, and it seems they cannot help themselves.

What I usually explain is that the heart (inner heart) of a man is the seat of his emotions. So then, if your emotions are not yet aligned to the will of God, and His definition of good and evil, then you need a new heart; a pure heart!

God said in Ezekiel 36:26, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you…:. Ezekiel 18:31 also talks about a new heart and a new spirit, but adds a prerequisite – Cast away from you all your transgressions

The first thing to do in order to regulate your emotions is to put away your transgressions; repent from sin and accept Jesus as your Lord and saviour.

Having done that, then cry to God; ask Him to give you a new heart. On your own part, you must accept the the responsibility of renewing your mind with the word of God day by day.

Beloved, you are not a victim of your emotions. You can regulate it, and you can change it if need be.

Again remember, the bottom line of Christina living and spiritual growth is actually not about changing our behavior; it is in changing our emotions. It is not about willpower; it is first about the emotions… that inner intensity that drives willpower.

PRAYER

Father, please give me a new heart and put a new spirit within me. Grant me the grace to regulate my emotions in Jesus Name.

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 13

TOPIC:

TRUE SATISFACTION

Text- Eccl. 6:7- "All man's efforts are for his mouth, yet his appetite is never satisfied"

In this present world, almost everyone is consumed with the quest for enjoyment and satisfaction. People turn to many different things trying to find enjoyment and satisfaction – from illicit sex, to alcohol, to drugs, to gluttony, to career height, to fame, to power, to knowledge, to money, and many other ephemeral things.

According to our text, all of man's efforts are for his mouth. In other words, the labor of a man is usually targeted towards satisfying his yearnings; his "hunger" and his "thirst".

The quest for joy and satisfaction is why many people go to school; it is the reason why many parents train their children; it is the reason why people want good jobs; it is the reason why many youths experiment with sex and drugs; it is the reason why many join cults… everything that we do – good or bad – can be traced to the quest for joy and satisfaction.

The problem however is that despite all of the efforts and labor man invests to acquire joy and satisfaction, his soul is never satisfied. The fact of the matter is that there is an innate hunger and thirst in every one of us that none of our human efforts can satisfy. Only God can.

In the quest for true satisfaction, man has developed all sorts of philosophies for people to explore, and created myriads of heights for people to climb. Life thus seems to be an endless pursuit... there is always 'something more' to run after – more degrees, more knowledge, more skill, more titles, more money, more sex, more power, more fame, more more more – more that never satisfies!

What we often fail to realize is that our happiness and satisfaction is not in our own power. Many do not understand that true spiritual joy cannot be obtained by sensual pleasure… None of the things we do for ourselves by ourselves can give us true satisfaction. Only God can.

See what the Bible says in Isaiah 55:2:

"Why do you spend money for that which is not bread? And your labor for that which satisfies not? Hearken diligently unto me, and eat that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness"

There is a hunger and thirst in each and every one of us; a deep-seated desire and passion that no amount of pleasure, possession and performance can satisfy.

Truth is, true satisfaction can neither be bought with money nor merited by labor. It is a gift from God to those who consistently hearken to His voice. Only those who are led by God can enjoy true satisfaction in this life.

This is what the Psalmist alluded to when he said of God, "You will show me the path of life: in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand there are pleasures for evermore"

Beloved, are you trying to do life by yourself, looking for joy and satisfaction in the wrong and unlikely places? I invite you to drop the quest today.

Come humbly to God, and allow him to show you the path of life; let Him unveil to you your own path in this life; let Him lead you in the way that you should go… His presence will go with you, and you will have full joy and satisfaction.

Shalom!

PRAYER

Lord, please show me the path of life. Lead me in the way I should go. I come humbly to you today Lord, let me find lasting joy and true satisfaction in you as I hearken to your voice in Jesus Name.

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 14

TOPIC:

HONOR GOD WITH YOUR BODY

Text- 1 Thessalonians 5:23 "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ"

Man is tripartite being:

- He is a Spirit
- He has a Soul
- He lives in a Body

When it comes to our walk with God, a lot has been said about the roles played by the Spirit and the Soul of man, but not much has been said about the role of the body. This is what I want to talk to you about today.

There are at least three major roles that the body plays in our walk with God:

1. The body is our avenue for doing good and bringing pleasure to God.
   2 Corinthians 5: 9-10 “Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad”

   Actions are expressed through the body. Just as sinners do evil with their physical bodies, we also need our body to do good deeds and bring pleasure to God. In fact, Bible says that at the judgment seat of Christ, our reward will be according to the things done in the body.

2. The body is the instrument with which we fulfil God’s will.
   Hebrews 10: 5-7: “Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin, You had no pleasure. Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—In the volume of the book it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God”

   Yes, you have a great destiny, but you need your body to fulfil God’s will.

I have told the story before, of a preacher who died at a very young age. He made a statement at his death bed; he said "God gave me a message and sent me with a horse; I killed the horse before delivering the message". His eyes were full of regrets.

3. The body is our medium of expressing Christ to the world.
   Galatians 2:20 – "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

   It is with our bodies that we carry out our ambassadorial duties of expressing the nature of Christ to the world around us.

In conclusion, you know the old saying, "First you eat to live, and then you live to eat"? Well, it may be true that the body is only a temporary thing, but that's no excuse for stuffing your body with food, or indulging it with sex. Since the Master honors you with a body, honor him with your body! (1 Corinthians 6:13 MSG)

PRAYER

I consecrate my body to God today. I declare in the name of Jesus that with my body, I'll honor God and bring pleasure to Him every day of my life. I'll use my body as an instrument to fulfil God's will, and as a medium of expressing Christ to the world.

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 15

TOPIC:

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Text- Psalm 23:1 - "The Lord is my shepherd…"

Psalm 23 is arguably the most commonly used and best-loved chapter of the Bible in the world. Interestingly, it's a scripture of all seasons. People recite it at weddings with a great sense of exhilaration, delight, and eagerness. People also recite it at funerals as a source of comfort in the midst of deep and terrible grief.

However, the root of everything stated in Psalm 23 is encapsulated the first five words "The Lord is my shepherd". Once we understand that the Lord is our shepherd and we follow Him as sheep, we can rightly rejoice in good times, and find comfort and hope in times of grief.

Quite interestingly, we usually miss the fact that "The Lord is my shepherd" is an acknowledgement and celebration of dependence. Whenever we say, "The Lord is my shepherd", we are making an unusual statement of dependence.

Every country in the world values independence. With only very few exceptions like Britain and Scotland, all countries in the world have an "Independence Day Celebration". But then, Psalm 23 is a 'dependent life celebration'… a life of total dependence on God for provision, protection, preservation and peace.

Generally speaking, people see independence as one of the major signs of maturity. But in Christianity, one major sign of maturity is increased dependence on God, who is our Shepherd.

David, who wrote the words, "The Lord is my shepherd", was once a shepherd himself. He understood well enough that a sheep is highly dependent upon the shepherd. In fact, sheep can be counted among the most dependent animals in the world… they rely on their shepherd for food, direction, protection, treatment of disease, and just about everything!

When we say "The Lord is my shepherd", what we are basically trying to say is that God is absolutely trustworthy, and we can depend on him. We can rely on His wisdom; on His knowledge; on His power.

In John 10:11-14, Jesus spoke thus:

> *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling - he who is not the shepherd; one who does not own the sheep- sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own."*

Jesus Christ, the good shepherd has never been known to harm any of his sheep. This great Lord and good shepherd is so devoted and dedicated that he is even willing to put his life on the line for a single lamb. Beloved, the identity of Jesus Christ as our shepherd is very intriguing. It is so wonderful to be able to say, "The Lord is my shepherd."

PRAYER

The Lord is my shepherd. Therefore Lord Jesus, Chart the course of my life by your wisdom, knowledge and power. I totally depend on you; I lean not on my understanding.

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 16

TOPIC:

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD (2)

Text- Psalm 23:1 - "The Lord is my shepherd…"

King David, who authored the 23rd psalm, grew up and worked as a shepherd. This meant he knew so much about sheep, shepherd and shepherding. In Psalm 23, he expressed his love for the representation of the Lord as a shepherd.

David knew amongst many other things, that the shepherd owns the sheep, and that the sheep is a property of the shepherd. So then, the words "The Lord is my shepherd" is a statement of ownership.

Many times, we miss out on the fact that God has every right to own us, yet He created us with the free will to wither accept or reject that ownership. Sadly a lot of people have chosen not to accept or fully acknowledge God's ownership. Just as Isaiah described in Isaiah 53:6, "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way."

You see, God created us for his benefit. He does not exist for our benefit. We need to clearly understand this in relating with God as our shepherd. We exist for his pleasure rather than the other way around.

> *"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for you have created all things, and for your pleasure they are and were created."* – Revelation 4:11

Now, I want you to imagine a Shepherd, who owns a sheep. The sheep walked astray and got missing. The shepherd then began to search for his lost sheep. He searched near and far to get the sheep back home. After a long time of searching, the shepherd found the sheep, but it was already put up for sale at an animal auction.

So now, it appears that the shepherd has to bid for the sheep (His own sheep) and pay just like anybody else. The shepherd didn't mind; he bid for the sheep and had to pay an outrageous price, far above any reasonable market value in order to regain ownership of his sheep.

What would you say in this situation? The shepherd now has a double right of

ownership over this sheep: by birth and by redemption!

God not only God has a right of ownership over us because he is our creator. He also has the right to own us because he paid a price; the blood of his own Son—an outrageous price far above our market value—in order to redeem us back again.

> *"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?* ***You are not your own; you were bought at a price.*** *Therefore honor God with your bodies."* – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

We as Christians, must not be reluctant to let the whole world know that we're not our own because we're bought with a price. We must not be embarrassed to honor God with our lives, and shun unrighteousness even if it's not the popular thing to do.

It is the most delightful admission of all to declare that we are owned by God. It is absolutely wonderful that we're able to say, "The Lord is my shepherd."

PRAYER

The Lord is my shepherd. Therefore Lord Jesus, I declare that you are my owner; I am not my own. I will forever honor you with my life.

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 17

TOPIC:

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD (3)

Text- Psalm 23:1 - "The Lord is my shepherd…"

One of the reasons why Psalm 23 is so well-loved is because it carries a very personal and individual sense… "The Lord is MY shepherd".

I love the confidence with which David always talks about God in a personal sense. Many times in the Bible, we hear him make such statements of personal relationship.

- In Psalm 25:2, he said "O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed"
- In Psalm 63:1, he said "O God, thou art my God, early will I seek thee"
- In Psalm 31:4, he said "But I trust in thee, O Lord: I said, thou art my God"

When you say "The Lord is my shepherd", you are not drawing confidence from congregational fellowship by saying "Our Shepherd". You are saying, "This is very personal" He is MY… MY… MY… Shepherd!

Jesus said in John 10:14, "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own". "The Lord is my shepherd" is therefore, is an admittance of an intimate and personal relationship". In Psalm 23, David explained that relationship from the viewpoint of a sheep, and in John 10, Jesus confirmed it from the viewpoint of the Shepherd.

The kind of personal relationship Jesus depicts in John 10:14 implies that the sheep have an intimate understanding of the way the shepherd thinks and are inclined. They know him so well that they instinctively reflect His way of doing things.

In John 10:3, Jesus said concerning the shepherd: "He calleth his own sheep by name". This can be better understood by the practice of giving a name to your pet dog (or any other pet animal). The bond that 'pet names' create between the pet and the owner is so strong that human lovers now prefer to call each other by "pet names".

You see, the Lord knows you by name. He identifies and relates with you personally out of the 7.6 Billion people in this world. In fact, His knowledge of you is so personal that He actually has numbered the hairs on your head (Matthew 10:30).

Your understanding of God being your personal shepherd must be as clear as that of a child who says, "That's my mom," or, "That’s my dad". If there's anything you ought to be certain about, it's that kind of relationship. Don’t ever miss out on the warmth and intimate confidence of the words "The Lord is my shepherd."

PRAYER

The Lord is my shepherd. Therefore Lord, I want to know you more. Jesus, hold me close in your embrace.

MONDAY
FEBRUARY 18

TOPIC:

BE KIND ALWAYS

Text- Philippians 2;3-4- "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others"

One of the fruit of the Spirit is kindness; as such, the scriptures, as well as the life of Christ inside us, compel us to be kind always rather than minding our own selfish ambitions or being conceited.

You know, I have come to realize that the roots of kindness are two virtues: selflessness and modesty. Every time you act unkindly, there is an underlying selfishness or conceitedness (pride and arrogance).

That is why we are warned in today's text, with the words of Paul to the Philippian Church, "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit"

It's unkind when on a queue, you push people out of your way, or just cut in line. But at the root of that act of unkindness is either the selfish desire to beat the queue in order to accomplish your aim fast, or so much pride and arrogance that you cannot wait patiently on the queue… or both.

Admittedly, selfishness and conceitedness has become the order of the day in our world. People cut in line without blinking an eye; rain insult and abuses on people when they feel like; laugh at other's misfortune; and try to assert their superiority by pulling others down, or dragging them in the mud.

These things do not align with scriptural values, and the life of God on our inside. If indeed we are believers, we cannot join the bandwagon of unkindness. God wants us to shed off any form of unkindness we have imbibed from the word.

See, many people may take you for granted because you are always kind; many may in fact take your kindness to mean weakness. Don't let their opinion ad actions shape your view, affect your disposition, and shift you out of bringing

pleasure to God.

Regardless of what anyone would think of you, allow people to go ahead of you in the line (especially aged people, pregnant women, nursing mothers and people with special needs). It's being kind, not being stupid. It's the right thig to do.

Furthermore, compliment those around you, and do so with a genuine smile; encourage anyone around you that is doing well, and celebrate the success of those doing better than you; sympathize with other people's misfortunes, even if they are perceived enemies; be humble and show willingness to serve others.

Yes, somehow life is about "Survival of the fittest", but the fittest is not necessarily the person who can outdo and/or oust everyone else to climb up the ladder of life. The fittest in the man who wins God's approval and enjoys His commitment… one of the ways to do this is to be kind; to be kind always!

PRAYER

Lord, please search me and remove any trace of selfishness and conceitedness from me in Jesus Name. From today, I will be kind always to everyone I come in contact with. Help me Lord to hold forth even when it seems difficult in Jesus Name.

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 19

TOPIC:

DO THAT WHICH IS RIGHT

Text- Deuteronomy 13:18 "When thou shalt hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep all his commandments which I command thee this day, to do that which is right in the eyes of the LORD thy God"

One of the hardest things in this day and age is doing what is right. When you insist on doing what is right always, it seems you no longer fit into the society. But you see, as Children of God, we are to stand for what is right and do what is right, come what may.

One of the things that make it quite difficult to do what is right is what is popular. To be honest, it is quite hard to shun what is popular and stick with what is right. Sometimes, it makes you feel like a misfit in the society, but you see, we do not live by societal standards; our standard is the word of God.

Pop culture has promoted a lot of wrong stuffs; all sorts of vices are being celebrated on our TV screens and in our magazines. These vices have been made to look like the norm. But again, though we live in this world, we are not of this world.

All the ephemeral things that pop culture has promoted are not worth the while… vanity upon vanity; all is vanity! All of those things can be gone faster than a lighting strike. But the right things we do stand as our memorial before God; and that endures forever.

Take for example; recently I did a research on the gestures and origins of popular dance moves in Nigeria. I found out that most of them are tied to drug use, cultism, promiscuity and vulgarity. But sadly, these dance moves have not only been copied by Christians and brought to the Church; they have been brought even to the pulpit!

The irony of the matter is that before the twinkle of an eye, new dance moves emerge, and the hitherto reigning one becomes old-fashioned… and the cycle continues on and on like that. Vanity upon vanity; all is vanity.

Always remember, the voice of the people (Vox Populi) is not the voice of God. God has communicated to mankind through scripture, and scripture alone (Sola Scriptura). The Bible bears the final rule in matters of faith and practice.

Beloved, do what is right at all times. Stop trying to fit in; stand out! Don't love the things of the world and be conformed to it. Dare to be different; dare to shine as light! Don't behave like the people of this world; instead be an imitator of Christ and His ambassador to the world.

PRAYER

Lord, I want to stand out for you in this world. Father, help me, even when the going gets tough, to shine as light, to be an imitator of Christ, and to be His ambassador to the world in Jesus Name.

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 20

TOPIC:

DO THAT WHICH IS RIGHT (2)

Text- Deuteronomy 13:18 "When thou shalt hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep all his commandments which I command thee this day, to do that which is right in the eyes of the LORD thy God"

Nowadays, when you talk about doing the right things, it seems you are putting people in a moral dilemma. But for Christians, it should not be so… Doing the right things is (and should be) our way of life.

People are fond of picking out the things they like from the Bible, while shunning the ones that doesn't go down well with them. Yet they go to Church all dressed on Sunday shouting "Alleluia! Amen!" in hypocrisy.

See, as a Christian, you simply can't pick and choose what you'll follow from the Bible and leave out the ones you don't like. You've got to do that which is right in the eyes of the Lord your God every time, regardless of the situation on ground or the consequences afterwards.

Yesterday, we established that what is popular often makes it difficult to do what is right. Another thing that gets in the way of doing the right thing is what is good. Basically, what seems immediately good may not be the right thing to do. That will be the focus of our discussion today.

There is a subtle difference between what is good and what is right. What is good always makes sense, and comes with a degree of satisfaction (A new achievement, more money, higher grades, job promotion etc.) while what is right conforms to truth, and has to do with moral justifications and etiquettes.

There are a lot of good things that are not right. For example as a young lady, it is a good thing to marry a rich man. But then it is not right for a Christian to marry an unbeliever (2 Corinthians 6:14).

With reference to the example given above, it means that no matter how rich a guy is, and how good he seems to be for you; if he's an unbeliever, you can't marry him! If you are faced with a situation like this, choose to do what is right.

One of the signs of spiritual maturity is the ability to differentiate between what is good and what is right; and then the determination to choose what is right above what is good.

"Good" depends on the way you see it; "Right" depends on the way God sees it. Your conscience and mental capacity can lead you to do a lot of good things, but only the Holy Spirit can guide you into doing the right things.

As such, you need to continually ask the Holy Spirit to lead you and to guide you into doing that which is right in the eyes of God.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, I ask for your help and guidance to please God with my life; I ask in the name of Jesus that you guide me to do the right things always even when they don't immediately seem like the best option to my human mind.

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 21

TOPIC:

DO THAT WHICH IS RIGHT (3)

Text- Deuteronomy 13:18 "When thou shalt hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep all his commandments which I command thee this day, to do that which is right in the eyes of the LORD thy God"

I have heard people, who claim that what we do doesn't matter before God since we are saved by grace and not by works. But then, while works is not instrumental to salvation, it is a necessary result of salvation. One of the initial evidences of genuine salvation is that your disposition towards right and wrong things change… and keeps changing.

In the past few days, we have discussed two things that mostly hinder people from doing what is right:

- What is popular
- What is good

Today we will go on to talk about yet another thing that commonly prevents people from doing what is right in the eye of God: What is comfortable.

If what you want is to remain in your comfort zone, you will have to make many compromises on doing the right things. Doing the right things will many times require to come out of your comfort zone, and may sometimes cause you some discomfort.

Daniel had to sacrifice the comfort of good food in order to do that which was right in the eye of God. We read of his decision in Daniel 1:5,8:

> *"The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service… But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way"*

In Matthew 8:19-20, we read the story of a potential disciple of Jesus; this man actually came of his own volition to commit to following Jesus, but Jesus was quick to inform him that his decision may cost him some comfort:

> *"Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, 'Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.' Jesus replied, 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."*

Jesus was inadvertently pointing the attention of this man to the fact that the commitment he was about to make will cost him some personal comfort. Till date, that is still the case. If you're going to do that which is right before the eye of God, you must necessarily put Christ and His word before your personal comforts.

I charge you today, to do what is right before the eyes of God all the time, even if it is not popular; even if it doesn't seem like the best bet; and even if it is not comfortable. Remember, we will not be judged by the standards of this world, but by the standards of His Word.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, I ask for your help and guidance to please God with my life; I ask in the name of Jesus that you guide me to do the right things always even when it's not comfortable.

CALL TO PARTNERSHIP

If DAILY TONIC has been a blessing to you, we would like you to consider being a vision partner of our ministry – Christ's Invading Force.

Partnership with Christ's Invading Force is a commitment to financially support the ministry in fulfilling our God-given mandate to lead men into a vital sustainable and reproducible close personal walk with God.

Every soul that is saved and every life that is changed through Daily Tonic and all of our ministry activities is credited to the heavenly accounts of our Vision Partners. In addition, we commit to pray daily for all our vision partners.

To partner with what God is doing through Christ's Invading Force, please contact +63 995 395 4803 (Call, SMS or WhatsApp) or send a mail to hisroyal.01@gmail.com

You can sow your partnership seeds through any of the following:

Account Name: Christ's Invading Force
Banker (NIGERIA): First Bank Nigeria Plc.
Account Number: 3125113640

Banker (PHILIPPINES): Bank of Philippine Islands
Account Number: 1089-3631-91

GCASH Wallet – 0995 395 4803

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 22

TOPIC:

LIVE IN COMPLETE HONESTY

Text- Psalm 32:2- "Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!"

Nowadays, it seems it doesn't really pay to be completely honest; there are liars and sycophants everywhere, and most people don't really care about the truth either; they just want you to sound nice. That's all!

But God is not like man, He cares about truthfulness and honesty.

Psalm 51:6 tells us that God delights in truth in the inward being. I love how the Contemporary English Version of the Bile renders it; it says, "But you want complete honesty"

Beloved, God desires and delights in complete honesty; He wants us to exude complete honesty in every area of our lives – in what we say, in how we live, and in who we are.

I know it is not always easy to be completely honest. See what the renowned author; John Bloom says about this – "Sometimes I feel about seeking the truth like I feel about seeking the dentist. The truth [Just like the dentist] might (or perhaps I already know will) expose some decay… And who wants that?"

You know, that's really the problem many of us have with living in complete honesty; it exposes some decay and makes us look less perfect, right? But then, God is not looking for perfect individuals; He knows already that we are imperfect.

God is not looking for perfect men, because they do not exist. He is looking for honest men and women; men and women who will be true to themselves, true to God, true to the word of God, and true to others around them.

Furthermore, if you examine closely, you'll realize that the desire to always look perfect is actually a form of pride… that form of pride that gravitates towards a deceptive illusion of self-aggrandizement and pseudo-perfection.

That form of pride that will not readily and humbly embrace the freedom and liberty of living in complete honesty before God, and accepting His help in

every area of decay

Now, when I talk about living in complete honesty, I mean not only to say that you should be true to your convictions, but much more importantly also that you should be true to the conviction of God's word.

I mean to say that you should fully expose your life to the honest evaluation of what God says, what God desires and what God requires.

For instance, an homosexual that decides to finally "come out" may feel finally liberated that he/she is being true to himself/herself and is living in "complete honesty'… the big question is, is such a person being true to God and to His Word?

That gives more sense to the verse we saw earlier, Psalm 51:6 – "God delights in truth in the inward being". "Truth in the inward being" is what CEV translates as complete honesty.

So then, there can be no complete honesty, until truth (God's word) first takes root in the inner being; until your convictions are based on the truth of God's word.

I admonish you today to place your life side by side with what the Word of God says. Evaluate your life on the basis of what God says, what God desires and what God requires. Admit where there is decay and humbly come to God to help you fix it. Live in complete honesty!

Shalom!

PRAYER

Father, I receive grace to live in complete honesty before you henceforth in Jesus Name.

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 23

TOPIC:

BUY THE TRUTH

Text- Proverbs 23:23 – "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding."

The value of truth is so great to God that it undernotes the very major fulcrums of the Christian faith.

- God himself is called the God is truth. We see this in Deuteronomy 32:4: "He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he."

- When Jesus came to the earth, He called Himself Truth. In John 14:6. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

- Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of truth in John 16:13, and said His primary assignment is to guide us into all truth: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth."

- Jesus referred to the word of God, The Holy Bible, as truth in John 17:17: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." Paul also called it the word of truth in 2 Timothy 2:15: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

- Even the Church is called the pillar and ground of truth in 1Timothy 3:15: "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

If truth is of this great importance to God, and to the Christian faith, can there be any reason why we should shun or compromise on the truth? But you see, the way truth is being constantly redefined by the world nowadays cannot seize to amaze me.

Truth (real truth) is so scarce these days that it is hard to find. It is almost as if

people enjoy being lied to, but that is not so surprising. Paul had warned in 2Timothy 4:3-4:

"For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths."

Beloved, are you turning your ears away from the truth? Are you turning aside to myths? OR are you resolved to stick with truth no matter what? When it comes to truth, you can choose to:

- Reject it
- Revise it
- Receive it

The only valid option for a Christian is to receive the truth just the way it is. We do not try to adjust truth to suit our lives; we adjust our lives to align with truth.

Moreover, as evidenced in the usage of the phrase, "BUY the truth", we see that truth always comes with a price, and we must be willing to pay whatever it will cost to secure truth – to acquire, stand for and defend it.

Although the world around us does not place so much value on truth, we must value it, and be willing to pay anything for it – Popularity, positions, profits, people… whatever it will cost! Beloved, are you willing to buy the truth?

PRAYER

I turn my ears away from myths today, and I embrace truth. I will not just endure, but embrace sound doctrine. I choose to buy the truth and to sell it not. Father, help me so to do in Jesus Name.

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 24

TOPIC:

APPEARING IN ZION

Text- Psalm 84:7- “They go from strength to strength; every one of them in Zion appears before God”.

Below is a conversation that occurred between a boy, Dan and his Mum on a Sunday morning:

Mum: Dan, let's go to Church.
Dan: But mum, I'm tired, I need to rest.
Mum: I said, let's go to Church!
Dan: But why must I?
Mum: If you won't go to Church, you are not staying with me in this house.

This looks like a typical argument between a righteous mum and her rebellious son on a Sunday morning. But you see, while a Mum has every right to enforce right values on and instill discipline in her son, we must admit that giving (and having) proper understanding of why we do what we do is more important.

For example in the case of Dan above, it could have been better to present to him something more substantial than a threat… to educate him on the value of church attendance.

Like Dan, there are many people (maybe, you inclusive) who want to know the things that happen in Church that cannot happen elsewhere. I mean, isn’t it good enough to just read your bible and listen to a sermon from your favorite preacher on YouTube? Why can’t you just sit at home and log on live to the worship service of a Church you like?

You see, we ‘attend church’ on Sundays not just for teaching but we ‘gather with other believers’ also for fellowship, corporate worship, communion, prayer and to build one another up in the faith (Acts 2:42-47). In this regard, 'Churching' correctly is fundamental to spiritual growth.

Luke 4:16 says, "Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day, he went into the synagogue as was his custom." It was Jesus’

custom —his regular practice—to go to church.

The Message Bible puts it like this, "As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place." If Jesus made it a priority to meet together with others for worship, shouldn't we do so also?

Another important point to note is that we are influenced and become like the people we associate with. By getting together with fellow believers regularly, common beliefs are affirmed and ways to overcome problems are shared. We also have the privilege to gather around the anointing

When you give up on attending church, what's at stake? Well, to put it in a nutshell, you become a lone ranger, and compromise your spiritual growth and safety when you're disconnected from fellowshipping with the body of Christ.

Always remember Psalms 84:7- 'They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appears before God'

PRAYER

Father, as I go to Church today for corporate worship and to fellowship with my brethren, touch me specially, speak to me expressly, and build me up in Jesus' Name.

MONDAY
FEBRUARY 25

TOPIC:

BALANCE ZEAL WITH WISDOM

Text- Romans 10:2- "I can testify that they are zealous for the honor of God; but they are not guided by true insight [wisdom]"

Redemption from sin is a call into zeal for the things of God. Titus 2:14 says "Jesus gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works".

Zeal means passion; energetic, resolute, persistent and determined pursuit of a cause (In this case, the things of God). Zeal, though good, becomes dangerous when it is exercised without wisdom.

Remember the ten virgins in the Bible (Matthew 25)

Verse 1 – "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom":

This is zeal! These virgins were all ready to go, and in fact, went all the way to meet the bridegroom, just like you may be willing to serve God, go all the way out for Him, and get seriously involved in His work.

Verse 2 – "And five of them were wise, and five were foolish":

This was where five of them disqualified themselves… They had zeal (quite alright) but lacked wisdom, and that spoilt the show! Just like Paul said in our text about the Jews, "I can testify that they are zealous for the honor of God; but they are not guided by true wisdom"

I want to admonish you today to let your zeal be guided by wisdom. Zeal without wisdom will make you overload yourself unnecessarily with seemingly 'religious' activities.

Zeal and passion may make you want to pray as often as possible, but it takes wisdom to know that you should not get to your office, and abandon your work to pray for 5 hours!

Don't get me wrong; it's good to be zealous, but you need some wisdom to balance it out, if not you may become very sensational and emotional, while you think you are being spiritual.

It is zeal that keeps us excited about God's work; zeal keeps our fire burning red-hot, and gives us the spiritual drive to dare all odds, do incredible things for God and believe him even for the seemingly impossible.

However, wisdom will help us to know the appropriate time, place, and actions necessary as we are driven by our zeal for the work of the Lord.

True wisdom that is from above is teachable, moving toward the goal of completeness through that which it learns. --E.D. Head

Publius Terentius Afer *said "True wisdom consists not in seeing what is immediately before our eyes, but in foreseeing what is to come"*

PRAYER

Lord, I repent of every form of folly that has driven me into sensationalism and emotionalism. Please grant me the wisdom to rightly appropriate my zeal for You, and for Your work in Jesus Name.

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 26

TOPIC:
BALANCE CHARISMA WITH CHARACTER

Text- Acts 11:24- "He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord."

In today's text, we see how the Bible describes Barnabas:

- He was a good man (Character)
- He was full of the Holy Spirit and faith (Charisma)

The resultant effect of Barnabas' combination of character with charisma was that a great number of people were brought to the Lord. In contrast to this, let's see what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13: 1-3:

> *"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing."*

Paul uses very strong words to describe a man that has a Charisma, but lacks character, according to Paul:

- Such a man is nothing but an empty barrel (a resounding gong; a clanging)
- Such a man is nothing
- Such a man gains nothing

I don't want you to confuse reputation with character. Your reputation is what people know you to be, whereas your character is who you really are. You may manage to build a good reputation for yourself, but God evaluates you based on your character.

Beloved, ensure that you live a life of character that matches up with your charisma, because ultimately, even if men rate you by your charisma; your gifts, anointings, graces etc. God is not deceived; he's concerned with your character,

that is, who you really are.

See, it is Character that sustains anointing. A man that has a lot of charisma but is deficient in character has signed up for self-destruction.

My charge to you today is to strive to be known for your character and integrity, not for your charisma. Don't push your gifts forward ahead of your character development. The first thing that was said about Barnabas was that he was a good man (Character) before anything was said about his charisma.

In your daily interaction with people, be known for right standing and what is right at all times. Pay close attention to your character, be more interested in developing your character ahead of your gift; It will preserve the grace and anointing of God upon you and it will preserve your calling.

PRAYER

Father, grant me the wisdom to effectively balance Charisma with Character as I go about my daily living. I commit to be a man of integrity; to live a life that counts before you. Please grant me your enabling grace as I set out to do this in Jesus Name.

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 27

TOPIC:

WHEN GOD SEEMS TO BE SILENT

Text- John 11:21-22- “Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

When we read John 11: 1- 22; where the Bible narrates how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, we see how interesting the progression of events was.

When they told Jesus that Lazarus was sick, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." (John 11: 1-4)

Then, it happened! Lazarus died, and Jesus was silent; Lazarus was buried, Jesus seemed not to give a bulge- first day, second day, third day! He refused to respond, even when it seemed His words had ‘failed’. How come Lazarus died, when Jesus had said he would not?

Then, four days after Lazarus was buried, Jesus said to the disciples, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up" (John 11:11).

The disciples clearly did not to understand what he meant, so He said in plain terms, "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him. (John 11:14-15)

When Jesus got there, Martha, Lazarus' sister confronted Him with the seeming truth, she said "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. Nevertheless (but even now), I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." (John 11:21-22)

Although Martha plainly stated her disappointment in Jesus' late arrival, she made it clear that she still believes in Him despite the disappointment. How many of us can trust God that much?

Beloved, when God is silent, and it seems, with undisputable evidences, that He has 'failed' you; will you still trust in Him, and believe that His glory will be revealed?

At the end of it all, Jesus called Lazarus out of the grave, and Bible says, “The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”” (John11:44)

Jesus had said to them in verse 40, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” You see, if only we can keep believing, even when it seems God is silent, we will see great manifestations of His glory.

Asides revealing His Glory in a most amazing manner, God's silence in the life of a genuine believer is to help him cross 'THE POINT OF NO RETURN' with God; that point where he has resolved to follow, serve and trust absolutely in God, no matter what happens or fails to happen.

PRAYER

Lord, evermore increase my faith. Help me to keep believing, even when everything I see in the natural compels me to do otherwise. Take me past the point of no return with you, and let me see your Glory in Jesus Name.

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 28

TOPIC:

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE

Text- Joshua 24:2, 15- "And Joshua said unto all the people [of Israel],… choose you this day whom ye will serve; … but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"

It is true that life is per-head, and that ultimately everyone will stand before God individually to give account for his/her life. However, it is also true that no man is an island unto himself. God ordained life to be lived in the company of others.

One of such company is the family. I personally believe that family interaction is the most crucial of all interactions we will have on this earth. The background we have from our homes usually affect our outlook of life; it shapes our worldview significantly.

This is the reason why one of the institutions that the devil greatly targets is the family institution. He knows that if the foundation is destroyed, there is but little to nothing that the righteous can do.

Conversely, God is also very much interested in the family institution. In fact when Jesus met with Zacchaeus, He said to Him, "This day is salvation come to this house" (Luke 19:9). Though Zacchaeus was the contact point, Jesus wasn't talking about Him alone; He was interested in the entire household.

This will give us a better understanding of why Joshua said in our text, "As for me and my house"

Beloved, you may be God's contact point in your family; you may be the first person to get saved, or perhaps the only one taking his/her walk with God seriously. But I tell you certainly, God's is interested in your entire family.

God wants to use you as a contact point to your to your parents and siblings; to your spouse if you married before you got saved; and to your children, raising them up in the way of the Lord.

God is counting on you to practically show the love of Christ to your family,

live an exemplary life before them, expose them to the word of God through every available means (including social functions where your family will be invited – birthday, wedding, naming ceremony etc.), and intercede for their salvation and spiritual growth.

They may be mocking your faith today; they may even be actively persecuting you; or they may just be plain annoying. Never mind any of those. Don't let it discourage you, or cause you to backslide. Walk with God and pray for the still.

Soon and very soon, they will also be saved!

Say with me, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"

PRAYER

Lord, please find me faithful as a point of contact to every member of my family I lift up every unsaved member of my family before you in prayer today (mention them by name). Let their hearts be turned towards you in Jesus Name.

PRAYER OF SALVATION

If you wish to confess Jesus as your Lord today, please say this short prayer:

Lord Jesus, I thank you for this privilege I have to hear the gospel.
I realize and accept that I am a sinner and I cannot save myself;
I believe Jesus came to the earth in human flesh to die for my sins.
Today, I accept Jesus as my personal Lord and savior.

I receive the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus to wash away my sins.
Father, forgive me of my sins, deliver me from darkness, translate me into the kingdom of your dear son, Jesus and help me to live a life that will please you.
Thank you heavenly Father, In Jesus' name I pray. AMEN

Congratulations!!! You are born again!
Go, and sin no more (John 8: 11)

If you just said this prayer, we will love to help you grow in your new life, and become a better Christian. Kindly send us a mail (hisroyal.01@gmail.com) or contact us on +63-995-395-4803. We love you so dearly!

YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THE NEXT EDITION OF DAILY TONIC FROM THIS LINK

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Reverend Temilolu A. Aliu is a servant of Jesus Christ and an ordained minister of the gospel. He is humbled by the call that God has placed on his life and is very passionate about his divine mandate to lead men into a vital, sustainable, and reproducible close personal walk with God.

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 wonderous display of God's power.

Rev. T.A Aliu is the visionary of Christ's Invading Force Inc. and the Director of Kingdom Institute both based in Cebu City Philippines.

Mailing Address:
1161, Andres Abellanas Ext.
Behind Flowerville Residence
Barangay. Guadalupe, Cebu City
Cebu 6000, Philippines
+63 995 395 4803 | hisroyal.01@gmail.com

CLICKABLE LINKS :

ISBN 978-1983534843