

MADE TO THRIVE

A 60 DAY
DEVOTIONAL

VOLUME 1

JOSEPH ICE

INTRODUCTION

"Made To Thrive" devotional is written with you strongly in view. I believe that as you read and pray through, you will grow in your knowledge of God in Christ Jesus.

This devotional is straight to the point and written in very simple vocabulary to enhance your understanding, my dear reader. I encourage you to read through open-heartedly.

This devotional is also written in a unique way and style and is not meant to substitute your Bible Study. It is meant to just get you started and wet your appetite for the things of God so you can go for more!

You just set yourself up for a wonderful experience and I can't wait to receive your testimonies. God bless you richly and keep thriving!

Yours in the Vineyard,

Joseph Ace.

HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

"Made to Thrive" devotional opens with a Scriptural reference and a little Commentary based on the above scripture and then a Confession or Declaration part. After reading the Scriptural reference and commentary, you are meant to take the Confession basically as an introduction to prayer. After taking the confession, go ahead and pray in the spirit and make declarations in your understanding!

UNDERSTANDING TIMES AND SEASONS.

DAY 01

TEXT: GENESIS 49:27 "Benjamin is a wolf that prowls. He devours his enemies in the morning, and in the evening divides the loot."

Life is a function of times and seasons. There is the right time to do anything and everything. Sometimes, you can do the right thing but at the wrong time. Most people live without a sense of divine time and direction. Others always think they will always have the time to do the right things but that is not the reality. I have even met people who said, they will "enjoy" their lives now and get born again at the hour of their death but that is almost never the reality. Part of the reason is that for too long, they have programmed God out of their lives and system so much that they don't even remember him at the hour of their deaths.

The scripture talks about the Sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times and what Israel ought to do. It is of paramount importance that you learn the importance of taking advantage of different timings of your life. There are things you can only do in the Morning seasons of life. Once you cross a particular threshold, it then becomes impossible to do them.

This also means that there is no room for procrastination. You have got to be proactive concerning your life's purpose and assignment. Life is already happening, your history is already being written by your every actions or inactions.

The scripture for today is about the different times and seasons of your life. If you don't "devour" in the morning then I guarantee you that except by the mercy of God, you will beg in the Evening reason of your life. Say "God forbid" but much more than confessing the word, make up your mind to walk the talk! Rise with a sense of purpose and responsibility, roll up your sleeves, get your hands in the dirt and begin to produce. You are more than meets the eye- there is valuable treasure inside of you; become deliberate about bringing it out!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for unveiling your counsel to me concerning times and seasons. I declare that I walk circumspectly according to divine timing. My steps are guided and ordered aright. I understand how to buy back lost time and I receive a restoration of lost opportunities. I declare that I am prone to rising up early and proactively engaging my purpose in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

THE GIFT OF LEARNING.

DAY 02

TEXT: PSALMS 32:8 (KJV) "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

By design, man was made to be helped. All through history till present day, humanity is replete with stories of people who rose from grass to grace and from nothing to something as God helped them by sending help in various men to them. We are a sum total of everyone we have interacted with. None of us is an island in ourselves. This is to say that, whether you know or acknowledge it or not, you are being influenced and you are also influencing someone one way or another. It's part of how God has elected to help us- by sending the right persons our way. I call that "the gift of men."

Don't do life alone. It can be very dangerous! One of the major things your pastor owes you is called "Life Instructions." Blessed are you when you are able to recognize your need for instructors and open up to learning. It is only a bastard that doesn't have anyone to instruct him. Don't be like the bastard! You are way too small to be the center of your own universe. There is more to life than how you see it.

All you know is not all there is to know. Be humble enough to learn and to take corrections because you really do not know it all.

God sends instructions to us through various means. It could be through His word, His Spirit within us, the right teachers and mentors, pre-recorded audio/visual messages and several other channels as He chooses to speak to us. Open up your heart and receive divine direction and ministrations from the Spirit of the Lord today and always. Let your heart go after knowledge and instruction. Invest in the truth. Buy books, study patterns and those who have gone ahead, price wisdom high, attend seminars and expose yourself to all kinds of healthy environments that will enhance your growth.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. Thank you for my mind is open to learning. I declare in the name of Jesus that I have eyes that see, ears that hear and a heart that understands in the name of Jesus. My eyes are open to recognize my teachers and my ears are anointed to heed their instructions in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

TEXT: PSALMS 31:21 (KJV) "Blessed be the LORD: for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city."

When the chips are down, life is more than crossing all your T's and dotting your I's. There is such a thing called the Mercy of God. In the text above, the Psalmist is thanking and blessing the Lord for His kindness which He says God showed unto him in a strong city. A strong city could be anything. It could be oppositions, it could be a disadvantage or disability, it could be a hard place or difficult situation, and so on. But guess what! That something is difficult doesn't mean it is impossible. In other words, the Psalmist is saying, "when I found myself in a difficult position and I thought there was no way out, then the Lord showed up." The Lord showed up with what he calls "Marvelous Kindness."

God's Marvelous Kindness is your advantage when you don't measure up or when there are many forms of oppositions around and before you. Reach out and receive God's Mercy and marvelous kindness today and always. When the final chips are down, it is the mercy of God that is our way out of tight corners and difficult situations.

The point here is that you have an advantage. Don't do life alone. Don't live as though you are destitute of Mercy. Live in the consciousness of who and whose you are. You are a child of Covenant, a child of the Most High God. There is help for you. You are never without help!

God delights in showing His marvelous kindness to them that call upon him for help. In Psalms 34, the Bible describes a certain poor man who cried unto God and the Lord heard him and delivered him from his affliction. Notice that the Bible calls him "a poor man" but he still got the attention of God. God never discriminates against the poor or disadvantaged. He delights in handling seemingly impossible cases. When you are weak, you can always trust that He is strong and ready to show himself strong on your behalf. There is help and mercy for you. Never neglect it and suffer needless pain, hardship and agony. Receive God's marvelous kindness today in the name of Jesus.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I praise you today for your marvelous help and mercy shown to me. I declare today that I walk in victory, in power and favour. It is one level of triumph over another by your help and marvelous kindness. I declare that my story is that of the person whom God has shown his marvelous kindness in the name of Jesus Christ!

Pastor. Joseph Ice

THE BLESSING MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

DAY 04

TEXT: GENESIS 49 (KJV) ²² Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: ²⁶ The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.

Regardless of where you are, where you must started from or the details surrounding your life at the moment, I like for you to know that it isn't over for you yet. There is such a thing called The Blessing! It makes the difference in people's lives and changes them forever, for good. The Blessing is an empowerment; an empowerment to succeed, an empowerment to do well. It makes you do what in your natural self you couldn't accomplish. A curse will always walk the opposite way!

A curse is simply an empowerment to fail. When a man is walking under a curse, it seizes to matter how hard working such a fellow is. There is just no way he can thrive because he has been empowered to fail. So all his efforts and hard work by programming, are doomed to fail.

So all his efforts and hard work by programming, are doomed to fail. In the same vein, the Blessing causes one to do well in life. When you see a man walking in the Blessing, it also will not matter what the man is doing; he might be selling peanuts, it would not matter, such a man will prosper because he is empowered to do so. The blessing makes all the difference!

Now, it's one thing to be blessed and another to be conscious of the Blessing. The power of the Blessing is released via your consciousness. You become aware of the Blessing and it changes the dynamics of your life. Walk in that consciousness of the Blessing today and always.

CONFESSIOIN

Dear Father, I thank you for your Blessing over my life. Your Blessing have changed me forever. You have distinguished and set me on the mountain. I thrive and flourish on all sides for your Blessing has made me a thousand times bigger than my adversary and challenges. I am blessed, I am victorious, I am of the seed that wins, I am the blessed man of Abraham therefore I declare that I am empowered to prosper every day in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

THE MYSTERY OF THANKS- GIVING

DAY 05

TEXT: PSALMS 103:2 (KJV) "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:"

There is something remarkable about gratitude. A thankful person is always a delight to be around. There is an aura that engulfs a thankful person every time you meet them. And you see, there is absolutely no one who can rightfully claim that God is isn't good and kind to them. Absolutely no one! We are therefore recipients of God's goodness daily and we ought to never forget. In other words, let your heart pour out in grateful expressions and responses to God's goodness.

Thanksgiving establishes what the Lord has done. But that is not all; it is also the thing that causes multiplication. Anything you are grateful for appreciates in value and in some cases, in volume. It may be your job, your school, your spouse, your family etc. Just learn to deliberately express gratitude and watch your life swell with abundant reasons to be grateful. Lazarus did not come out of the grave until Jesus gave thanks. The loaves of bread and fish did not multiply until thanksgiving was applied.

You know, as I write this article, it is 3:16am on a Friday morning and there is a big smile on my face as I recall a connection between our topic for today and something that happens every now and then between myself and my wife. So I would sometimes give her money for up keep and running of the house and she would complain that it isn't enough. Eventually, I found out that my wife is not the only wife who finds herself in that position sometimes. But here is the point; on days like that, I would simply tell her to lift up the money and like Jesus, give thanks and the money will multiply. I have also noticed something happens impulsively and unconsciously. On days she simply says thank you and walks away genuinely grateful, I find myself doing more without her even asking or expecting! Thanksgiving is powerful. Live thankful. Take every day and every opportunity as a gift and be genuinely grateful for it.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today and for the privilege to be called your son. I return all praises unto you for provisions and supply, for your word in my spirit and for your Son Jesus Christ who died for me on the cross. I am grateful. Thank you for this beautiful and blessed day you have brought me into. I declare that my day is blessed and productive. I walk in paths divinely crafted for me in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

THE PRAYER OF FAITH

DAY 06

TEXT: MARK 11:23-24 (KJV) ²³ For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.²⁴ Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

The scripture above is so powerful an example of the expression of faith. Faith has corresponding action; it must be released. Things don't just happen because you have faith. It is the release of faith that sets life forces into motion. And the way we do that is by our speaking. Faith is never closed-mouthed. Faith always speaks what it believes. That is why one definition of prayer is that "Prayer is making statements." There can't be effective prayer outside of the provisions of faith. This means prayer is making statements that are faith-filled.

Jesus didn't say to speak about or describe. No, He said to speak to the Mountain! Talk to that situation, that marriage, that relationship, that business etc. Whatever your concern is, begin today to engage the force of faith by speaking words of life and power concerning that situation.

In your speaking is your deliverance tied. What your mouth cannot say, your hand may never be able to handle. Therefore, open your mouth out loud in faith in the name of Jesus and begin to pray out your desires.

One of the things I love about praying is the AUDACITY you come out with when you have truly made progress in prayer. There is an audacity of faith that can only be gotten from the place of prayer. I always make this remark, "If you pray well, you will do every other thing well!" Praying in faith and scriptural understanding is a classic example of making real progress. Those who pray do not turn out badly in life. The prayer of faith is that which is based on the authority of God's word. The attitude is always God said it, I believe it, and that settles it. In other words, the prayer of faith is based on what God has said. You must get God's word on the matter first before praying it. And what potency there is when people learn to pray God's word!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for the measure of faith impacted into my spirit. Today I declare that I am bold, strong and vibrant. I walk in the reality of all you have for me and have done for me. My eyes are anointed to see, my ears are anointed to hear and my heart is anointed to conceive marvelous things out of your law. I declare that I have grace to get your last word concerning every area of my life and pray the word. Today I declare that I make progress on all sides in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

MORE THAN A CONQUEROR

DAY 07

TEXT: PSALMS 18:48 (KJV) "He delivereth me from mine enemies: yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man."

It is of great importance that I begin by telling you that you are not a failure, you are not defeated, you are made for more and there is so much more within you that your world hasn't seen yet. This cannot be the end. There is surely more! The scripture says. "...surely there is an end." It also says that the expectations of the righteous shall not be cut off. Don't let the circumstances surrounding your life to define you. In other words, never mistake your condition as your portion if it is not in line with God's word. Let the word of God frame your reality.

Read our opening text again. The scripture above doesn't talk about what God will do. No, it says "He DELIVERED..." God is not about to make you free; He already has made you free. God is not about to change your story; He has changed your story already. The "couldn't man" has got nothing on you because you have been raised above his level of influence and reach. The greater one lives inside of you.

You are an overcomer and don't let no one tell you different. Jesus conquered the world and gave you victory thereby making you more than a conqueror! Don't live below the belt. You are made for more!

You are not a victim, you belong to the Lion of the tribe of Judah and He has delivered you. Take your deliverance and rise to honour in the name of Jesus. Don't live life as though Jesus didn't die for you. There is a ransom that has been found for you; His name is Jesus Christ. He has through his substitutionary work on Calvary, made you a more than a Conqueror. You are redeemed (bought back) and set on high far above principalities and powers. Rule in the midst of your enemies. You are above reproach, shame and stagnation. You are a master over situations and circumstances. I tell myself that I have mastery over life. I am always above and never beneath!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for delivering me from the snare of evil. I am no more a slave to fear, sin, shame and reproach in the name of Jesus. I walk in freedom, power, honour and glory. My head is lifted beyond reproach in the name of Jesus! I declare today that I am delivered from every evil and strivings of the people in the name of Jesus. I declare that the violent man is afraid of me because suddenly I have become too hot to handle in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION

DAY 08

TEXT: ROMANS 8:15 (KJV) "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

As a born again person, God is your Father and you are his child. God has by His Spirit indwelling you made you His child. This is what the Bible refers to as "the Spirit of Adoption." This Spirit of Adoption doesn't mean you were taken from an orphanage or a foster home like we have in our world today. No, that is not at all the case. In those days in Israel, the Child of Adoption is that child that has come into MATURITY and has been made heir to his father. The day you got born again and received the Spirit of Adoption, you became an heir of God, an inheritor of the promise. Right now, you can call God your father and He calls you His Son. You are not the only one claiming the relationship. No, there is a witness of the Spirit that assures you that you are a child of God. After receiving Jesus and becoming born-again, the Spirit of Adoption who is the Holy Spirit helps to mature the child of God so he or she can know all that belongs to the Father and how to administrate it effectively as a proper child and heir of the promise.

It then becomes important that we learn to grow into maturity and not stay or remain as babes. God is our father. We have the legal authority to call Him "Abba" because we have been adopted into sonship (both males and females).

If you aren't born again yet, then you should do as to enjoy the fatherhood of God! To become born again, repeat the following words and mean it sincerely in your heart: "Precious Jesus, I come to you today just as I am, I believe in my heart that you died for my sins and on the third day rose for my justification. I confess you now to be my Lord and savior. Thank you Jesus, for saving me. Amen"

If you prayed that and meant it, then congratulations! We believe you just got born again according to the scriptures. We would love to hear from you. Contact us via one of the numbers or email address on the back-page of this devotional.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for saving me and giving me your name. I am no more a slave to fear, no more a child of Satan. I declare that I am yours forever and always. You are my father and I am your son. I walk in the fullness and reality of what you have done for me from this moment hence forth in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

TEXT: JEREMIAH 3:15 (KJV) "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."

There is a sad reality I see today. Many Christians today don't even know why there is a Pastor in the church neither do they understand why they should have one. In today's world, it has become fashionable to dishonor, abuse and even attack the Person of Ministers of the Gospel. But this ought not to be. The Office of the Pastor is one of the most important ministry offices that there is but a lot of people make light of it. Some General Overseers and Lead Pastors don't even think they need a pastor over them but they do. I am a General Overseer and Lead Pastor of a Local Assembly but even I have a pastor under whose authority I am submitted to.

Your pastor is given to you by God and not chosen by you! The word of the Lord says, "I will give you pastors..." God is the giver and not man the "chooser." Your Pastor is given to you for a special purpose. They are to feed you with knowledge and understanding. One of the first things your pastor owes you is Life Instructions. He may give you money or a car, a platform and what have you, but all of that is secondary.

He is first God's representative to you upon the earth who brings the mind of God to you per season. This does not in any way invalidate your ability to hear God or be led by the Spirit of God. However, you must also realize that the Local church is God's idea and strategy upon the earth. No wonder even Jesus is described as the Bishop (Pastor/Overseer) of our souls. And the way he pastors us is through the ministry gifts of Prophets, Apostles, Evangelist, Pastors and teachers who serve as Under shepherds under His supervision.

In other words, our Pastors are the visible representation of Jesus in our midst taking care of His flocks who he bought back with His precious blood. Your pastor helps to shorten the distance of your journey in life simply because God has anointed him/her to steward you in the right direction and there is an enabling spirit that comes with which they do administer their responsibilities. Do yourself the favor and receive him or her as God's gift to you today and listen to their instructions because therein lies your safety. And if you are yet to have one, ask God the great shepherd of the sheep for your own pastor today and you will receive in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for the gift of my Pastor. Thank you for the many times you have come through for me using the ministry of my Pastors. I declare today that my ears and heart are open to hear them. My eyes are open to perceive them correctly. I am loyal and faithful to them and God's assignment for them over my life. I elect to make their labours over me much easier for them in the name of Jesus. Amen.

TEXT: PSALMS 50:1-3 (KJV) ¹ (A Psalm of Asaph.) The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. ² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. ³ Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.

The Church of God is the perfection of beauty. The church of God isn't the building, pews and equipment inside the building. No, the Church of God is all of God's born again children put together. Every one believer is a member of the Church of God. God designed for you to reign, to be blameless and irreproachable and so are you in Christ Jesus! The church was never designed nor instituted to be low or defeated. Jesus said "I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail..."

Verse two of our text above clearly tells us what is expected to come out of Zion. He calls it "the perfection of beauty." In other words, there is no room for mediocrity. God has called us to excellent living, producing superior results! There is more to you than meets the eye. Hallelujah. Rise in this understanding of your "zionitic" status. Learn to function from there!

God has arrived your behalf. And He isn't keeping quiet. He is declaring His love for you and His everlasting covenant with you. He is declaring your victory. This means you should not be quiet either. You too should be speaking in consonance of what God has already said over you. Don't allow the devil to intimidate you into silence. You are set on course. You are meant for the top! The Church is God's idea. It's God's headquarters on earth and God wants to rule and touch the world through the Church. The church isn't bricks and buildings; it's all of God's Children - men and women inclusive. By implication, child of God, you are part of the Church. You are God's man on earth and Jesus is building you up as a part of His end-time army! God is counting you - that's right. He is counting on you!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for making me a part of your Church. I give myself to your end-time agenda for what you are building and doing in your church even in this time and season. I declare that the world is seeing the brightness of my light and is glorifying you who is in heaven. I declare that I rise today in faith and I walk in already prepared paths you have set for me in the name of Jesus. I yield myself completely to you. Use me for your glory now and always in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

TEXT: EPHESIANS 6 (KJV) ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Life is not a playground but a battle field. The number one way to be a victim is to be ignorant of this fact. You are either aware of the fact that you were born into warfare as a Christian or you become a casualty. This is why the Apostle Paul admonishes us in his first letter to Timothy to "fight the good fight of faith." It is called a "good fight" simply because the outcome is one that is already known – Victory.

The Devil is not your friend; therefore, you shouldn't be ignorant of his devices. You must learn to be alert at all times. As a Soldier in the Lord's army, have the full Armour of God always! Never give the Devil a foothold in your life. You are designed to thrive, flourish and have dominion. The Devil will stop at nothing to ensure you do not achieve that.

Today, we engage in Spiritual warfare concerning you and the principalities and powers over your life. We battle and command your city to open unto you in greater dimensions. We curse every force in the city standing against your progress in the name of Jesus.

Verse twelve of our text describes to us exactly who the enemy is. Your enemy is not your uncle or aunty in the village. Not at all! Yes, they can yield to the devil and they can be influenced against you but essentially, your fight is not with flesh and blood. So even when you are dealing with and confronting flesh and blood, your strategy is to attack the influence over them and not them as persons.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for reminding me today that you have given me Dominion over Satan and principalities. I declare that I rise above every limitation and the wiles of the Devil. I declare that I walk in the fullness of everything you have called me to be and do, giving full expression to the kingdom of God here on Earth. I declare that my mind and heart are shielded from evil and I put on the full armour of God in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

THE LORD OF DELIVERANCE

DAY 12

TEXT: PSALMS 34:4 (KJV) "I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."

True and lasting deliverance can only come from the Lord. Deliverance is not only for people who are possessed or oppressed by the devil but for everyone. The great Apostle Paul prayed that "we may be delivered from wicked and unreasonable men." The word "deliverance" involves being brought out of something and taken into another. It is not enough that you are brought out of darkness and left hanging. No! For it to be complete deliverance, you must be brought into light. For instance, one can be brought from poverty into abundance, and so on.

At every point in life and in our endeavours, we need the divine help of God. The reason we do not fear is because we know that the Lord is our help. He has helped us therefore, we are not without help. With this knowledge, we have hope and assurance that we cannot be stranded in life.

Our God is the deliverer! This means that He doesn't just prevent us from being led into temptation but once we are being tempted, He comes right along to our rescue. thing you need to do is to seek him.

To seek Him takes a level of intentionality. This means that a careful search must be employed so as to reach a definite goal. God is never found by careless observers. Make Him the first and only option. Seek Him today, tomorrow and always!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. Thank you for being my ever present help. I am no longer a slave to fear because I know that you are with me and you have delivered me. I declare that in all situations, I acknowledge you as my only help. I can do all things because you are always on my side. I receive your marvelous help today and always.

Pastor Joseph Ice

YOU ARE FORTIFIED.

DAY 13

TEXT: ISAIAH 54:17 (KJV) "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD."

You are too defended to be a victim. Stop walking around with your head down and in shame. You are the Righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. You have a heritage of protection. As children of God, we have a promise and an assurance that nothing that comes against us shall prosper. The Lord didn't say they will not form against us because they definitely will. The assurance is, "they will not prosper." Guess what! The power has been given to you. It is within your jurisdiction to condemn it. Anything you allow will stay, anything you disallow will flee!

Are you born again? If yes, then you are the Righteousness of God in Christ Jesus and you have a heritage in God. Rise in faith and condemn every opposing tongue against you. Rise against every fear, sickness, depression and pain. Don't be a closed-mouthed Christian. Like a song writer says, "Quiet Christians die quietly. If you must live right, then always say the right things."

The battle is fought, won or lost with words. That is why everyone that matters is a great talker. To experience deliverance, open your mouth boldly and declare. You are not permitted to endure them. You are not permitted to manage them. Rise in the power of the name of Jesus and condemn every single attack of the enemy in the name of Jesus!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for the assurance of deliverance over every form of oppression. I declare that every hold of the devil over my life, my health and finances is broken in the name of Jesus. I declare that I do not manage any pain. I do not manage any situation. I rise in your power and condemn them today! Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

THE DEMONSTRATION OF SPIRIT AND POWER

DAY 14

TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 2:4-5 (KJV) "And my speech and my preaching were not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

It matters in this life where your confidence and faith is drawn from. The Apostle Paul made up his mind to communicate with the Corinthian church in the potency of God's power. He said his intent was so that their trust, confidence, reliance and faith will not rest in any rhetorics but in the power of God.

"Some trust in Chariots and some in Horses but we trust in the name of the Lord..." Our minds are made up, our decisions are set and our confidence is in Yahweh. Again I say to you, it matters where your faith is. Do you have faith in the News? Do you have faith in the politicians or economy of your nation? Don't put your trust in anything outside of God because eventually they will all fail. Only God will remain. As believers, we don't observe the things on the news or what society is saying. The Bible says that those that observe the clouds will not sow.

This means that things may look a certain way naturally but a man of the Spirit does not let them affect him. We walk by faith and not by sight!

The prediction and wisdom of men will fail but never the wisdom and power of God. You can bank your life upon the power of God. The power of God prevails over every human wisdom and understanding. The power of God is elastic enough to accommodate your desires and expectations of faith

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today and I thank you for your power and wisdom. Thank you for your Spirit that makes me wise. I declare that my decisions are filled with your Spirit and wisdom. I declare that I do not trust in any human wisdom and I do not regard the clouds. I walk with your knowledge and I walk in your will for me in the name of Jesus. Amen!

Pastor. Joseph Ice

THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE

DAY 15

TEXT: ROMANS 8:2 (KJV) "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

For the born again Child of God, there is a New Law at work within you. It's called "the Law of the Spirit of Life." This Law ensures everything in your life tends towards Life. Laws are constant. Laws are universal. Laws have predictable outcomes. Laws can be depended upon. The Bible says there is such a law in Christ Jesus known as "The Law of the Spirit of Life." This means that Life itself is a spirit. This is why we generally say that life is Spiritual. If you don't understand this concept, you will experience many confusions and defeats in your life time. The spiritual side of life is what controls the physical side. If you win in the spirit, you will automatically win in the natural. Hallelujah!

This life in you is the God kind of Life. It is the Life that ensures that everything that concerns you works. Nothing is permitted to die in your hands and so, nothing dies on your path! You are free from the Law of Sin and Death. You are born into victory. You are more than a conqueror. You are alive with the Life of God.

You are free from the curse of sin and shame. All the punishment and chastisement accrued to you was nailed on Jesus Christ! This has given you life; real and everlasting life!

Walk in this consciousness that the sacrifice of Jesus has brought Life and peace to you! You can't be stranded and you can't be mocked. You have Life!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for making me free from the Law of Sin and Death. Thank you for giving me life, your very life. I declare that I do not die or cast my young. Nothing dies in me, nothing dies in my hands and nothing dies on my path. I am alive with the life of God. My path tends upwards and I give Life to everything around me in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

NOT AN ORDINARY PERSON

DAY 16

TEXT: 1 JOHN 5 (KJV) "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

Being born again is the common ground upon which all Christians stand – not race, not class, not culture, not language, or any other thing but the Cross of Christ. Believing in the sacrifice of Jesus grants everyone the awesome privilege of having the Son in their lives thereby giving them Eternal life. This is simply life as God has it. It is the God-kind of life that isn't subject to perishing. This eternal life makes the one who possesses it truly a "superman" upon the earth. This means that, if you are born again, you are not a regular or ordinary person. You have the Life of Christ in you, not a type or photocopy. I mean the very life of Christ! Isn't it awesome? Of course, it is. Being born of God is your assurance of victory. The idea that anyone born of God can be defeated is not only strange but unscriptural. Why? You are born of God; simple! It is no rocket science. Having the Son gives you an edge in Life. It is your unfair advantage.

Do you have the Son? Have you received Jesus as your Lord and Saviour? If yes, then listen to me. You are not an ordinary person; you have the Life of God. You are unstoppable, you are victorious and you are successful! And if you're not born again, the good news is that it is never late to receive eternal life by receiving The SON today as your Lord and Savior. How? See Romans 10:8-10.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for your Son Jesus. I declare that because I am born again, I am Victorious! I am not an ordinary person. I have the life of God in me therefore; I give life to everything everywhere I go. I declare that eternal life is at work in me. I go upward and forward always in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

TEXT: ISAIAH 28:12 (TLB) "They could have rest in their own land if they would obey him, if they were kind and good. He told them that, but they wouldn't listen to him."

I have seen many believers who think that hearing God is only reserved for pastors or special people but it is not so. As a Child of God, you are anointed to hear the voice of God. And the truth remains that God is always speaking. God is not one to hold Himself from us. He delights in talking to his children. If you are Jesus' sheep, then you hear his voice. If you don't, maybe we should ask if you are one of his.

God is the author of fellowship. Remember the Garden of Eden? God enjoys fellowship, He loves to speak and He also wants to listen. Like I said earlier, God is always speaking. At any point in life where you need direction or help, listen to the voice of God. He sees and He knows. He knows what is right and wrong for you.

One of our many advantages as Christians is SPIRITUAL HEARING. It is the ability to know what to do, how to do and when to do. It is knowing and doing the very things that God will have you do.

Does it feel as though God is far? Does it feel like He isn't speaking? Well, I have good news for you. As long as you are willing to restore fellowship with Him, He is ever ready to fellowship with you too.

What has God commanded you to do? Promotion is in obedience and faithfulness. It's as you yield to his instructions that you enjoy rest. In reality, the more you yield to the Spirit of God, the more of Him you will know and experience. Obeying the last instruction qualifies you for the next one.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for the ability to hear you speak to me. I declare that I am anointed to hear. I am led by the Spirit of God and I walk in the fullness of what you will have me do at every point of life. I declare that I am obedient and faithful and I am yielding to your instructions in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

TEXT: 2 TIMOTHY 3:15 (KJV) "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

The Word of God is the wisdom of God! What God can do, His word can do. It matters what you are hearing always. At every point of growth, you'll be faced with challenges and questions and the only way out is the decision you make. The decision you make will determine your lot. Everyone is ultimately a product of their decisions. In the natural, my three year old daughter looks so much like me but I always say it this way, "In the next fifteen to twenty years, she will only look like her decisions."

This is why I say, go for the Word. The Word is never old or outdated. The Word of God is packed with so much wisdom. Listening and following the counsel it provides will ultimately leave you wise. There is no doubt about it. It is a fact that is as predictable as morning preceding night. Whatever knowledge and wisdom you need at any given point in time and every step of the way is embedded in the Word of God. A careful search of that Word will give you so much light and produce jaw-dropping testimonies.

Go for the wisdom of God. Human knowledge will fail. The greatest of scientists and scholars will fail. The wisdom of God supersedes all knowledge.

The Word of God is the only way to wisdom. He is wise and He doesn't intend to keep that to himself. The only criterion for being wise is to know the Word of God. The Word is a maker and He will make you! I have met people who make statements like, "put the Bible aside and let's face reality." How greatly mistaken are they! The Word of God is our only reality as believers. It is the Word that gives us a world view. It is the Word that forms our reality. What the word says to me is more real than anything I can see with my physical eyes. Anything contrary to God's Word for me is a mere fact; it is subject to change. The Word of is the real reality. It is a maker and can change people from weaklings to very strong men, let alone situations. I see every weakness turned to strength right now as you pay premium attention to God's word in the name of Jesus. Amen.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for your Spirit in me that makes me wise. I declare that the word dwells richly in my heart. I declare that the Word is the only light on my path. I do not lean on any human wisdom or understanding but only on the wisdom of God. I declare that I have the wisdom of God, I am smart, and I am intelligent in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

REPAIRERS OF THE BRIDGES

DAY 19

TEXT: ISAIAH 58:12 (KJV) "And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in."

You were created for a purpose and you are here for a definite assignment. Whatever it is, everyone's purpose has one origin, and that is God. I am excited writing about this to you because you see; you are more than the challenges that confront you. You are a City-taker, a Mountain-mover, and a Mighty man of Valour. Like Jacob, you are a prince; you just do not know it yet. That is why I am writing to you this day. God sent me specifically and specially to let you know that you are a "Repairer of the Bridges."

God created each of us uniquely and he has given each of us different abilities with the sole aim of bringing and restoring men to him. Our gifts, talents and how we accomplish our purpose might be different but it is all unto one ultimate purpose. And you might be thinking and saying to yourself, "Sir, you have not heard my story and that is why you are saying all these things you're saying" but don't forget Gideon.

Listen, when God looks at you and calls you, He does not see you from the stand point of how you are at the moment, but from how you will be by the time He is through with you. In other words, God doesn't call or use the qualified but He qualifies the called. He is the maker of men. All He requires from you is faith and obedience and he will do the rest.

As believers, we do not live for ourselves alone. We live as men on a mission. That is why Jesus said "let your light so shine before men that they may see your good work and glorify your Father in heaven." We ought to do everything to the glory of God.

You are more than meets the eye. When God sees you, He sees a saviour. You are a beacon of hope to many. You have been given the mandate to bring and restore the lost, the hopeless and those who have gone astray. Rise therefore from the depression and position that the challenges of life have held you in. You are more than meets the eye; you are a repairer of the bridges!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I declare that I live and walk in the purpose for which you have created me. I declare that I use my gifts and talents to the glory of your name. I declare that I am an active soul winner. I shine my light everywhere so that men will see and glorify you. I declare that I bring healing and succour to nations in the name of Jesus. I declare that men are coming to the light on my account in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

SPREADING THE GOSPEL BY FORCE

DAY 20

TEXT: 2 THESSALONIANS 3:1 (KJV) "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:"

The earth by reason of the fall is more prone to be disobedient and resistant to the gospel than otherwise. This means that to reach the earth with the power of the Gospel, a measure of force will have to be applied in order to subdue the systems of men upon this earth. Without Prayer power therefore, the gospel will be inhibited in its spread. That is why Apostle Paul knew that there was no way out but a life sold out to God in prayer if any effectiveness can be achieved. Therefore, for the word of God to be accepted and impactful, the Apostle Paul acknowledged that prayer had to be made available so that it can reach its full course.

For the great Apostle to solicit prayers from the Thessalonians in comparison to the great effect the gospel produced in them when they heard the word, it suggests to us that he must have prayed for them to receive the word before coming to them and that is why he was so confident that if they will join him in prayer, the same effect the gospel had with them will be easily replicated and more.

It also suggests to us that nothing can beat the potency of effective Bible based prayers.

The devil is not interested in any activity a Christian engages in until he knows that they are a praying Christian. That is why he fights your prayer life like no man's business because he knows that there is not much one can do without prayer power. In the world today, people have turned the gospel to fit their desires. They have replaced the truth with what is convenient. People no longer follow the truth of God's word. They follow their unrenewed hearts into whatever, but we can always engage the force of prayer to make them obedient to the faith.

The Gospel isn't readily available yet; there is religion everywhere but not the gospel. Therefore, pray that the truth prevails and pray also that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ be spread abroad and prevail like it did in Ephesus!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for the truth of the gospel. I declare that I am a propagator of the Gospel. I declare that I partner with the spread of the gospel through prayer, my time and my resources. I declare that I speak the truth at all times, under all circumstances in the name of Jesus.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

THE LORD AS MY LIGHT

DAY 21

TEXT: PSALMS 27:1-3 (KJV) ¹ (A Psalm of David) The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ² When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. ³ Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

As always said, it definitely matters in whom your trust resides. The Lord is the strength of your Life. Do not be afraid! Even when men rise up against you or even when you feel alone and your face is downcast, the Lord is your help. He has promised never to leave you nor forsake you and you can count on his promises to always be there for you.

No matter how big a situation may seem, God has assured us in the Scripture above that they have stumbled and fallen. Your heart should not fear. Do not faint and do not fall. The Almighty God is your help and none is to be compared to him. Not even a host of them! Trust in the name of the Lord and let your heart be fixed on God.

You are not distressed by the size of the army coming against you. Nope, your anchor is sure and steady. I like the confidence with which the Psalmist speaks. Even a host cannot make him afraid, simply because his confidence is rooted in something much more stable and solid than a host of army matching against him. Let your confidence in God grow strong and unwavering in the word and assurance of God's word concerning you!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I declare that though my enemies encamp against me, my heart will not fear. I declare that I am confident in you. I put my faith and my trust in you. No matter how great the storm is, I know I am sailing through by your help. I declare that you are my rock and confidence.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

GOD'S EVERLASTING COVENANT

DAY 22

TEXT: ISAIAH 54:10 (KJV) "For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee."

In the text above, something very powerful about the nature and character of God is revealed unto us. And that is about the love of God. There are mountains and hills around my city where I currently live and they have been here for a long time and have never moved. But here, God says as unmovable as those mountains are, peradventure, for some reasons they get to move, even at that, His love for us will never change.

Our God is a merciful and kind God. There is no evil in him, there is no shadow of turning with him and He doesn't fail. From generations after generations, God has a track record of kindness. His Love never fails and nothing can separate you from the Love of God.

In God's Covenant of love for us, if mountains have to be moved, God will move them. If protocols have to be broken, He will break them. He is the one that leaves the ninety-nine to come after you. Be persuaded about his love for you.

Receive his mercy for you every morning. Yes, every morning because His mercies are enough for everyone, everyday! I pray for you today, that you will experience God's mercy all through this year and that you are never destitute of God's mercy in Jesus name.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for your unwavering love for me. I thank you for your love that never fails. I declare that I walk in the consciousness of your love for me every day. I receive your early mercies today and always. Thank you for your mercies that never come to an end. Great is your Faithfulness oh God!

Pastor. Joseph Ice

TEXT: COLOSSIANS 1:16-18 [16]Christ himself is the Creator who made everything in heaven and earth, the things we can see and the things we can't; the spirit world with its kings and kingdoms, its rulers and authorities; all were made by Christ for his own use and glory. [18]He is the Head of the body made up of his people—that is, his Church—which he began; and he is the Leader of all those who arise from the dead, so that he is first in everything;

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus. All things were made through Him and by Him and everything finds completion in him. Christ is a political figure. That is why the scripture talks about the kingdoms of this world being turned to the kingdom of God and of His Christ. God is interested in taking territories. He is concerned about influence and rulership!

As a believer, you are IN CHRIST and by the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, dominion and power have been restored to you. But you have to wake up to responsibility (response to ability). That position you are in right now was given to you by God for his glory. God has placed us in sectors, in offices and in places, no matter how big or small to show our "God-colours" there.

You are salt and light. You shouldn't hide your light under the table. You are a city on a hill. There is no "small" in your DNA! You have been placed far above principalities and powers, above kingdoms and rulers. By Christ Jesus, you are called to rule, reign, and dominate. Therefore, know Jesus, know Peace, know Life, know Dominion, and understand power and rulership!

CONFESSION

Dear Jesus, I thank you for today and everything you have done for me. Thank you Jesus for winning for me and for restoring me to my place. I declare that I walk in the knowledge of who I am and what I have been empowered to do. Use me for your glory alone. I am a positive impact on everyone I meet. My circles are illuminated because of your light in me, in Jesus name.

Pastor Joseph Ice

TEXT: PSALMS 98:1 (KJV) "(A Psalm.) O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvelous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory."

Scripture admonishes us to "sing unto the Lord a new song" and not necessarily a "hit" song. A new song is that song that breaks forth with light in your spirit. There is great power in singing songs that are powered by revelation. A lot of people just sing songs because the songs are popular or just because they like the melody, but you must move beyond that. Your song is a reflection of your revelation. Anything you sing revelationally, you will soon experience. Many times in prayer, the proof that you have been heard is that a song breaks loose in your spirit. The more you sing it, the more you experience peace and joy that is produced by the Holy Ghost!

"Oh sing unto the Lord for he has triumphed gloriously, the horse and its rider has been thrown into the sea!"

The foundation for worship is knowledge. We don't sing just any song; we don't sing just any lyrics. We sing because we are exalting and surrendering to God. We sing because we are honouring God. We sing because we have caught a glimpse of God's glory and intent.

We were created primarily to worship God. Every god seeks nothing else from man except worship. Remember that when the Devil was tempting the Lord, He offered him the world in exchange for worship. This shows how important worship is.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I declare that my spirit is open and receptive to your leading. I am alive to you and I yield totally to you. I am made to worship you and so I declare that daily as I live and as often as I breathe, I live for the praise of your glory. My days are yielded to you! I declare that from today, my worship rises to you in spirit and in truth. I declare that whenever you are "searching" for worshippers, you will find me in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

THE NECESSITY OF PRAYER

DAY 25

TEXT: 1 TIMOTHY 2:1 (KJV) "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;"

Jesus' disciples saw that Jesus was a man of prayer so they asked him to teach them to pray. They saw that the secret behind Jesus' successful ministry was because he prayed and he was always praying. This means that there is a height a person will never reach except he prays. However, the text above not only calls us to be prayer warriors but also to be intercessors. The Spirit of God is calling us to a life of standing in the gap for others. Simply because the reaching effect of prayer is not limited to the one who prayed alone but to anyone and everyone to whom prayer is directed.

It is through prayer that God is given an invitation for intervention into man's affairs on this planet earth. And that is why God Himself asks us to pray. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught his disciples to pray that God's will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Most believers don't know this but the truth remains that God in heaven is not in control here on earth. He is only in control to the degree to which man invites him into his affairs. God does not break ranks.

Prayer is communion with God. Prayer isn't what we resort to when all else fails, even though we can and should, but prayer is what we do first and foremost! It's the number one priority! When we pray, we show that we are humble and we submit and subject all our matters to God. And to make the nations obedient to the faith, the force of prayer must be put into effect not as a last resort but as a very foundational tool.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for the gift of prayer. I thank you for the gift of the Holy Ghost. I thank you for unlimited access to you and the awesome privilege of ministering in prayer for others. I give you thanks because I know that I have a hearing with you whenever I call. I declare that I am a person of prayer; I stand in the gap for all men; for Kings and those in authority in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

TEXT: 1 PETER 2:9-10 “[9]But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. [10]“Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God’s people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God’s mercy.”

I bring you news so good you can't refuse! You are not your own, you are God's own! Just as Israel was, we as believers, the church are also a chosen race. Unlike Israel though, we are not a race in the sense of our family, ethnicity, skin colour or country of origin. We are a spiritual race, in the sense that, in Christ, we share a single spiritual Father. By the same token, we are a holy nation; a specific group of people called out and set apart from all other nations. We are separated unto God, as his very own people who have received mercy.

All Christians in the world put together are a royal priesthood. In Israel, under the Law, one tribe was given the task of serving as priests, performing the duties of mediators between God and the rest of the nation.

Very few had the honour and responsibility of actually coming into God's presence. But in and through Christ the King, all believers are priests with direct access to our Father. We need no other mediator in the sense of a go-between but rather, we have the awesome privilege of standing in the gap for others before God. We have been made intercessors - the repairers of the bridges! God has formed this nation, this race, this priesthood to take possession of us. We are His people in a very real way. It's not just that we pledge our allegiance to Him; it's that He has taken ownership of us. We belong to Him. He treasures us as a man treasures his own priced possession. I like to say it this way, "I am not my responsibility; I belong to God!" The text above is a beautiful description of you as a believer. Experience the life-changing kindness of God this day and beyond!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for calling me your own. I thank you for setting me apart and taking ownership of me. Thank you for making me a priest unto you. I declare that I enjoy and experience your life-changing kindness today and all the days of my life. I declare that surely goodness and mercy follows me all the days of my life in the name of Jesus.

Pastor Joseph Ice

THE FAITHFUL- NESS OF GOD

DAY 27

TEXT: 2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-3 (KJV) ¹ Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: ² And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.. "But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil."

The word "faithful" in the text above simply suggests to us that God is full of faith and does not fail at all. It also means that God is eternally dependable. It means that you and I can rest in His integrity, kindness and support. In His faithfulness, He strengthens and establishes us in our doings and our feet enter into league with the earth. The faithfulness of God never allows you become disadvantaged regardless of the size of the battle before you.

Never forget to count on the faithfulness of your God. Naturally speaking, not all human beings can be trusted; God is faithful to his promises and word. He is always to be confided in and when faced with people who are unbelieving, perverse, unkind, and disposed to do us wrong, we can and should go to him, and we shall always find in Him one in whom we can confide in.

This is an interesting declaration, "The Lord is ever faithful!" We know that there are wicked and unreasonable men and "all men have not faith" as the Bible declares but thankfully, we have a faithful God to depend on. Sometimes, you are faced with so many kinds of oppositions that you cannot even imagine how to get out of it but as simply as I put it, the faithfulness of God can be depended on to pull you through.

In the face of trouble and back-biters, one may be tempted to lose faith. Sometimes, it is sheer conjecture and manipulation of darkness against your destiny and in such circumstances, the heart is disposed to wonder and ask questions. At such times, how consoling is it to be able to turn, as Paul did, to one who is faithful, who never fails us, and who will certainly accomplish all that he has said.

Men may be faithless and false, but God never is. They may refuse to embrace the gospel, and set themselves against it, but God will not abandon the ones he loves. Scripture says "If we reject him, He cannot deny Himself, to himself He remains faithful."

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for your ever-dependable love. Thank you for your faithfulness to me even when men fail me. In the face of trials and tribulations, I declare that I am persuaded of your love and faithfulness. I declare that I am loved and I am blessed. I am strong, sure and steadfast in the name of Jesus.

Pastor. Joseph Joe

SINGING UNTO THE LORD

DAY 28

TEXT: PSALMS 98:1 (KJV) "O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory."

Just the thought of the wonderful plan of redemption is enough to sing and give God thanks. The work of our redemption and salvation through Christ Jesus is a work of wonder. If we take a look at it step by step and the everlasting consequence that we are eternally sentenced to life, it gives us reasons to shout and sing. More so, the great good Jehovah is worthy of all our praises. By worthy, I mean that He is deserving of all adoration and honour we can ever ascribe unto Him. He deserves the credits because of the things He has done and still does for us. A psalm sings, "Count your blessings, name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done." When you count your blessings such as the gift of life, family, health, favour, grace, mercy, access, etc., you'll never be able to keep it in for you will have more than enough reason that will cause you to sing. Jesus, our King, lived a marvellous life, died a marvellous death, rose by a marvellous resurrection, and ascended marvellously into heaven.

By His divine power, he has sent forth the Holy Spirit doing wonders in us His chosen ones and by that, His early disciples have also wrought marvellous things and astonished all the earth. Idols have fallen, chains have been broken and he has given us his victor. For all these, he deserves the highest praise!

"Oh sing unto the Lord" is an admonition for all ages, for all people and even for all living things. In another place the psalmist says, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!"

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for all that you have done for me. I thank you for the perfect redemption plan for me. Thank you for redeeming me. Thank you for going to the cross. Today I sing to you a new song of praise, glory and honor. I sing of your love, I sing of your faithfulness, I sing of your goodness. I declare that I am a true worshipper and I pledge my allegiance to you all the days of my life in the name of Jesus.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

TEXT: MATTHEW 15:28 (KJV) "Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour."

Outside of faith, there is no justification. By design, the Just shall live and thrive only by faith. To walk any other way is to toil and labour only to always fall short. By digging and begging, a man can get by. But you see, you are not designed to get by in life. You were made to thrive. The text above reveals something critical and powerful. It shows us that God doesn't set the boundary lines for us. No, we are the ones who determine our limitations because it is always to you according to your faith!

The Christian doesn't have a faith problem. He might only have a hope problem (which means to not exercise faith). Faith begins when God's promise is known and you know the promise by His word. The Bible says, "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Therefore, as you begin to deliberately pay attention to hearing God's word concerning His promises for you, faith will always be supplied to your spirit. And as long as your faith is not compromised, the promise will always come forth.

This means that it actually does matter what you are hearing. The news, the media, your environment and your circumstances are all feeding you pieces of information that are contrary to your faith in God's word. It is necessary to create your own faith-based vocabulary. Don't speak like the world speaks. Don't think or act like they do. And this doesn't always come easy. However, it is your responsibility to speak faith-based, faith-filled words to yourself always. It matters where your faith lies!

This is especially important because Jesus is only moved by faith in his word and person, not by your emotions. Therefore, make conscious efforts to build your faith. Your faith has a lot to do with what you see and what you say. What are you seeing? What are you saying?

Our faith guarantees us permanent access to God. The good news this morning is that by design, God is wired to respond to faith!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for the measure of faith. I declare that my mind is full of your word. I declare that I exercise my faith always leading to greater kingdom advancement. Thank you for the assurance that when my faith says yes, you won't say no. I declare that I am not subject to natural circumstances but I prevail and thrive by the truth of your word in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

SERVICING THE COVENANT

DAY 30

TEXT: GENESIS 13:4 (KJV) "Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD."

It is important to note that our God is a Covenant God. God is the institutor of Covenants and He treats the issues of Covenant seriously. It is the same God who existed before the law, during the law and after the Law. God hasn't changed a bit. Nope, only the Covenant has and so He operates based on His tenets.

Prayer is a Covenant issue. The "First" is also a Covenant issue. I have noticed God is generally interested in anything that is first. The Bible encourages us to give our first fruit, to give our first tenth (tithe), to seek first the Kingdom of God, and to dedicate the first day of the week. Before you get doctrinal and argumentative, I am talking about priority. God likes to be first in everything. What is your priority in life? The Psalmist says, "...early will I seek thee."

Make up your mind to keep the Covenant practices well serviced in your life. Don't treat prayer like an afterthought. Make it a priority. Like your Father Abraham, make it a habit of always setting God first and calling on Him regularly.

concerning any and every issue, there was always going to be a way out. A man of prayer knows that you cannot hedge him in for too long. I am convinced that there is nothing I cannot pray about! There is nothing I cannot pray my way out of.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for the gift of today and the promises of the Covenant. I boldly declare today that I walk circumspectly, knowing the time and walking in the practice of the Covenant. I am a person of prayer and I make a hot practice of the Covenant. I declare that my eyes are fixed on you and you alone. My declaration today and always is, "Early will I seek thee" in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

THE EFFICACY OF PRAYER

DAY 31

TEXT: COLOSSIANS 1:7-11 (KJV) ⁷ As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellow-servant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; ⁸ Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit. ⁹ For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

There is an amazing power encapsulated within the realms of prayer. It's amazing how that the Apostle's first response to everything seems to be prayer, and rightly so because prayer is the foundation of every successful Christian endeavour.

When it was time to preach the gospel, Paul prayed for open doors. After the door was opened and the people received the message, prayer was how to grow them and keep them on the right track, growing strong and healthy. Prayer is still the way out! The quality of your life will never amount to anything bigger than your prayer life. To make progress is to pray. Anytime you see a man praying, then such a man has hope. He might not look like it today but mark such a man. It's only a matter of time.

Prayer procures strength for the weak man. The Apostle prayed strength into the brethren at Colosse. This means that there is no realm of human existence that prayer cannot reach. Sometimes, you see some persons go through certain difficulties in life yet never buckle under the pressure. In fact, if they don't tell you what they are going through, you might never be able to guess because of the grace with which they carry through life. What do you think is responsible? It is called "Inner Strength." In prayer, every form of feebleness is turned to power!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for the prayer room and prayer strategy. I declare no more laziness, no more excuses, no more treating prayer with levity. I am energized, encouraged, and strengthened to pray in the name of Jesus. I rise and give vent to this divinity trapped on the inside of me. I am a person of valour, honor and power in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

THE POTENCY OF FAITH

DAY 32

TEXT: MATTHEW 15:28 (KJV) "Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour." " Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness; "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;"

It is worthy of note that God isn't moved by our emotions. Don't get me wrong. He can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities but He is only moved by His word. Jesus is only moved by faith in His word and in His person and not by your emotions. The good news is that if your faith says Yes, God isn't going to say no.

I like to always emphasize that while it is okay to cry and show emotions, you must always rise from that pity party, square up your shoulders and begin to walk in faith. Open your mouth from a heart filled with God's word and begin to boldly release your faith. Speak in tongues and change those circumstances. Don't cry, don't beg and don't bend. Be alert and active for there is more with you than they that are against you.

Faith collects what Grace has made available. God has programmed Himself to respond to faith. In other words, God doesn't have it in himself to turn back on faith. That is why you must always put on your cloak of faith. Don't be a weakling. You are born and made of strength. There is life resident in you, don't give in to defeat. Keep the switch of faith on and thrive!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for the gift of faith imparted into my spirit. I declare that I live from the inside-out. I am not moved by what I see, feel or perceive in the flesh. My life is powered by the Life of God. I declare that I live the power of the endless life in the blood of Jesus. My faith is in the Covenant. I declare that I make progress, I am upwardly mobile and I make forward progress in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

TEXT: MATTHEW 16:27 (KJV) "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."

In Ephesians chapter 2 verses 10, the Amplified translation makes it evidently clear to us that God is the author of good works, and not only that but that He has already crafted out certain good works for us to walk in. Your greatest advantage is when you find out what God wants you to do and you begin to diligently give it expression. That is how to really live. There is no point trying to design a purpose for your life outside of God's design. Don't make your plans and ask God to bless it. Find out God's plans for you because first, your plans can never be better than His and secondly, His plans are already blessed. It's time to work the works of Him who has called you into His marvelous light. Hebrews 11:6 tells us that God is a rewarder of our works.

There are rewards in this life and the life to come reserved for everyone. Don't let fear, procrastination and laziness keep you from fulfilling your destiny. You might not be sure of all the details but cheer up for God is faithful to count on.

He will bear you up on Eagles' wings. Therefore, don't be afraid to step into destiny. Don't settle for less. Go full gear. Leave the low life behind. You are made for more! Give expression to God's plans for your life!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for the privilege and blessings of purpose and predestination. I declare that I am going full gear into your plans for my life. I walk circumspectly, I walk in purpose and I work diligently. No more slack hands. I declare in the name of Jesus that my hands are fixed on the plough and there is no turning back in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

LABOUR FOR ETERNAL REWARDS

DAY 34

TEXT: REVELATION 22:12 (KJV) "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

Life doesn't end on this side of mortality. There is a place called Heaven where we shall go for rewards based on what we did in this present life we are living. As I have often said, "Heaven is not a place we go to as a reward for doing anything, rather, heaven is a place we go to for rewards." And every one will be rewarded based on their works in this life.

Many people live to gratify themselves or their pleasures as though there is no life after now but don't live like that. Live with purpose in view. Make up your mind to be a faithful steward. Decide that for everything God has asked you to do, none will fail in your hands. More so, you can determine the quality of work you put out and the quality of materials with which you employ for your work. In other words, don't be a careless or reckless worker.

The Apostle Paul referred to himself as "a wise master builder" and I pray that you become a wise master builder. That you will build for quality, you will build to last, and you will work for eternal rewards that cannot be stolen or destroyed.

This means no eye service, no vain glory, no man pleasing but working everything to the honour and praise of God's glory.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today and for the privilege of co-labouring with you. I declare that I take my business seriously. I run the race set before me with patience, perseverance, faith and temperance. I declare that I am a wise master builder. My hands are taught to war and my feet to walk. I live in pursuit of your glory and honor alone in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

THE IMPORTANCE OF CORPORATE PRAYERS

DAY 35

TEXT: ROMANS 15:30 (KJV) "Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;"

There is a direct correlation between the solicitation of prayers by Apostle Paul and the results of His ministry. There is something absolutely supernatural about a body of believers coming together in agreement of faith to pray about a matter. As a matter of fact, in Matthew 18:18 & 19, Jesus makes it clear that nothing is off limits to any two believers who are in agreement. In corporate prayers, there is a collection of different graces and supplies that is made available by each believer present. The effect is that more can and will be established by the effect of the collective group than could have been done by the prayer of one man alone.

Throughout church history, believers have gathered for corporate prayer. In fact, many of the greatest revivals started as believers joined together in community prayer meetings. In the early church, believers met often, sometimes daily, for prayer and worship.

In our present culture of busyness, we have lost a bit of the urgency of corporate prayer meetings. Our ability to use the internet effectively has certainly grown our audiences and brought some remarkable benefits to the church. However, we must remember that gathering for corporate worship and prayer is essential to our spiritual journey.

Corporate prayer is an important part of the life of the church, along with worship, sound doctrine, communion, and fellowship. The early church met regularly to learn the doctrine of the Apostles, break bread, and pray together (Acts 2:42)

When we pray together with other believers, the effects can be far reaching and positively enriching. Corporate prayer unifies us as we share our common faith. The same Holy Spirit who dwells within each believer causes our hearts to rejoice as we sing praises to our Lord and Savior, knitting us together in a unique bond of fellowship found nowhere else in life.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for the gift of prayers. I thank you for fellowship with you and I thank you for the gift of my brethren in the faith. I declare that I delight in fellowshiping with other people, bringing about growth and unity in the body and the establishment of your plans and purposes upon the earth in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ace

THE LABOURS OF PRAYER

DAY 36

TEXT: COLOSSIANS 4:12 (KJV) "Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."

Praying for people is one of your highest expressions of love for them! And there is no better way to straighten out folks than "Epaphrasing" for them. Praying for one another is a powerful way of bearing each other's burdens. When we pray, we participate in God's work.

There is a misconception that only certain people are called or gifted to be intercessory prayer warriors. There are people in our churches and lives who seem to have that special intimate connection with God. They are relentless when it comes to praying for others. But the truth is we are all called to pray for others.

In Ezekiel 22:30, God is searching for those who would stand in the gap to intercede for others. The invitation is for all Christians to serve through intercessory prayer. Praying for others is not a choice; it is our privilege.

Whether we believe it or not, we are all called to stand in the gap in prayers for those who God has brought into our lives. We are heirs with Christ.

We are adopted sons and daughters and therefore, we possess the same power and access to God that our Savior enjoys. We can whisper, cry out, and offer our requests to our Heavenly Father, and He will hear us. Sharing in the inheritance of Jesus, we are called High Priests with a direct connection to God and we have the opportunity to offer up prayers on behalf of family, friends, neighbours, government officials, and our nation. The words do not have to be perfect, only spoken through love and trust in a God who hears and answers. If you pray well, you will do every other thing well!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for unlimited access to you. I thank you for the privilege to be part of your work. I declare that I am the bearer of others' burdens. I am an intercessor. I declare that I am standing firm, mature and complete in all of your will for me in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

THE BLESSING OF HAVING THE SPIRIT

DAY 37

TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 2:12 (KJV) "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

One of the things the Holy Ghost does is to enlighten us. In partnership and participation with the Holy Ghost, we are able to see the provision of God for us. The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is the one who opens our eyes to insight, concepts and ideas. He shines light on dark paths that only by the Spirit can a man walk through. There is an ability and insight that only the Holy Ghost gives. The implication of this is that, when you got born again and you received the Spirit, He did more than impart to you the ability to speak in tongues. He also became your access to unlimited realm of knowledge!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, believers are saved, filled, sealed, and sanctified. The Holy Spirit reveals God's thoughts, teaches and guides believers into all truth, including the knowledge of what is to come. The Holy Spirit also helps us in our weakness and intercedes for us. In the ancient world, a seal was a "legal signature" attesting ownership and validating what was sealed.

The Holy Spirit is our mark of adoption as God's children. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us so that we could be confident in our salvation.

Just as you might make a deposit or a down payment on a new car to make sure the salesperson doesn't sell it to anyone else, the Holy Spirit is a deposit in our lives confirming the validity of Christ's purchase of our lives which He did by His blood and that means we now belong to Christ. The Holy Spirit guides us and protects us from physical and spiritual dangers. He is our inside-information. I urge you today, to be in full partnership with the Holy Ghost always.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for the Holy Ghost. I declare that I am sensitive to the leading of the Holy Ghost. I declare that I am obedient and I am in constant partnership with the Holy Ghost. I declare that I have a sound mind and I am full of the knowledge of God in the name of Jesus Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

TEXT: MARK 6:40 (KJV) "And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties."

PSALM 92. "Spiritual nourishment, strength and stability come from being rooted in a local assembly. The bible says the way to flourish is by being planted in the courts of our God."

If you aren't committed to any local church, you will miss out on many benefits promised in God's word. The Bible tells us that "those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing." (Ps. 92:13-14, NKJV).

In the passage above, the will of the Lord for His people is clearly stated. It is for them to be planted in His house; to have roots in a particular local church. Being planted requires more than church attendance. It means getting involved. It entails rolling up your sleeves and participating in the process of whatever is happening in that local assembly.

The word "planted" conveys the meaning of being stationary or permanent. When something is planted, it does not move around.

It is in a fixed location. For so long in the body of Christ we have had people who bounce around from church to church. This is not the plan of God for any believer.

Many of these same Christians travel from conference to conference but refuse to be planted. In their hearts and minds, the conferences they attend substitute for being planted in a local church. Conferences and seminars are wonderful and can benefit believers immensely, but they should never be considered a substitute for the local house of the Lord.

Other Christians thrive on spiritual food from televangelists but do not attend a local assembly. Staying home and watching someone preach is not "having church," nor does it signify that you are planted. TV ministries do not take the place off the local church. Are you rooted in faith and planted in one place or are you moving from one "happening" place to another? Nothing thrives in disorder. Order helps you make the right kind of progress and that's why before Jesus miraculously fed the people, He commanded them to be in Order!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for the different ministry gifts you gave to the church. I declare that I am an active part of a local assembly and I serve and add to the growth of the local assembly. I declare that I am a person of order. I do the right thing at the right time and I am at the right place at the right time in the name of Jesus.

Pastor Joseph Ice

TEXT: ROMANS 8:28-30(KJV) ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

God has a purpose and plan for you. His plans are sure, true and faithful. This doesn't mean that you will never experience problems or trials in life, but you do have an eternal future in Christ spiritually. God's plan for you is to prosper and grow spiritually in Christ in the very situation you are in right now. Verse 28 of the text above makes it clear that while we may not understand everything happening to us, there is a grand plan in play. God is working behind the scenes to ensure that all things work together for our good! God's plans for you are sure; God's plans for you are great. What plans have you made? Are they going as planned? We should consider our plans in light of God's plan. God's plans for you are sure, true and faithful.

We all make plans in life regarding the future. Don't we? But not all of our plans work out the way we want. We become influenced by people, circumstances, and opportunities. We all make choices - good and bad choices, and they can influence whether we succeed with our plans or not. I must note however that the plans we make are based on our limited knowledge and are often inspired by our self-interest and can change as our interests or circumstances change. But this is never the same with the plan of God. His plan for you is grand and unchanging even if you refuse to walk in his plan for your life. Therefore, we must learn to line up our plans with God's plan.

You may be asking, "How can I know the plans of God?" Well, it is not difficult. You can know the plans of God by checking through His word, by praying and partnering with the Holy Ghost.

You are not an after-thought. God has a plan for you. You are not an accident; you were pre-planned and provided for. Walk worthy of your calling today!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for your love to me. Today, I am reminded that I am not an after-thought. You have a plan for me and your plans are of good and not of evil. Therefore, I declare that my thoughts, my deeds and plans are lined up with your plans for me. I declare that I do not walk outside of your plans in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

THE POWER OF SIGHT

DAY 40

TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 2:12 (KJV) "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

One of the things the Holy Ghost does is enlighten us. Your major leverage on earth is Sight. It is called "the force of Vision." What you can see in life is what you get. The Spirit of God in you helps you to know and understand things supernaturally. With the Spirit of God, you know what to do. When faced with a situation, any kind of situation at all, you have no business speaking like the people of this world, because you have an inside information in the person of the Holy Ghost. He is here to show you things that God has in store for you. He is your access to revelation and vision.

Of course, the things of the Spirit don't fall on your laps like ripe mango fruits. You have got a part to play if you must walk in the benefits of these realities. And your path is nothing but your "faith response." Anything you believe you have, you will naturally act upon; except if you don't believe it. Faith is the Key to turning on the supernatural in your life.

Your Faith has a lot to do with what you see and by that, I don't mean seeing natural circumstances. I mean seeing what God has done and made available for you in the covenant. You must see it to experience a fulfillment of it. If your mind is full of it, opportunities and provisions will be created for your hand to handle. In partnership and participation with the Holy Ghost, we see clearly the provisions of God for us!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for your Spirit in me. I declare that the eyes of my understanding are flooded with light and I know the things that you have freely given to me. I declare that my mind is full of your word; therefore I receive all the provision you have in store for me in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

THE BLESSING OF ORDER

DAY 41

TEXT: MARK 6:39-42 (KJV) ³⁹ And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass.⁴⁰ And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties.⁴¹ And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all.⁴² And they did all eat, and were filled. "And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties."

Nothing thrives in disorder. Order helps you make the right kind of progress and that's why before Jesus miraculously fed the people, He commanded them to be in Order. There are certain miracles and workings of the Spirit of God that you won't experience in your life until a certain level of order comes into place.

After you have received the Life of Christ, you should be disciplined. A disorganised person is a defeated person, and no matter who you are, as long as you aren't organised well enough, you will never accomplish as much as you are capable of. If we're always disorganized, we'll never accomplish everything God wants us to do. Order helps things grow in a constructive and measurable manner.

Jesus was ready to work Miracles to feed the people of God. The power of God was ready to move into action but one thing needed to be in place – Order.

From experience, I know that being organised isn't something that just happens. For most of us, it takes determination and discipline. The Bible says, "He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding" (Proverbs 15:32). God doesn't want you to be ineffective and disorganised; unable to accomplish all you should. Instead, He wants to help you become more organised and disciplined so He can fully fulfill his plans for your life.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. Thank you for being the perfect example of how I should live. You are the God of Order. Therefore I declare today and always that I am a person of order. I do the right thing at the right time, I say the right thing and I am always at the right place. I declare that I thrive and flourish in every way in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOU

DAY 42

TEXT: ACTS 4:28 (KJV) "For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done."

Both the Old and New Testaments reveal God's love and promise of hope and a future for those who are faithful and call out to the Lord. God does not stop us from making bad decisions. He does not turn His back on us forever, even if we have turned our backs on Him. God has a plan for you. You are not an accident. You were pre-planned and provided for. Walk Worthy of your calling today!

God has a purpose and plan for you. This means that nothing just happens. There is always a big picture. He specialises in working behind the scenes. I don't care if you were born out of wedlock; you are far from being a biological accident. That was just a means of getting you here. And now that you are here, it makes all the sense in the world to ask, "God, why did you put me here on Earth?" "What is my assignment?" His plans are sure, true and faithful. This doesn't mean that you will never experience problems or trials in life but you do have an eternal future in Christ spiritually. God's plan for you is to prosper and grow spiritually in Christ in the very situation you are in right now.

What plans have you made? Are they going as planned? We should consider our plans in light of God's plan for our lives because regardless of how grand our plans are, they can never be more blessed than God's plans for our lives. It is blessed when you find God's plan and begin to walk and work in it. You are not a product of chance. You were born for a reason!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I give you thanks for your faithfulness to me. Thank you for your good and marvelous plan for my life. I enthrone you high both in the time of trouble and in the time of abundance. I choose to trust you Lord. There is no other way and no other one except you. I declare that I consider my plans in light of your plans for me in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 3:3 (KJV) "For we are the circumcision, which worships God in the spirit, and rejoices in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."

The Crux of New Testament worship is the Spirit. Our worship should be stripped of everything worldly and fleshy. If we are to worship acceptably, we must seek to find out God's preferred way of worship and do so accordingly. Let us learn to worship in Spirit and truth. No more fleshly worship! Jesus said, "the Father seeks those who will worship Him in Spirit and in Truth."

To say that we must worship God "in spirit" means among other things, that it must originate from the Spirit of God. It must flow from deep within us; from the heart. It must be sincere, motivated by our love for God and gratitude for all He is and has done. Worship cannot be mechanical or formalistic. Our worship must be infused with heartfelt commitment, faith, love and zeal. New Testament Worship isn't first the music. It is first the Life before the music or any other expression. It is a life from which every other thing flows from.

This worship, however, must also be "in truth." Our worship must be rooted in the realities of biblical revelation.

That something sounds religious doesn't necessarily mean that it is correct. God forbid that we should ever sing heresy. Worship is not meant to be formed by what feels good, but by the light of what's true. Genuine, Christ-exalting worship must never be mindless or based on feelings but on the truth of God's word. It must be doctrinally grounded and focused on the truth of all we know of our great God.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, thank you for today. I thank you for making me worthy to worship you. I declare that I worship you the right way and the way you want - in Spirit and in Truth. I declare that my mind is open to knowledge and to the light of your word. I declare that I am a true worshipper and I worship in Spirit and in Truth in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

TEXT: TITUS 3:8 (KJV) "This is a faithful saying and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men."

While we are not saved by good works, we are saved unto good works! This means that your good can include that which you do at work, in the classroom, on the football field, in your neighbourhood, and in your community associations. If you're a boss, part of your "good" involves the way you manage your employees. The more we grow in our faith, the more we will want to do everything to please our Lord Jesus.; by his strength, under his authority, and for his purposes.

"Good works" do not only refer to religious activities; it is what we do in our day-to-day operations. Therefore, allow your light to so shine for men to see for it is profitable both now and in the life to come. The Apostle says to be careful to maintain good works. This means, it doesn't happen haphazardly. To do good works, we must be deliberate. There is a measure of intentionality that must be put in place to clearly maintain good works.

This means, if you and I are to work the works of God and thrive on maintaining good works, you must be constantly vigilant. Take a pause for a minute and take stock of your life. Are you thriving towards good works? Is your heart open and positioned to allow your light shine brightly? Nobody makes consistent notable progress by accident. And you won't be an exception! Therefore, brace up and take responsibility for the outcome of your walk with God!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I declare that through your help, I walk in the good works you have in store for me. Help me to be open to all that you would have me do. Teach me to see my whole life as you see it. By your Spirit, may I come to see every moment of every day as an occasion to do good works. Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 3:3 (KJV) "For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."

The Apostle Paul promoted salvation by faith, not by following Jewish customs. As the most obvious physical sign of Judaism, circumcision is often used as a metaphor for the entire Old Testament Law in which man had all manner of religious rites to perform until some people removed their gaze and confidence in God and moved it to their performance. Some even became arrogant, judging and calling others sinners whom they felt did not "perform" as much as they did. Our opening text refers to all such as having "confidence in the flesh."

However, there is a sharp contrast made between the people of the Old Testament and the people in the New Testament who are of faith. As touching the saints who have put their faith in the finished works of Christ instead of the law, true followers of Jesus are marked by true worship. First, their worship is spiritual and recognizable by a focus on the Holy Spirit's work in their lives as they continually look at the perfect sacrifice of Jesus that sets men right with God.

They put their faith and worship in Christ, not the law. The Old Testament law looked forward to the Messiah, but did not know who He would be neither was it able to recognize Him when He showed up. Sadly, many people are still lost in activities today without having a clear picture of the crucified Christ before them. As for us believers, we glory only in Christ Jesus, who had been revealed as the Son of God.

The crux of New Testament worship is the Spirit. Unlike the old Covenant where people wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them occasionally, we in the New Testament have the Holy Spirit in-dwelling us. Therefore, we are not permitted to worship in the flesh. Our confidence is not in any of our performance because we have a humbling understanding that there is nothing we have achieved that the Lord didn't empower us to. So there is absolutely no room for boasting. Let us learn to worship in Spirit and truth. No more fleshly worship!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for your Spirit that lives in me. I declare that I am a true worshipper. I declare that I worship in spirit and in truth. I declare that I am guided by the Holy Spirit at all times. I declare that I am wise and I am full of the blessings of God through Christ in the name of Jesus.

Pastor Joseph Ice

TEXT: TITUS 3:8 (KJV) "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men."

The biblical definition of "good works" is not merely "good deeds." Biblical "good works" encompass every aspect of our thinking and conduct before God. The Christian's good works are rooted in Christ, and have purposes that God ordained before the world began.

Good works encompass not only caring for the poor but behaving in a godly way toward your employer. Good works encompass not only giving to the work and ministry of the church but truly loving those within it. Good works encompass not only distributing Bibles to those who have none, but seeking to understand, believe, and live everything that is between the covers yourself.

There is a "signature conduct" that the world should see in every true Christian. The world that seeks to criticise us should have its mouth stopped because it sees this kind of new life in us.

Good works are an integral part of God's eternal plan, and therefore they are our highest responsibility.

Ephesians 2:10 makes it clear to us that God has from the foundations prepared some works for us to walk in. This means that good works are not man-made ideas. They are God-founded and God-funded. It is pleasing to God that we walk circumspectly under the influence of the Holy Spirit in a world full of lies, evil and deceit.

While we are not saved by good works, we are saved unto good works. Therefore, allow your light to so shine for men to see, for it is profitable both now and in the life to come. This is necessary because there are some men who will not believe until they see your good works. That is why the scripture says, "By their fruits you shall know them." Your good works are part of your identity. We are not saved by good works but we are saved unto good works. We are saved by faith and now this same faith propels us into acts of kindness and goodness sponsored by the life of Christ in our nature.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I declare that I let my light so shine before men that they see my good works and remember that I mirror you and ultimately put their faith in you. I thank you for making me a light in the world. I declare that I shine my God colours everywhere. I declare that I bring goodness and hope to everyone around me in the name of Jesus Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

TEXT: JOHN 7:37-39(KJV) ³⁷ In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.³⁸ He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.³⁹ (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

There is such a huge difference between a tank and a river. A tank has to be filled or collect from the outside in order to retain water. It is not self-renewing and can run dry with usage. On the other hand, a flowing river has water that bubbles up under its own pressure with its cool and refreshing blessing. A river is self-sustaining as its sources are multiple and it does not need any man to refill it. This is the picture of a Spirit filled, Spirit-led believer. You are not called to be at the mercy of men. Your fatherly father designed you with a river of refreshing in-built inside of you. This river represents possibilities.

Just like the analogy between a tank and a river, this same difference exists between a person trying to be spiritual based on his or her own efforts and a Spirit-filled person. When we become Christians, Jesus blesses us with His Spirit. The Spirit's presence and power in our lives make all the difference in the world. As a matter of fact, the best of you cannot come out when you are dependent on your efforts. And I don't care how well-meaning your efforts are, without the empowerment of the Spirit, you are just like that tank that dries up after a little patronage. However, this does not have to be your reality. You are made for so much more!

The Holy Spirit is living water inside of us, renewing us, refreshing us, empowering us, satisfying our spiritual thirst, and giving us life. Living for Jesus is more than just a spiritual commitment on our part requiring our effort; it also depends on the gift and the blessing of Jesus enabled by His spirit in us. As a believer, you are a working, walking, talking and moving bank of possibilities! The Holy Ghost inside of you makes you unlimited. Stir up this River Spirit.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. The gift of your Son who died for my sins is such a gracious and wonderful blessing. And the gift of your Holy Spirit, given to me by your Son Jesus is such a daily treasure and sustaining grace. For these gifts; the two greatest of my life, I give you thanks and praise. I declare that I dedicate my life to your service in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

THE POWER OF CHOICE

DAY 48

TEXT: MATTHEW 6:24 (KJV) "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Service means to "belong wholly and be entirely under command to." And in the scripture above, it is said that one cannot serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Even if the two masters be of the same character and have one purpose, the servant must take sides with one above the other. He may try as much as possible to serve both of them but in a matter of loyalty, he will definitely be more loyal to one than the other.

As in the text above, their interests are significantly different and even conflicting. In this case, if our affections be in the service of God - if we love God, we must of necessity hate the other. If we determine to hold to the one, we must at the same time disregard the other. The thing to note here is that life is driven by the Law of Cause and Effect. For every choice you make, there is usually a resultant effect. We are all slaves to something or someone. The only defining factor is that we get to choose who our master is.

If you choose to serve God, then God becomes your master and if you choose Mammon, then you have also chosen your master and the resultant effects that come with that.

The gospel reminds us that God is the greatest among them all. No one can afford his eternal love for us for it is priceless. God is the center of our lives, not the money and material things that revolve around us. Life is always a choice! You are empowered to choose and to stand by the benefits or consequences of your choice. "Choose this day whom you will serve," was Joshua's admonition to the children of Israel. And I ask you today, "Who is your master?" Remember that to whomsoever you yield yourself to serve then to that that person you have become a servant.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for your priceless and incomparable love for me. Today I have been reminded that life is a product of cause and effect. I declare that I make the right decisions. I yield myself completely and totally to you now and always in the name of Jesus. I declare that I am a god over money in the name of Jesus.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

TEXT: ISAIAH 32:15-17 (KJV) ¹⁵ Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest. ¹⁶ Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field. ¹⁷ And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever."

The people of Israel were the people of God, whom He called into a covenant relationship with Himself to be a light to the gentiles. And although they broke their covenant, despised their birthright, murmured against God, disobeyed His law, and served the false gods of the surrounding pagan, gentile nations, the Lord is gracious and good. He is merciful and of great kindness to His people, Israel.

Nevertheless, God in His grace and mercy has also promised to bring them back into a right relationship with Himself. He has promised to forgive their sins and to usher in a time of peace, prosperity, justice, and righteousness. The Bible in our text above talks about "the effect of righteousness." That is to say that righteousness is more than a word. It has effects (proof, signs, products etc.) Righteousness leads to life and peace.

It makes you an overcomer in this life and in the life which is to come. The scripture makes it clear to us that righteousness does not only exalt a person but also a nation. It is this kind of blessing that the text above says will come upon us once the Spirit has been poured upon us. This coming blessing will be heralded by the outpouring of God's Spirit upon the earth. There is something supernatural about the Person and out-working of the Holy Spirit upon a person, place or thing.

The good news is that the Spirit has been poured upon us from on high. We are not waiting for the Spirit to be poured upon us. We have been redeemed, forgiven and we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Hallelujah. The Spirit is resident in us always. We are no longer waiting for His outpour. He is already here and upon us. His presence is meant to herald a new experience for all those who have received Him. An experience characterised by fruitfulness and progress, peace and stability. However, the reality is that there are many people who are Spirit-filled and don't seem to experience any of the wonderful blessings I have described above simply because they don't understand how to make it work. It is important to note here that the blessings of God are generally voice-activated. As it relates to the outpouring of the Spirit, the way to make it work for you is to pray extensively in the Holy Ghost and insist in faith upon the provisions of God until you experience it. That is why in writing to Timothy, Paul charged him to stir up the gifts of God that were in him, and that is also how you are to stir up the gift of God in you.

Now stir the Spirit within you by praying in the Holy Ghost and experience real rest.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for the redemptive plan that led to my salvation and forgiveness. I declare that I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. I am dead to sin and alive in Christ. Sin has no power and hold on me. I declare that I lead a peaceful and quiet life in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ace

TEXT: JOHN 7:37-39 (KJV) ³⁷ In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.³⁸ He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. ³⁹ (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

As a believer, you are a walking, talking and moving bank of possibilities! Shakaba! You hold within you the limitless possibilities of endless miracles! Jesus said and I dare you to believe Him because it is true what he says, that out of your belly; from deep within you are rivers. Not rivers of dead waters but of living waters. This river gives life everywhere it turns. It holds the key to abundance. I like what verse 39 says. It makes it clear to us that this "river" Jesus is talking about is the Holy ghost. Hallelujah! And this river is in you! This water in you doesn't have an end. It is an everlasting flow. The question is, "To what extent will you allow it to flow?"

As a true spring is ever supplied with water from the great deep, so shall the soul of the genuine believer be supplied with light, life, love, liberty, and all the other graces of the Spirit and Christ. My point here is this: times of refreshing are not based on external factors. They are buried with the believer and as you begin to speak in tongues, you then begin to experience this flow of the Spirit.

This water in you should flow and give life to everything you do, to everything on your path. It is the Holy Ghost inside of you that makes things possible. The Holy Ghost inside of you makes you unlimited. Therefore, stir up this river by praying extensively and continually in the Holy Ghost.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. Thank You for Jesus who is the living water and for the indwelling Holy Spirit Who becomes a well of water, springing up into everlasting life for whosoever will believe in Christ for the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. To Him be all praise and glory forever and ever. I declare that I am not without help and consistently I flow out with life. I declare that I know what to do and how to do in the name of Jesus. I am not stranded for I am ladened with answers in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

Pastor Joseph Ice

TEXT: MATTHEW 6:24 (KJV) "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Beloved, be careful of Mammon. It makes a good servant, but a bad and wicked master. It is funny, yet thought-provoking that, no other thing was placed side by side with God except Mammon. It shows how powerful it is in a person's life and the world we live in today. To loosely put it, Mammon represents money. And money is never paper. Money is a value system captured in paper form. When you work and at the end of the month you are paid a salary. What they are simply telling you is, "This is how much we value your worth."

You may be wondering if God is against you having money. The answer to that is a resounding NO! What God has a problem with is when one chooses money over Him. Yes! It is possible to exalt money over God. You may not be doing it intentionally; however, if you do not take God as serious as you take money related issues, you have chosen your master. In the text above, Jesus is dealing with the subject of priorities.

And that's what it boils down to. Life is about priority; about what you place the most value upon. Your decisions reflect priorities. Whether to come late to church or stay at home on Sunday morning is a reflection of what matters most to you! But the good news is that, through the power of the Spirit, Mammon can be tamed. You can come to a place where you are totally sold out to God that money is only seen as a tool, a mere servant and nothing more. At this level, you only make use of money but your undivided attention and allegiance is to God! You have the power to master money.

Life is always about choices! You are empowered to choose. And in reality, you actually choose to choose. No one makes that choice for you. As I would always say, "What you can choose is to make a choice but never the consequences of that choice, therefore, choose wisely." Choose this day whom you will serve: Money or God.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for the privilege of making a choice to master Mammon. Today I declare that you are my God and master, I do not work for money, money works for me. I place you above money and material things. I declare that I am a god over money and money responds to me now in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

TEXT: ISAIAH 32 (KJV) ¹⁵ Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest.¹⁷ And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever.

The good news is that the Spirit has been poured upon us from on high. He makes the difference in everything we do! The Holy Ghost is Life literally. He is responsible for progress. In Genesis, when God said, "Light be," it was the Holy Ghost who went into action to ensure that word did not fall to the ground. He is the one who changed the equation in the game of Life. Our text above reveals what great advantage we stand to enjoy when the Holy Ghost is at work. The preceding verses represented hopeless situations and circumstances but not until the Spirit came on the scene. Those issues in your life will change the moment the Holy Ghost swings into action. Let this river of life into your heart, your field and your situation and record progress like never before. Give room for the Holy Spirit today!

What makes the difference in what we do is the Holy Ghost residing in us, unlike the Old Testament where people had to wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them.

The Holy Ghost affects both animate and in-animate beings. And in a deeper level, everything is actually alive where the Spirit of God is concerned. Weak and beggarly men become extraordinary at the instant of the Spirit of God. But Glory to God! We have the Holy Ghost resident in us as new creations! By implication, we can be extraordinary every time, every day. Hallelujah. The spirit makes impossibilities possible. Now stir the Spirit within you by praying in the Holy Ghost and experience real refreshing rest!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for the precious gift of your Spirit indwelling me today. I declare that I thrive, flourish and blossom everywhere I turn in the name of Jesus. I walk by faith and not by sight, I am led by streams of refreshing waters, and my mind is fruitful and productive. I declare that every form of darkness is dispelled right now in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

TEXT: 1 THESSALONIANS 2:13 (KJV) "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

Jesus was Word become flesh. His life was a life living out God's Way perfectly. All His life, He obeyed God's will and exalted the words in the Scripture. Even at the threat of death, He ensured He fulfilled every word on Him. Therefore, exalting Christ naturally entails following His example in treating God's words seriously. Heaven and earth will pass away, but God's words will never pass away. We can lose our limbs, our Jobs, and like Job, our family, wealth and possessions but we cannot afford to disobey God's words. It is costly!

There is an attitude with which you receive God's word - even when it is preached to you by men, you know that it is God's word coming to you through men that He (God) has sent your way. Honour and revere the word and watch your life change for the best!

The good thing about God's word is that, He brings with Him an ability to perform.

What I am saying is this; you don't have to struggle with pleasing God and doing His word. He supplies you with ability to practice what He talks about. Your part is to simply respond in faith. And like we always say, "Faith does not make things easy necessarily, but faith makes things possible!" So I am not saying that in walking by faith you will not be tempted, because you definitely will, but the good news is that victory is assured! Hallelujah!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. Thank you for your ever-dependable and ever-reliable word. I declare that I receive your word with the highest reverence and I honour your word always. I declare that I do not merely listen to your word but I do what it says, whether it be convenient or not. I choose your will, plan and purpose over mine today and always in the name of Jesus! Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ace

TEXT: 1 THESSALONIANS 2:13 (KJV) "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

Paul expressed his unceasing gratitude that the Thessalonian Christians had responded with faith when he preached to them. They accepted what he said as God's Word and not the word of men. Paul understood that the Word of God had taken hold of their lives and was bearing spiritual fruit. And that is one notable sign that the word of the Lord has gained entrance and root in the heart of any man. There will always be evidence of positive change in the life of anyone who receives the word and is open towards it. This is why in Christianity we say that you are permitted to come as you are but you are not permitted to remain as you are. Why? God's word brings about real and transformational change.

There is an unstoppable power of God's Word in the life of the person who gives it a warm reception. It causes that person to be "...like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season..." (Psalm 1:3).

This acceptance is not meant to be blind or baseless. It is also not an emotional thing. As a matter of fact, the Bible specifically commends those who seek to confirm the truth of what they hear. Paul the Apostle said of the Berean Christians that they were more honourable simply because they made a practice of researching everything they were being taught at the open places of worship. In other words, they were not the kind of people who swallowed everything; hook, line and sinker. They were not the kind of people who went about saying, "My pastor said, my pastor said" without having the same understanding with their pastor. There is a right posture with which to you receive God's word!

There is an attitude of readiness and excitement with which God's word is received even when it is preached to you by men. You don't receive it as the opinion of the preacher but as the very word of God spoken to you by His messengers. It yet is God's word! Honour and revere the word and watch your life change for the best! You also cannot receive the word with honour without honouring the one bringing the word. There is an effective working that comes with receiving God's word and opening up one's life to the authority of that word.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for your word to me. I declare that my heart is disposed to and my mind is receptive of your word. I declare that I receive your word with all reverence and honour. I honour your word and I honour those that bring your word to me in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT? 1

DAY 55

TEXT: JONAH 2:8 (KJV) "They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy."

I can talk about this all day, every day. This is one of my favorite concepts about life - the matter of perspectives. The truth of the matter is that life is a function of perspective. What you see is what you get. Some young people keep looking at many examples of failed and failing marriages and they wonder why they keep having phobia for marriage. Again I want to repeat, what you see is what you get. Perspective is everything!

Observing lying vanities is placing a premium on the happenings around you rather than on God's Word. To do that is to forsake your mercy, because with God, Mercy always triumphs over judgment. Your deliverance is in what God has said. Your breakthrough is in God's Word. Set your gaze on God and his promises for you.

If you exalt sickness, symptoms and doctors' reports over God's Word, you are observing lying vanities. If you exalt economic report over your supernatural supply, you are observing lying vanities. God is merciful, and I dare you to believe for His mercy. I don't care how bad and deep the pit you are in is,

everything that you are going through that is contrary to the word of God is called "lying vanities." And right now as you are reading, I declare to you that the lifting power of God is changing your story now in the name of Jesus. Don't observe lying vanities, rather lift up your eyes and receive mercy in the name of Jesus.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for understanding and wisdom to not use the circumstances around me to validate your faithfulness. Therefore, I boldly declare that I am mightily helped of God in the name of Jesus. I declare that I am open to receive the mercies of God for me today and always concerning all facets of my life in the name of Jesus. I receive the help of God in all ramifications in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

TEXT: JONAH 2:8 (KJV) "They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy."

In this text we have just read is a very profound truth. The text is short and straight to the point but the truth it carries is mind boggling. Jonah thought that he could run from the call of God and still experience fulfillment. You are mistaken if you think that you can run from the call of God upon your life without experiencing the negative consequences of your actions. The gifts and the callings of God are without repentance. He thought that he could escape from the presence of God. That he could find a place which was forsaken by God, a place where God wasn't but how greatly mistaken this prophet of God was. Fulfillment, true and lasting success is embedded in God's will for you per time. And it is in your best interest to see that will and walk in it.

We sometimes think that our way is better than God's way. These are the lying vanities that brought upon him all of the misery and discomfort. However, God is merciful and God's ways are best. God's will for your life is the best thing that could ever happen to you. You will never be content or satisfied with anything less.

To try to run from the call of God is only to invite calamity into your life. Jonah has since proven to us that that way does not work at all.

In Jeremiah God said to the people, "I know my thoughts concerning you, they are peace and not evil, to bring you to an expected or a desirable end" (Emphasis mine). The people had chosen a path that would bring them war and destruction by the Babylonians, God's designs for them were of peace. God's designs for you are good; they are for peace and not evil. For you to observe lying vanity is to forsake your own mercy. Lying vanities could also represent any and everything that is contrary to the will of God for your life. It may be a doctor's report. You might be holding the paper in your hand but if it does not tally with God's word for your life, then refuse it. Don't pay attention to it. It is lying vanity.

What are you looking at? Where are your eyes fixed upon? I don't care how bad and deep the pit you are in is; everything that you are going through that is contrary to the word of God is called "lying vanities." Don't observe them, rather in the midst of your situation, do what Jonah in the belly of the fish did; look to the mercy of God. It doesn't matter how bad the situation looks, lift up your eyes and look towards the throne of God. There is grace and mercy flowing towards you. What you look towards is what you see and not the other way round. See God in his Mercy and grace today and experience real help.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for your goodness and mercies. I declare that I fix my eyes on you. My heart, my thoughts and my conversations daily bring you glory. I declare that I stay true to your gifts and calling for my life. I declare that I choose obedience over preference and convenience. I declare that I am obedient. I go where you send me and I do your biddings in the name of Jesus. Amen

Pastor. Joseph Ice

TEXT: 1 THESSALONIANS 2:13 (KJV) “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”

Paul expressed his unceasing gratitude that the Thessalonian Christians had responded with faith when he preached to them. They accepted what he said as God's Word and not the word of men. Paul understood that the Word of God had taken hold of their lives and was bearing spiritual fruit. And that is one notable sign that the word of the Lord has gained entrance and root in the heart of any man. There will always be evidence of positive change in the life of anyone who receives the word and is open to it. This is why in Christianity we say that you are permitted to come as you are but you are not permitted to remain as you are. Why? God's word brings about real and transformational change.

There is an unstoppable power of God's Word in the life of the person who gives it a warm reception. It causes that person to be “...like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season...” (Psalm 1:3).

This acceptance is not meant to be blind or baseless. It is also not an emotional thing. As a matter of fact, the Bible specifically commends those who seek to confirm the truth of what they hear. Paul the Apostle said of the Berean Christians that they were more honourable simply because they made a practice of researching everything they were being taught at the open places of worship. In other words, they were not the kind of people who swallowed everything; hook, line and sinker. They were not the kind of people who went about saying, "My pastor said, my pastor said" without having the same understanding with their pastor. There is a right posture with which to you receive God's word!

There is an attitude of readiness and excitement with which God's word is received even when it is preached to you by men. You don't receive it as the opinion of the preacher but as the very word of God spoken to you by His messengers. It yet is God's word! Honour and revere the word and watch your life change for the best! You also cannot receive the word with honour without honouring the one bringing the word. There is an effective working that comes with receiving God's word and opening up one's life to the authority of that word.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for your word to me. I declare that my heart is disposed to and my mind is receptive to your word. I declare that I receive your word with all reverence and honour. I honour your word and I honour those that bring your word to me in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

FIXING YOUR EYES ON THE MERCY OF GOD

DAY 58

TEXT: JONAH 2:8 (KJV) "They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy."

In this text we have just read is a very profound truth. The text is short and straight to the point but the truth it carries is mind-boggling. Jonah thought that he could run from the call of God and still experience fulfilment. You are mistaken if you think that you can run from the call of God upon your life without experiencing the negative consequences of your actions. The gifts and the callings of God are without repentance. He thought that he could escape from the presence of God. That he could find a place which was forsaken by God, a place where God wasn't but how greatly mistaken this prophet of God was. Fulfilment and true and lasting success is embedded in God's will for you per time. And it is in your best interest to see that will and walk in it.

We sometimes think that our way is better than God's way. These are the lying vanities that brought upon him all of the misery and discomfort. However, God is merciful and God's ways are the best. God's will for your life is the best thing that could ever happen to you. You will never be content or satisfied with anything less.

To try to run from the call of God is only to invite calamity into your life. Jonah has since proven to us that that way does not work at all.

In Jeremiah God said to the people, "I know my thoughts concerning you, they are peace and not evil, to bring you to an expected or a desirable end" (Emphasis mine). The people had chosen a path that would bring them war and destruction by the Babylonians, God's designs for them were of peace. God's designs for you are good; they are for peace and not evil. For you to observe lying vanity is to forsake your mercy. Lying vanities could also represent any and everything contrary to the will of God for your life. It may be a doctor's report. You might be holding the paper in your hand but if it does not tally with God's word for your life, then refuse it. Don't pay attention to it. It is lying vanity.

What are you looking at? Where are your eyes fixed upon? I don't care how bad and deep the pit you are in is; everything that you are going through that is contrary to the word of God is called "lying vanities." Don't observe them, rather amid your situation, do what Jonah in the belly of the fish did; look to the mercy of God. It doesn't matter how bad the situation looks, lift your eyes and look towards the throne of God. Grace and mercy are flowing towards you. What you look towards is what you see and not the other way round. See God in his Mercy and grace today and experience real help.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I thank you for your goodness and mercies. I declare that I fix my eyes on you. My heart, my thoughts and my conversations daily bring you glory. I declare that I stay true to your gifts and calling for my life. I declare that I choose obedience over preference and convenience. I declare that I am obedient. I go where you send me and I do your biddings in the name of Jesus. Amen

Pastor. Joseph Ice

HE WHO HAS THE SON

DAY 59

TEXT: 1JOHN 5:12&13 (KJV) ¹² He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.¹³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

These verses above further provide us with biblical evidence that eternal life is found only in Christ Jesus for He is the eternal Son of God and perfect Son of Man.

Men search in many places outside of Christ to discover eternal life. It is not found in good works, denominational membership, philosophic teachings, scientific discovery, religious leanings, educational qualifications, legalistic practices, genetic modification or any of man's attempts to attain perfection and everlasting life outside of God's declared way.

Our salvation is by grace through faith in Christ's finished work on the cross. Forgiveness of sins and Eternal life are two of the many heavenly benefits that every sinner who truly believes receives - by grace, through faith in the only begotten Son of God.

The Lord Jesus was declared to be the Son of God at His baptism when the Holy Spirit descended on Him and a voice from heaven was heard to say, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." He also proved to be the Son of God at the cross.

God Himself is witness to the world that he who has the Son has eternal life and he who does not have the Son of God does not have eternal life for eternal life is only in Jesus Christ the Son of God. Those who believe God's witness of Christ have His resurrected life within them, but those who have rejected God's witness are already condemned themselves because they have not believed in the only begotten Son of God.

Do you have the Son? Have you received Jesus as your Lord and Saviour? If yes, then listen to me, you are not an ordinary person; you have the Life of God!

If not, well, become born again today. How? See Romans 10:8-10.

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. Whoever has the son has eternal life. Therefore I declare today that I am alive with the life of God. I have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and so there is no death on my path. I am satisfied with long life and I am full of the blessing of the Lord all the days of my life in the name of Jesus Amen.

Pastor Joseph Ice

ONLY BE WILLING AND OBEDIENT.

DAY 60

TEXT: ISAIAH 28:12 (TLB) "They could have rest in their own land if they would obey him if they were kind and good. He told them that, but they wouldn't listen to him."

To prosper, we must be both willing and obedient. Sometimes the Lord will tell us to do something and we obey, but we may do so grudgingly or with a bad attitude. This is like a child whose parent tells them to clean their room and they grumble but go ahead to clean it. In another instance, we may be willing to obey, but we postpone doing what He has instructed because it might mess up our schedule or inconvenience us. This is similar to a child who was told to clean the room and did not fuss but waited until they were told four or five times before they did it.

I have heard it said that "delayed obedience is disobedience in a measure." This is very critical because timing is very important in the realm of the Spirit. There is a reason why God wants you to do something at a particular time. If you don't respond to the timing of the Spirit, you might miss out on an opportunity of a lifetime. Recently, I heard a minister of the Gospel say that a week before the great healing evangelist, T. L. Osborn went home to be with the Lord,

the Spirit of God asked him to send seed to him and he responded. T. L. Osborn received the offering and prayed for him and a week later, he (T. L. Osborn) passed on to glory. Imagine what would have happened if he had decided to postpone it till the end of the month or even by just two weeks? So it is critical for us to have both a willing attitude and be timely and prompt in obeying God.

When our attitudes and actions line up with this scripture, we are promised rest. When this passage was written, people lived in an agricultural society in which many people were farmers or shepherds. So they understood what prosperity meant. To them, it meant they would partake of the good things in life. In our current day, we could say this means having such things as financial abundance, good health, good relationships, influence and affluence, and peace of mind.

The only outcome of being willing and obedient is good. There are too many benefits to pass on being willing and obedient. We can only benefit if we do as the Lord directs. There is no negative scenario here unless we are unwilling and/or disobedient. So let's commit to being willing at heart and in attitude and obedient in action. What has God commanded you to do? Promotion is in obedience and faithfulness. It's as you yield to his instructions that you enjoy rest!

CONFESSION

Dear Father, I thank you for today. I declare that my attitude and conduct line up with your word. The word is my guiding light each day. I declare that I am willing and obedient and I do whatever you want me to do and however you want it done. I declare that I follow the leading of the Spirit every day. I am prompt to do whatever you say and I go wherever you send in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor. Joseph Ice

ABOUT CHURCH

The Life Theatre Christian Centre (TLTCC) is a local assembly situated in Keffi, Nasarawa State, with a Branch in Akwanga, Nasarawa State. We believe in The Gospel of Christ. We exist as a ground and Pillar of truth, filling the earth with the beautiful message about the death burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, with signs and wonders following.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pastor Joseph Ice is the Lead pastor of the Life Theatre Christian Centre, currently headquartered in Keffi with a centre in Akwanga. He is an anointed teacher of God's word with attending signs and wonders following his ministry. He is a Pastor of pastors and a Leader of leaders. He is the founder and President of Global Impact Academy (GIA), a Leadership Development Training Centre. He holds a Bsc in Mass Communication from Nasarawa State University, Keffi and a BA in Biblical Studies from International Miracle Institute, Florida, USA. He is also an alumni of the prestigious DayStar Leadership Academy (DLA), Nigeria. Pastor Joseph Ice is married to Pastor Kristy and they are blessed with a daughter.

✉ tltccpublication@gmail.com

☎ +2347060996270, +2349021603504,
+234 706853654

📘 @thelifetheatreassembly

📧 @TLTCConline

📷 @tltcconline

