

THE TRACK RECORDS

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God bless you,
Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:
THE TRACK RECORDS
Bible Texts: 2 Timothy 1:13-18

Prayer

Father in heaven we thank You we glorify Your name be Thou exalted Daddy in Jesus name. Father we are here once again to learn at Your feet Lord teach us by Yourself let us not be the hearer alone but the doer of Your word. Lord at the end of this teaching let the blessings be our and the glory be Yours in Jesus wonderful name we have prayed.

Study

I welcome you all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. In today's study we will be looking into a sensitive topic which requires rapt attention even at the Holy Ghost begins to open our understanding to some mysteries of the Kingdom.

What is a track record?

Generally, a track record is a term used to describe a person's, organization's, or entity's past performance, achievements, and accomplishments in a particular area or field. It represents a history of successes, failures, and experiences that demonstrate their capabilities, reliability, and consistency.

In various contexts, a track record can refer to:

- A person's work history, accomplishments, and skills.

- A company's financial performance, product quality, and customer satisfaction.
- An athlete's or team's competitive performance, wins, and losses.
- A political leader's or government's policy decisions, achievements, and controversies.
- A product's or service's reliability, performance, and customer feedback.

Just as it is in a general term, it is also so in Christianity; a Christian can keep a good track record or a bad one. Therefore, a Christian's track record refers to his spiritual journey, faithfulness, and obedience to God's Word. It encompasses:

1. Spiritual growth and maturity
2. Consistency in prayer, Bible study, and worship
3. Fruitfulness in sharing the Gospel and serving others
4. Integrity, character, and moral conduct
5. Faithfulness in stewarding resources, time, and talents
6. Humility, forgiveness, and love for others
7. Perseverance through trials and challenges
8. Obedience to God's commands and principles
9. Witness and testimony of God's work in their life
10. Impact on others, inspiring them to follow Christ

A good Christian track record is not about earning salvation or justification before God but rather about living out one's faith in a way that honors God and demonstrates the transformative power of the Gospel.

It's a lifelong process of growing in grace, wisdom, and service to others, with the ultimate goal of hearing Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" Matthew 25:21 KJV His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been

faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Are you following please?

2 Timothy 1:13-18 KJV

Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. [14] That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us. [15] This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes. [16] The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain: [17] But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me. [18] The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.

As a child of God, it is very important to keep a good track record before God, and those who would do so have responsibilities to employ themselves in; they must take notes of what they are taught and hold fast to it. *2 Timothy 1:13 KJV Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*

Paul commanded Timothy to hold on to the patterns of the right teachings he had learned from him, being a true apostle of Christ rooted in the doctrines of the Lord, employed himself in being a good teacher and example to follow so he could boldly tell Timothy to hold fast to all he learned from him. Severally, Paul tells Timothy to hold fast to his teachings; this is because once a set of teachings is given and there is no seriousness in taking

them into consideration, then there is no way such a person will not miss the mark.

Paul knew the danger of not following the right teachings; he knew that its endpoints would be hellfire. He kept saying, hold fast to it, don't leave it for any reason, but continue in them. 2 *Timothy 3:14 KJV But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;* There must be continuance in what we are expected to do; one-time practice is not enough. It must be a lifestyle, part of us, that which cannot be taken away from us.

We must take note of those we learn from if they are really servants of God or the devil. That which we have been assured of contained in the word of life must not be taken away from us by the things that surround us. And when we hold fast unto the faithful words, we would be able to guide others in that same way. *Titus 1:9 KJV Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*

There is something to be noted here: "as he hath been taught," not in another way. Whatever is written in the scriptures is what is meant for our learning; we must hold fast to them as the word of God teaches us. Therefore, one must be sound in doctrine. There is no other means by which a man can be sound in the doctrines of Christ except by the revelation of God's word. 1 *Timothy 6:3 KJV If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;*

Those who are well-rooted and grounded in the word of God would surely know what the doctrines of Christ entail, and these doctrines are rooted in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. Now a command to all those who teach others: 2 *Timothy 1:14*

KJV "That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us."

The word of God and the practice of it is a good thing for it is profitable in this world and the world to come; therefore, such a good thing must not only be known but must be kept and well-guarded jealously. Therefore, keep it by the Holy Spirit. Such a good thing cannot be kept through the power of the flesh, for the flesh is weak in itself, so we must rely on the Holy Spirit to help us keep what has been entrusted to us.

As it is common for Paul to make references to some of those he worked with in ministry or those he came in contact with, some of which did him good and also the other way around, this was not taken into account to tarnish the image of these people but for our learning. *2 Timothy 1:15 KJV "This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes."* He reminded Timothy of what he already knows: that those in Asia turned away from him.

As for Timothy, this must be put in remembrance that those who most benefit from him and his ministry may not even remember him in tough times; they may even be the first set of people to desert him. Therefore, he told him they all turned away. When Paul wrote this letter, he was in prison in Rome; he was in danger of his life. It was during this time, when he needed the brethren most, that they turned away from him. He then mentioned Phygellus and Hermogenes, probably because these men were popular in the church, or they were leaders of the church, or they worked with him in ministry and benefited from his ministry. In all, we know that it was something surprising to the apostle that these men could forsake him in his trying times.

In the same way, as ministers of God, we must always know that the fact that many benefit from us in ministry does not mean they would stay and help when we need them.

Are you still with me?

It's most likely that the apostle had hoped in Phygellus and Hermogenes are sure to stand by him whenever he was in problems, but his hopes were shattered, which made him feel disappointed in them. He knew they had the capacity to help him, at least to an extent, but they never showed up. They may not have had the power to release him from jail, but from what he said about Onesiphorus, we can see the kind of help he expected from them. But he trusted them more than they deserved. 2 Timothy 1:16 KJV *"The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain."*

There are some things Paul wrote about Onesiphorus which are striking and which those in Asia should have done for him but neglected. God never forsakes his servants. When a set of people refuse to do the right things, he raises other men who would carry it out to their shame; his own ministers don't go stranded.

Paul started by praying a heartfelt prayer for Onesiphorus' household. It was Onesiphorus that came up to his needs, but the blessings of the apostle's prayers reached towards his household.

What did Onesiphorus do?

1. ***He often refreshed him:*** This implies that he often showed him kindness and ministered to his needs. Onesiphorus would visit Paul, spend time with him, comfort him, and give to his needs.

2. ***He was not ashamed of his chains:*** Knowing fully well that Paul was in prison because of Christ's sake, he stood by him and was willing to share in any shame that came with the gospel.

3. ***He sought him out very zealously and found him:*** This is love. It must have been difficult for Onesiphorus to locate Paul as big as the city of Rome was, yet he found him after thorough searching; he never relented.

Well, it is clear that every minister of God needs at least one Onesiphorus in their ministry who would stand by them during the thick and thin moments of their lives.

Those who would minister to their needs, showing them kindness. There are some who benefited so much from a man of God and have the capacity to help such a minister who is in need, but they will never do so. All they are after is what they can get from them and not what they would give. It can be disappointing to a minister of God when there are needs to be met in his life and ministry, yet those who he feels should be able to help refuse to, not because they do not have, but because they choose to be lackadaisical about it. This is why Onesiphorus is needed in the life of a true minister of God. Many have turned themselves into Phygellus and Hermogenes, making themselves very useless to the cause of God's Kingdom.

Onesiphorus in one's ministry would never be ashamed of one's challenges in ministry but would stay glued to one no matter what happens, not those who would flee at a little threat, not those who are selfish and all their concern is me, myself, and I, nothing more. In as much as they are able to get what they want from you, they stay with you, but the moment challenges arise, they flee and would not look back. These are Phygellus and

Hermogenes in the ministry. They have no good track record but a bad one.

Who are you? *Onesiphorus or Phygellus and Hermogenes?*

Some find it offensive when they are asked to support God's servants or the ministry from which they really benefit. They see it as wrong and a way to rob them of their resources, forgetting that they have reaped spiritually from such ministry. These were the kind of people the Corinthians were, which made Paul say to them, "*If we have sown [the seed of] spiritual good among you, [is it too] much if we reap from your material benefits?*" 1 Corinthians 9:11 (AMP). If a minister of God has planted good spiritual seeds in your life, is it too much if he reaps material things from you? But Phygellus and Hermogenes would find faults in such things; therefore, they would rather choose to stay away.

There are some things done in ministry to the ministers of God that spur prayers in trying times, that even if a minister of God does not open his mouth to pray for one, his soul would pray for one, and so it shall be. There is no minister of the gospel whose needs are met that would not say a word of prayer into the life of such a person.

A pastor friend of mine told us of the story of a young minister of God whom the Lord told he would never lack anything financially because of what his grandmother had done. What did his grandmother do? She usually welcomed God's ministers who came to their town to minister when they had no accommodations. It got to the point when this woman had to leave her big house for a small one with her children just to accommodate a servant of God in the big house. These constant acts made God make a covenant with her grandchild, who later became a servant of God. God does not forget track records.

The fact that a man is a true minister of God does not mean that he is not sensitive to those who ministers to his needs. This is not a matter of the flesh; it is a matter of principle. It is easier for a man of God to mention some specific set of people who minister to his needs in prayers than to even remember to mention many others but pray a general prayer for them. This has nothing to do with the love for material things; it is a natural phenomenon, and it is not a means to buy the prayers of any man of God. This teaching is only meant to make you see beyond what you might have known.

Looking at the track record of Cornelius, which led to the divine intervention of his salvation and that of his entire household, one would see the importance of keeping a good track record before God. *Acts 10:1-4 KJV There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, [2] A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always. [3] He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. [4] And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up FOR A MEMORIAL BEFORE GOD.* Unfortunately, there are many who have nothing that can stand before God as a memorial for them.

2 Timothy 1:18 KJV The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well. Paul prayed for Onesiphorus that he may find mercy in the day the Lord Jesus Christ would come, which means he was praying that Onesiphorus makes heaven, which is the greatest thing on Earth. Many believe that once they give in support of the gospel, they must receive earthly things in return, not knowing that they can

receive eternal rewards too. Meeting heaven's demands in God's vineyard here on earth can give one a reward that would last for eternity, not necessarily one that can be seen now in the world. Some think they must see the results here before they believe that they have done their good deed on fertile ground. This is an error. God does not think and act like men.

Cornelius never knew how God would reward his good deeds, but God rewarded him in the best way. God's rewards for every good deed towards advancing His Kingdom here on earth can be in the form of good health, safety from danger, canceling of untimely death, averting demonic attacks and dangers, raising helpers to help when one does not deserve, favor for one's loved ones, etc. It may not necessarily be only financial rewards, but many don't know.

Looking at this prayer, Paul did not pray them for Phygellus and Hermogenes, not because he hated them, neither did he curse them, but he remembered to pray for the one who remembered him in his difficulties.

Before, I used to think it is the flesh that makes me remember some set of people who minister to my needs, mentioning their names to the Lord, not knowing it was only a principle. A man of God may not even tell you that he's praying for you as you minister to his needs, but he surely will bless you whenever he remembers what you are doing for him. Paul said Timothy knows how many ways Onesiphorus ministered to him at Ephesus, so it was not something Onesiphorus did only once in a while, but he gave himself into doing it.

There are times that what a man does for a minister of God would make him pray more deeply for such a person than he would have done generally, just because God's faithful minister would

not extort money from people. Many have chosen to become Phygellus and Hermogenes in their ministry, refusing to do anything in support of such ministers even when they are capable of doing so, not knowing they are only doing themselves harm and depriving themselves of the blessings that should be channeled towards them through the minister. This is a call for everyone to check their track records before God and amend where necessary!

Are you Onesiphorus or Phygellus and Hermogenes? what track records do you keep?

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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