



grenepages

Issue 24

forget not his benefits

-Femi Babalola



what do you say?

-Toyin Seth-Ogungbe'

asking God; "why?"

-Tobi Olowookere

**God is
preparing
you**

-Ope Rowland

**nurturing
you II**

-Adeyinka Oresanya

www.grenepages.com

**why
vision?**

-Ibukun Abraham



20

why vision?

-Ibukun Abraham



8

what do you say?

-Toyin Seth-Ogungbe

4

nurtur

-Adeyin



16

for

10

asking God; "why?"

-Tobi Olowookere



God is

-O



24th word

*Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with
benefits, The God of our salvation! Psalm 68:19
KJV*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his
benefits. Psalm 103:2 KJV*

As nights turn into days and the years roll by,
do you see God's hand at work in your life? Do
you see him right now, preparing you for the
days and the years ahead?

The bible says he loads us with these benefits
and we cannot deny it. Perhaps, one way we
can show that we are ungrateful is to be un-
mindful of this goodness.

In this edition, let's cast our minds back on
how good the Father has been with lots of ap-
preciation. Let's fix our thoughts of what he
has in store - benefits that must not be forgot-
ten.

I'm glad to welcome you to [grenepages](#) once
again. The articles in here will be a blessing to
you.



get not his benefits

-Femi Babalola



12

preparing you
pe Rowland

Tobi Olowookere

nurture you II



Adeyinka Oresanya

THE DAUGHTER'S INSPIRATIONS

adeyinkaoresanya.com



ing

Homegirl,

Your mind...

How are you nurturing it?

Are you leaving it to its own devices,
some random elements out there or are
you simply leaving it to starve?

As I said, life examinations will come! It
had better met your mind prepared.

How else do you nurture your mind than
to consciously keep learning? No, I am not
talking about your academics or degree. I
am talking about daily increasing your
knowledge, broadening your perspec-
tives, changing your attitudes, improving
your skills and widening your horizon.

All these can only happen through read-
ing, listening to and watching people dis-
cuss and handle life topics.

Ha, please don't say you hate reading.

Reading is not for professors or scholars.

Reading is for leaders. Leaders are forward-
thinkers, progressives.

I am sure you would like to be one.

If you hate reading and stay away from it, it will
show in your life that you don't read.

Even Jesus asked the Pharisees and even his own
disciples whenever they are confused about some
issues, "Have you not read?"

He expected them to have knowledge and under-
standing of these things because the information
was available in the Scripture.

King Solomon, you remember him? That man had
all the trappings of success; so yeah, he could give
advice. He admonished us to buy wisdom and sell it
not.

There were the days when you had to walk the
length and breadth of libraries and bookshops just
to lay your hands on one book that discussed a top-
ic you are so much interested. You finally find it;
you buy and guard it jealously.

But we are a blessed generation today.

We have the Internet—free eBooks, blogs, graphic
books, comics, vlogs, YouTube—a jaw-dropping
wealth of information and affordable smart devices
to access them. Yet, it seems the more we have ac-
cess, the less we know things.

You are a 21st century girl, with the best smartphone your money can buy, yet you don't know how many continents are in the world and which particular one you currently live in.

You don't know what 'oesophagus' is.

You are about to be married, yet you don't know that where baby comes from is different from where urine passes every day.

You don't know what ovulation period is or how to calculate yours. You don't know that your discharge appears differently at different times of the month and that they mean different things.

You know next to nothing about your own body.

Some marriages have had delay in conception for years because of this simple information.

You want to be a notable speaker on issues one day. You want to be a woman making waves in the boardroom, achieving heights, yet Korean and Filipino movies are your best friends, spending 75% of your day together.

You want to be an excellent mom someday, whose children are praised for their intelligence and culture. Yet, you, their first and

natural role model do not have a grasp of any topic or language or etiquette.

Hey, you don't wanna be that mom whose child asked what the meaning of "transient" was and whose reply was, "Go and ask your daddy."

You will be indoctrinating your child that moms are dumb and only dads know things.

Just like the girl, who when amazed to see that her classmate's mom got an award for an achievement in her profession, commented, "I never knew moms usually get awards for anything, maybe my mom is just dumb because all she does all day is watch TV and play Candy Crush on her phone. She doesn't even know what 'transient' is."

Hey, it's okay to not know everything, but it's not okay to know NOTHING.

The best of them all is to KNOW SOMETHING about ALMOST EVERYTHING.

But this is not achieved in a day; it is a lifelong process.

Life examinations are coming soon. Girl, are you prepared?

Watch movies (even if they are Korean or Filipino, it's what you love that matters). Watch Fashion One, Spice TV, Star Gist, Jara etc. They are okay in their own right, but also take more time to read.

For example, read, listen to and watch notable/smart women like Jumoke Adenowo, Ibukun Awosika, Tara-Fela Durotoye, Oby Ezekwesili, TY Bello, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Funke-Felix Adejumo, Omilola Oshikoya, Lupita Nyong'o, Maya Angelou (of blessed memory), Sheryl Sandberg, Arianna Huffington, Michelle Obama, Hillary Clinton and many others.

Listen to them talk about how they handle life. Discover how so much alike you are in your realities and challenges as women. Learn what they have done differently to tackle stuff that came their way and how they became so much successful that they get standing ovation.

Watch them; YouTube videos are free! You only need to use the same MB you use to download those latest movies.

Read and listen to people discuss diverse topics on personal finance, emotional intelligence, race, gender equality, health, child-raising, nutrition, personal finance, even fashion and style. Read biographies, autobiographies and memoirs of successful people.

Please, tell me after three months how you feel about yourself and your world,

and how you fare in conversations, especially with intellectuals.

Please, let me know if your problem-solving skills have increased or not.

It is very important to nurture your mind consciously to its maximum growth and development in preparation for your purpose and realities in life.

Girl, it's not okay to just have dreams, you need to take conscious steps towards achieving it.

You can excel as a woman! You can excel in the classroom, boardroom, on the field, in the society, in the sitting room, kitchen and the other room(s).

However, you need an intelligent, forward-thinking, progressive and developing mind for all of that.

So use your smartphone maximally!

The best time to learn is now, especially when no one is really competing with you for your own time and space. By the time you are married, busy, and overscheduled, you will still find time to learn because it would have become essential to you like air, water and food.

Are you ready?


Please stay beautiful!

Your Homegirl,
Adeyinka Oresanya.
#tomyownhomegirl
#iamyourhomegirlstotalktome

what do you say!



Toyin Seth-Ogungbe
TEE-WAI
teewai.com



Totally glad to have my daddy back from his trip, I sat on his leg eagerly waiting for my goodies. He opened his bag and brought out a pack of my favourite snacks.

Excitedly, I grabbed the gift bag and rush off to my best spot in the house to enjoy my spoils. As I unwrapped the first snack, reaching for my first bite, mummy rushed towards me and grabbed it out of my hands.

Unfair!

She did not say a word for a while and I wondered what I had done this time as she looked at me anticipating something. My room must be scattered again, I thought to myself. Seeing as I was still silent, she sighed and spoke up, “T girl, what do you say to Daddy?”

Then the realization hit my small head, here we going again!

I had been trying to master this routine to no avail. Trying to stay straight faced, I quickly say, sorry mum. Rushing into daddy’s arms, I scream ‘thank you daddy’.

I marvel at how we all teach this and were taught but our reality is farfetched, as we

grow older. We complain more than we acknowledge the good in our lives. It appears, contentment is for the weak and happiness eludes us in our pursuit for more and more.

Why we so easily critic but grudgingly acknowledge and value the things that go great no matter how small? Why do parents expect a compliment but don’t give same to a child who has earned it. Why is God blamed and denounced for all the ills in the world; yet while in pain we pine to him for strength? Why will we love to be given yet conclude we don’t have enough to give in return?

Take time to zoom on the things that have gone better than you wished. Pay forward the kind deed you got yet didn’t earn. Laugh because you can. Forgive so you can smile again. There are so many **‘thank yous’** waiting to be delivered in this world. Release your share from the waiting room and give someone a reason to be happy today.

Now that I have taken time to write this, what do you say...?

asking God; "why?"



Tobi Olowookere
GRACEDPAGES

gracedpages.wordpress.com

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi lama sabachthani?” –which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Matthew 27:46 NIV

Did the scriptures say that Jesus asked God ‘why?’ Did he actually question the unquestionable God? I believe we, his followers can draw wisdom from this question of Christ at the highest point of his affliction on the cross.

Some accounts of the scriptures say that after he had said this, he gave up the ghost, suggesting a point of the heaviest pain when his mortal body could not stand the torture any longer. Little wonder, he was pushed to ask God ‘why?’

In our times of trouble, are we allowed to ask God why? Aren’t we taught that God is sovereign and that He does whatever he wishes with anyone at any time? This is true, but a point to remember always is that he is before anything else, a just God.

Unpleasant things often happen and men resort to fate, saying if God allows it, then that is how he wants it. This is not true. A simple ‘why’ conversation with God could reveal to you that it is not his will.

There are several issues that bring confusion to man on his pilgrimage on earth. To gain access to the truth- the ‘whys’ and the ‘hows’, which gives the clearest direction to live right, who else is to be inquired from if not God, the giver of life. The undoing of several people are not exactly the challenges that

they face, but the places where they go seeking answers from in the day of trouble.

When Jesus felt forsaken, he asked God. No one can provide a better explanation on how you feel, other than the one who made you. Again, Jesus modeled that.

We often have experiences that we pray never to have again. Yet, if we do not understand why they happened initially, they might happen again. Only the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth can help with that. So why not ask him “why?”

The fact that we call God unquestionable does not mean he is wicked, fierce, and unreasonably unapproachable. He is rather unquestionable because when he has done good to you, no man can query him. You can ask him why, not to question his authority, but to seek understanding.

He says come...

For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:8 NIV

If you need wisdom—if you want to know what God wants you to do—ask him, and he will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking. James 1:5 NLT

God is preparing you



Ope Rowland
THRIVE
operowland.blogspot.com

We often define and limit preparation by tasks and period. One is assumed prepared for one thing or the other when a generally prerequisite activity of sort has been carried out. However, this is just on the surface level. It is surface level because like beget like, and depth beget depth. The preparations limited to these certain activities are like coating a substance with sugar; it cannot have the same effect as sugar. When people base preparation on just prep up activities, the impact is thin and light when compared with being a prepared fellow.

A prepared fellow has become what he is preparing for and is still becoming more of it. Such sees it as beyond performance but an expression. He/she seeks not to impress but to impact.

You do not become that prepared by certain crash activities, as there are other things that prep you up without you knowing. There are many things in our daily lives, which subtly prepare us for what is ahead. We are prepared by everything and everyone that comes our way. Thus, when you limit it to certain events, you get limited preparation.

Our making is continuous, happening every day. Our life training does not have holidays or breaks. Even the supposed time off we might assume we have are part. It takes a lifetime to acquire all we need to function well. Thus, preparation for that full picture is continuous; it is a lifestyle-your lifestyle. To prepare for that future is to configure your lifestyle to fit it. You don't attempt to do a last-minute conformation; it will not work that way.

Preparation is not an event but a lifestyle. You configure your lifestyle by responding to life and all it throws at you from the viewpoint of where you are going while threading on the path that leads you there.

Your destination determines your path in life

While there are paths that might be common to people generally, the specific paths are often narrow, unique and low in traffic. To stick to your path is an indication of willingness to be prepared, as you cannot arrive at your destination without passing through your path.

Peradventure by one device or the other, one arrive at that destination without passing through the required path (if it's possible at all), such would have skipped so many lessons required to function effectively and efficiently at such destination.

We do not choose our paths because of reasons and feelings, rather our destination determine the path we have to take. You must journey that path before you reach that destination. Your successful management of the path usher you into that destiny. In fact, the destination is defined by your experiences on the path. So concentrate on the path, determined to manage it successfully and faithfully as it determines your destination. The path is your preparation; continuing on it is being prepared.

The path does not have one kind or a uniform topography. The features change overtime often without any definite pattern or warning.

There are the smooth portions of the path. You feel good about your journey and believe in your journey. The experiences are so pleasing, readily suggesting to you that you are on the right path. Your life is so balanced that you can assume an autopilot mode rarely stressed on any matter.

There are the rough portions with their attendants struggle. There is loss of time and speed. You sense the discomfort and the life noise coming at you could set you off balance. You are tempted to find fault and place some blames.

There are the hilly portions with obstacles and challenges ahead, which seem to be impossibilities. You keep climbing with much faith hoping that that you would soon reach the peak so that you can rest. You know you cannot rest until you reach that peak lest you slide back and crash. You fear, hope, fear again and then hope that your gears would not wear out before you surmount them. On reaching the summit, you rejoice as if you have reached your destination, even taking a supposed well-deserved rest.

There are the valley portions, which position you (dangerously) on the path of waters. These waters could be gentle or otherwise. Drowning thoughts fill the mind on encountering troubled waters and desperation might set in. Survival becomes the new vision and one is ready to hold on to anything, even floating substances of no true weight.

There are the plain portions, which contradict the initial expectations. On setting out, one had dreamt of something spectacular, exotic, fanciful and the likes. However, things are looking too simple and ordinary. One no longer has

that 'super' feeling not to mention seeing that 'special' in it. One wonders if he/she is up to anything in the first place or just embarking on a child's play. The road here seems to be adorned with the 'significance' question.

There are the straight portions where you see a long stretch before you. While it is supposed to be a thing of delight and it is initially, you might soon realize that the distance is too much for you to cover. You fear at times and wonder if you would reach what you see. Your resources might suddenly assume smallness in your thoughts. In fact, you become a grasshopper in some of the fleeting thoughts that flashes past your mind. You are tempted to ask if you are not overreaching yourself.

There are the bend portions where you do not seem to know what is ahead. You are moving and peeping yet you cannot fathom what lies ahead. You are expectant but you do not know what you are expecting. You are continuing with such a blind trust even though realities are suggesting you have been traveling a cul-de-sac. You slow down and proceed with caution.

There are major and minor intersections. At such points, you see alternative routes and exit routes. You run into different people, even those you do not want to meet. Some will encourage you directly or indirectly and others would do otherwise. You could even join others in their journey, heading for their destination. It

is an intersection of choices and decisions, and they are yours to make. Your doubts all along on the journey are brought to the fore here and your supposed faith is also tested here.

Interestingly, the aforementioned portions do not occur independently, but in ever changing combinatorics of two, three or more.

The tarrying season is actually your growth window

Oftentimes, we think the path is getting too long and the journey is taking forever. Many do get off the path; crossing to another that is believed would take them their faster. However, changing path is definitely changing destination. Even in the case of it still leading there using the argument of there are many ways to the market, one would have lost the equipping placed on the original path.

Our haste on the path is often founded on the unpleasantness we encounter on the path. However, such are part of the tools being used to work us in preparation for what is to come. They are life tools whose impact cannot be acquired in a classroom but on the 'fields'.

Thus, instead of complaining, grumbling and murmuring, seek to maximize such tarrying moment; do not just tarry, get trained in life skills and grow.

As you grow, your comprehension grows. What you saw at the beginning of the journey gets

clearer as you continue on your preparation path. A positive attitude and response to the encounters on the path will grow you.

Growth is not just a function of time but knowledge taken to heart and exercising it. The scenarios playing out on the path force you to exercise what you think you know and in the process, confirm some, discard some and build on others. The process of sorting out your knowing, which form your thoughts and making them part of you is the actual growth. Your understanding and interpretation of the vision you thought you saw earlier in life gets clearer.

Your vision is not changing; you only comprehend better. Preparation involves fine-tuning of vision until you see correctly, fully and wholly.

The preparation is centered on making you ready.

Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything. If you need wisdom--if you want to know what God wants you to do--ask him, and he will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking. James 1:2-5 NLT



forget no his benefits



Femi Babalola
FRESH BREAD

iyiolafemibabalola.wordpress.com



t

Forgetfulness is the ultimate source of ingratitude. If you can always keep the goodness of God in your life in view, you will never be ungrateful. You will live the rest of your life in thanksgiving to God for being so good to you. It is forgetfulness and lack of deep meditation that makes us think there are no reasons for us to be grateful to God. No matter how bad a situation is, there is always a reason to thank God but we often forget especially when we come

under the pressure of the vicissitudes of life.

In addition, human nature, assisted by the enemy, is prone to focus on the negatives. We get so absorbed with what is not working that we forget what is. We fall into despair wondering why life has been so unfair to us.

If you persist in this state of ingratitude, you will soon develop a faulty view of God. A faulty view of God is what makes you say, 'If God is good, why do I have to go through this'. With a faulty view of God, you will lose your faith and may fall into sin.

This is the strategy of the enemy; always painting God black before us because we are going through a temporary trial. You have the responsibility to make sure you keep in view the goodness of the Lord in your life, lest you forget and become ungrateful.

This was how Eve fell into sin. The enemy made her to forget God's goodness. He made her see how God has been unfair; denying

them access to the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. She forgot, at that moment, the many varieties of other fruits God had given them unlimited access. She probably became bitter against God and she reached out for the forbidden fruit.

It is also how the Israelites sinned against God. They kept on forgetting God's blessings at every point of challenge.

Ten out of twelve spies had brought an evil report of the Promised Land so much so that their heart sank. They became exceedingly discouraged. They regretted following Moses and they began to plan to return to Egypt. Despite the plea of Caleb and Joshua, the people rebelled and grumbled against God.

But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the LORD appeared at the Tent of Meeting to all the Israelites. The LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?..." Numbers 14:10-11 NIV

God had done enough for them to know that possessing the Promised Land will not be a challenge. God plagued Egypt because of them. He parted the sea such that they walked on dry ground. God had to open a bakery in heaven and

recruited angels to bake Manna for them daily. Mara was turned sweet. Water came out of the rock when they were thirsty amidst many more mighty miracles.

What more could God have done to assure them that the Promised Land was theirs?

Nevertheless, under the pressure of a new challenge, they completely forgot what God had done for them; they failed to draw strength for the new challenge from the past victory. They became ungrateful so much so that God's heart was grieved. *They did not keep God's covenant and refused to live by his law. They forgot what he had done, the wonders he had shown them.*

Psalms 78:10-11 NIV

It takes intentionality to live a life of gratitude. You must resolve never to forget what God has done and is doing in your life. This is why the Psalmist had to speak deliberately to his soul to remember the goodness of the Lord.

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits- who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with

good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Psalms 103:1-5 NIV

If you wait for the moment when you will feel like thanking God or expressing your gratitude, it may never come. You must learn to do it irrespective of how you feel. Gratitude should not always be a product of happenings but a responsibility irrespective of what we go through.

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. Psalms 34:1-2 NKJV

Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls-- Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. Habakkuk 3:17-18 NKJV

Do not get so absorbed with your big dreams while neglecting the seemingly inconsequential favours you enjoy from God - the journey mercies, the protection, the provision, your healthy body

and all the daily miracles of sleeping and waking, eating and drinking.

Sit down and count your blessings! Do not leave anything out. Think about all His goodness and mercies towards you in every way. He has done so much for you. Forget not all His benefits. Be grateful!

As you remember what God has done for you in the past, faith and hope will rise within you, empowering you to challenge and subdue your current obstacles. May you receive grace to live above the spirit of ingratitude that now pervades our generation.



why vision



Ibukun Abraham
MAXIMIZING TEEN-HOOD
pathofloveteens.blogspot.com



n?

The word 'vision' is obviously not a new word; we hear it very often. However, have you ever sat down and ponder on it? Why is there so much emphasis on it? Is it as important as that? Maybe the importance is exaggerated, right?

Irrespective of your opinion about it, vision makes people; the people who are ruling our world today are men and women of vision. I am not talking about Yahoo boys, Big Brothers-made celebrities; those who made their popularity through nude pictures or internet-make believe lies. I mean real men and women who are making impact in the world. These are the true stars, people whose lives are worthy of study. These men and women still live through their positive impact, principles, innovations and contributions to human existence even after their death.

Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, Albert Einstein, Benson Idahosa; the list goes on and on. These people can never be forgotten in history until Christ comes. Let nobody deceive or confuse you, this world has ever and will ever be ruled by men and women of vision and insight who saw beyond the physical and through passion bring the invisible, the unthinkable, the unrealistic, the unbelievable to the realm of the physical to show the possibilities in life.

People of vision have proved repeatedly that all things are possible to them that believe according to God's word. There are certain ideas we may never thought possible or achievable if not for the fact that we have seen some visionaries who had made records that have given others the courage to attempt a much higher, riskier, and difficult vision. For instance, the invention of telephone gave birth to far more modernized devices like the Android phones, iPhones etc. that we use today.

The essence of this long essay you have been reading is to confirm and reconfirm again that vision makes people. Everything we see in our world today is a product of vision; either good visions that have transformed lives and society or bad/corrupt vision which had demoralized many lives and society today. How do I mean? Terrorism is a product of vision, a bad and wicked one. Invention of deadly and sophisticated mass destruction weapons is a product of vision; a bad vision with evil motive.

As a youth, don't be neither in nor out, cold nor hot. Be very deliberate with life. Do not leave life to chances. Do not be like the wave of the sea that is tossed in any direction by the wind. Never allow the wind of life to toss you up and down, here and there. Take life

seriously, ask yourself sincere questions and prayerfully discover your place in life. Not all can be a preacher, not all can be an inventor and not all can be a musician. Do not join a profession because it is selling or because your friends are there. Do not let the economy of your nation make you to settle for a hustling life when God had ordained you as an inventor or a school owner.

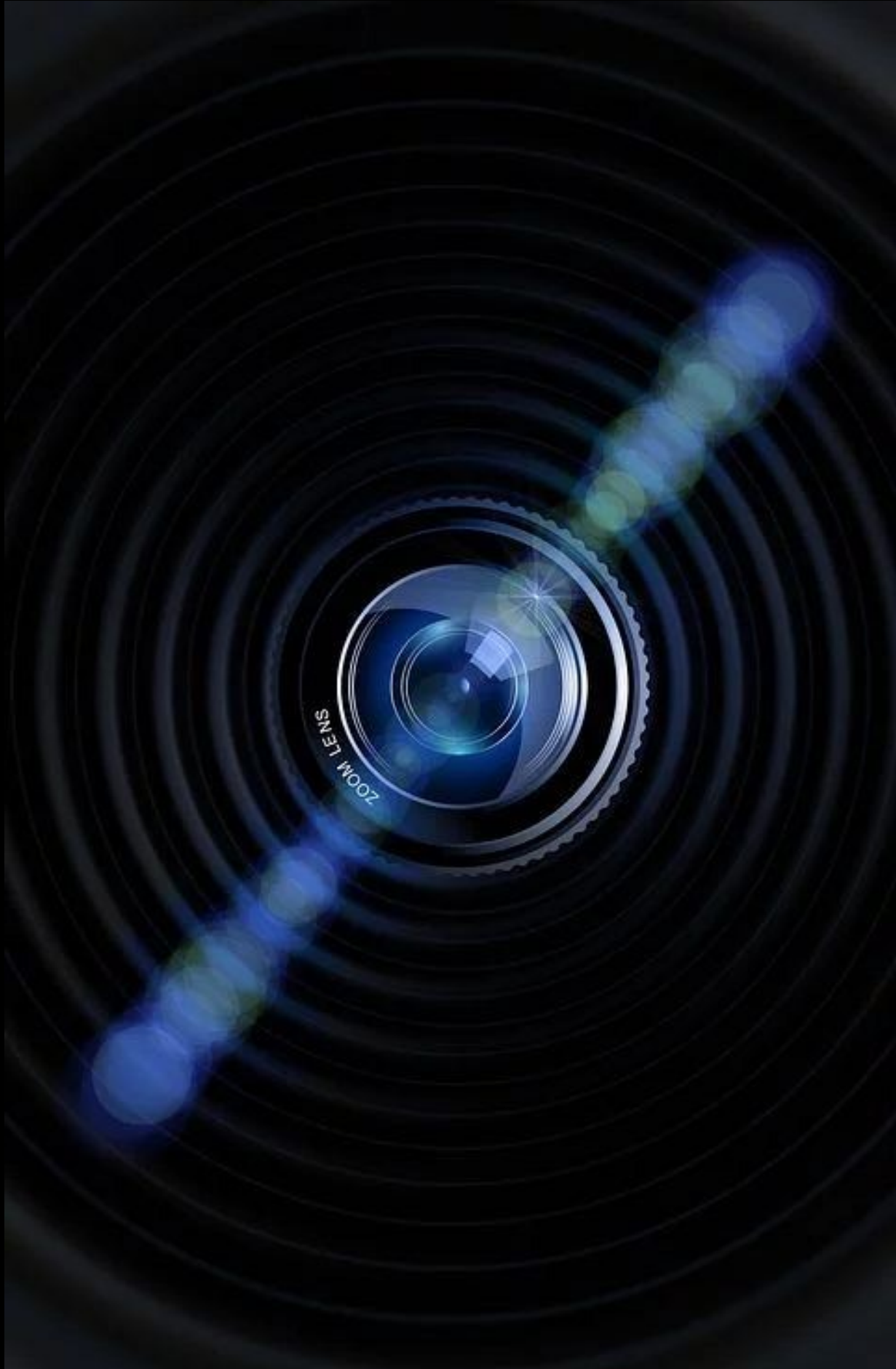
Be very deliberate in life!

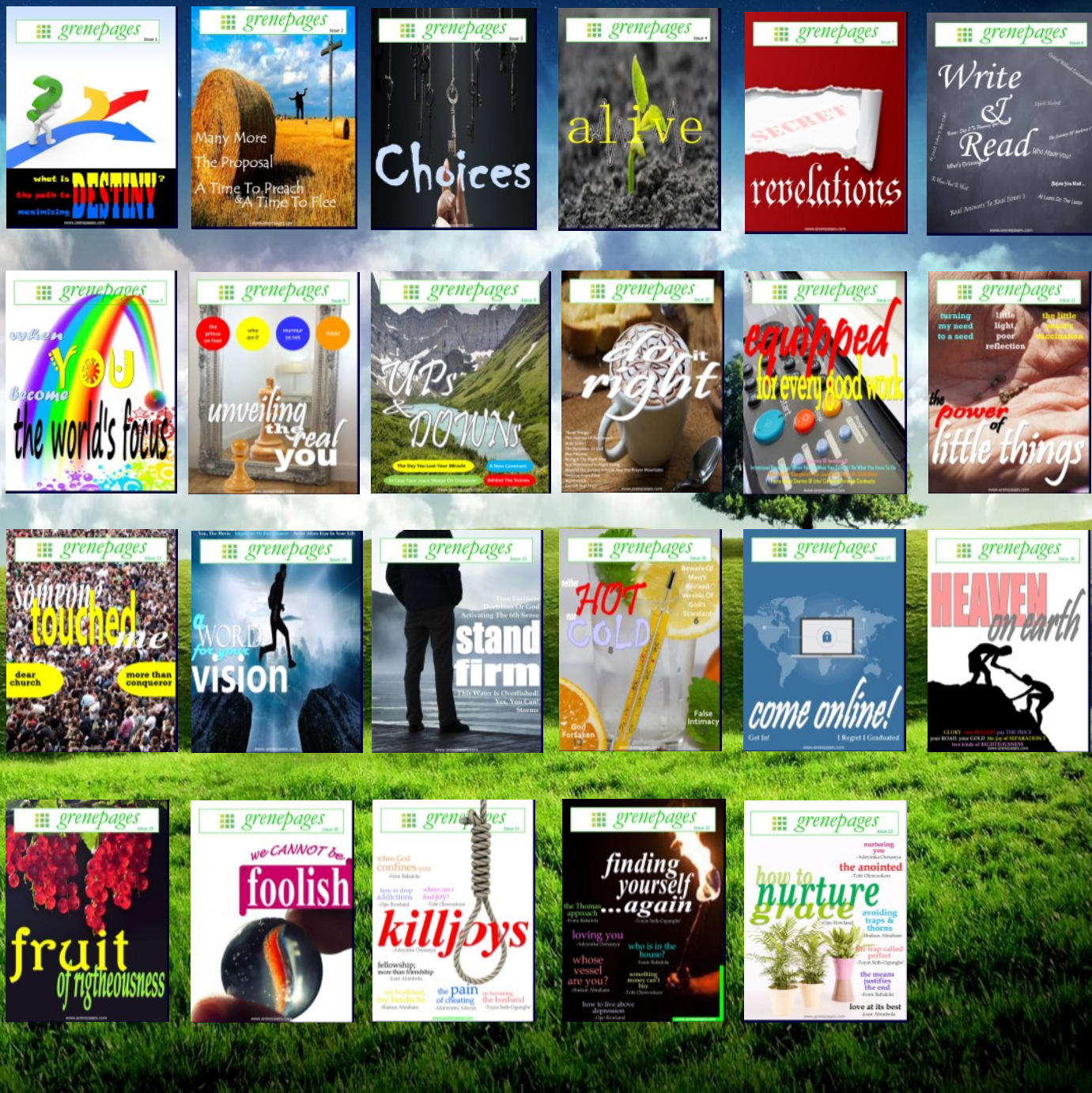
Remember, your vision is your ticket to the top. It is your ability to see what you want to become in five, ten, twenty years to come. It is to know what aspect of life you are wired to function in.

Whosoever sign a multimillion Dollars music contract for me has just successfully, undoubtedly wasted his money. Except by miracle, I do not belong to that area of life at all, even though I like good songs. In case you want to finish me completely, put me in a hospital to work, I doubt if I can survive five hours.

Vision is that foresight that tells you your area of interest, passion and impact. Let your true passion, potentials and skills sum up to form your vision. By the time you are very clear about your vision, every other thing becomes secondary. The Bible affirms it that where is there is no vision, the people perish. Until you have a clear direction of where you are going, you are obviously going nowhere!

Until next time, go and discover your vision prayerfully, deliberately, passionately and genuinely.





Title: *grenepages* issue 24

Published: December 2019

Publisher: grenepages.com

Writers: Adeyinka Oresanya, Ibukun Abraham, Olufemi Babalola,

Ope Rowland, Tobi Olowookere, Toyin Seth-Ogungbe'

Pages: 24

Language: English

Formats:

