



*grenepages*

Issue 11

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*for every good work*

*The Journey Of Awelewa 9*

*Intentional Parenting/ When You Do What You Can Do/ Do What You Have To Do*

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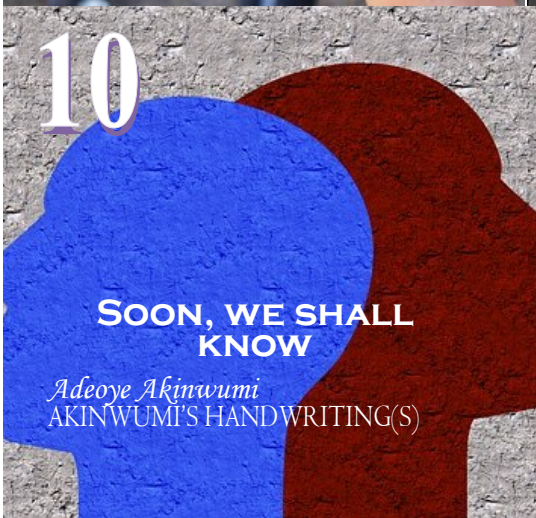
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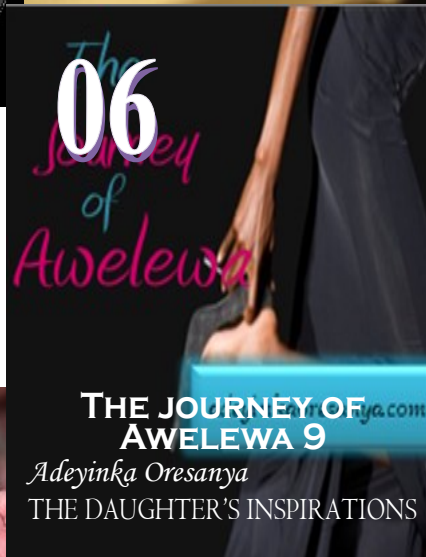


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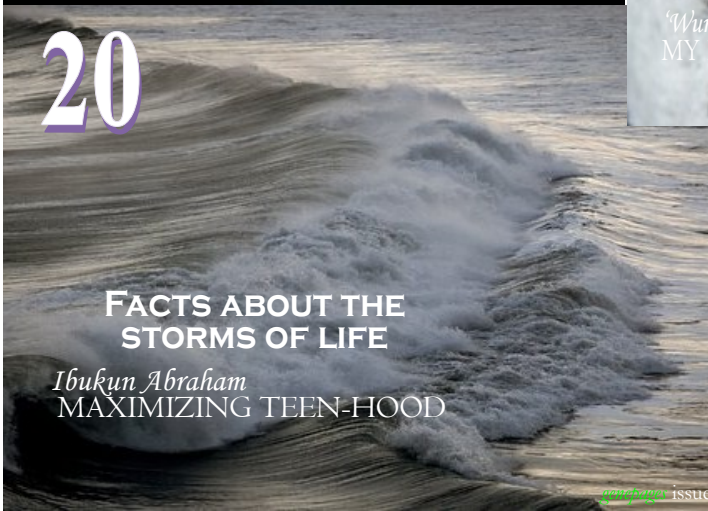
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# 11th Word

*that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV*

Would you use an incompetent driver? Would you hire an incompetent lawyer? How about a quack doctor, a plumber without tools or a soldier without arms?

Why then do you think being incompetent in the things of God is not an issue?

Importance differs from one man to the other, as the things I consider important may be the least on your scale of preference. The things of God are very different. They should rank most important for everyman. He (God) does not joke with it, just as you don't, even much more.

He demands competence. He demands thorough equipment. Not just works, but good works.

Our team have put together pieces to remind you that God would rather have his men competent, qualified, approved, equipped and doing good works.

Welcome to our 11th issue of [grenepages](#).

*Tobi Olowookere*





*Joan Abimbola*

MINISTERING RHYTHMS

<https://joanministeringrhythms.wordpress.com>

the ju

the ju

The stuttering Moses  
Like a thorn amidst roses  
Fighting for his own to the extreme  
Once a baby at the stream

The Jesses' youngest – David  
Ruddy and not lazy  
Forgotten by loved ones  
When he went shepherding the flocks

The Jewish Esther  
An orphan so tender  
In total obedience to her helper-  
Her dear family member

The promiscuous Rahab  
In kindness radiant  
Hiding the spies from danger  
Of Jericho's rangers

Moses had no smooth voice  
Yet he was the Lord's choice  
In Jesse's house, David was most irrelevant  
But to God he was the most significant

Esther though a 'nobody'  
At the palace, God made her a 'somebody'  
And Rahab the one known as a harlot  
From her lineage, God brought the Messiah

Just to mention a few  
Of all that God chose and made new  
Proving that He doesn't choose the strong  
But the justified who He now qualifies

Knowing that we have been called  
Not because we were strong  
We must live to give Him glory  
Through all of our Life's story



# Justified

*For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God--and righteousness and sanctification and redemption-- that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."*

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31 NKJV**

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*Adeyinka Oresanya*

THE DAUGHTER'S INSPIRATIONS

<http://adeyinkaoresanya.com>

**Read previous episodes [here...](#)**

One thing about this job of mine was that it came with a high level of stress. Customers, both literate and non-literate, on your neck all day long, some funny ones demanding to know why every fifty kobo was deducted from their account and why my bank of all banks should charge a hundred naira for the use of other banks' automated machines, and so on.

Not just me, even my colleagues in other units had their own day-to-day challenges. So, it was just natural that once it was past four o'clock in the evening, and customers started to trickle down, we became at ease and would try to relax.

Sometimes, some naughty ones amongst us would just make a funny statement that

would become a topic of argument. Times like that happened today.

My office space was located upstairs and I shared the hall with seven colleagues, two ladies and five guys.

Udeme, one of the guys in commercial banking unit and a notorious playboy, just happened to tickle Tosin, one of my unit members. She let out a funny scream and the guys laughed.

"Hehehe, Tosin, is that your ringtone?"

# the journey

Mayowa, Udeme's drinking buddy and partner-in-crime, asked. "Udeme, you have just discovered this babe's weak spot o."

People began to laugh.

Tosin eyeballed Mayowa. "What stupid ringtone are you talking about? Do I look like a phone to you?"

Some of the guys laughed again.

Mayowa said, “You don’t know what ringing tone is? Hmmm, I don’t like it when girls pretend.”

“Abi o.” Udeme joined in. “You want to tell me you don’t sing to your boyfriend’s ears when you are doing the real thing?”

Tosin hissed. “You think everyone is like those you sleep around with?”

“What’s wrong with ‘those’ I sleep around with, Madam? Aren’t y’all the same thing? Same ring tone.” Udeme

chance, baby.”

“Yes o.” Richard joined in. “If you marry a guy who can’t do it well, hmmhmm, na one chance be that o.”

Udeme perched on Tosin’s desk and leaned forward. “You must do the real thing before—”

“Udeme, leave this girl alone now. Why are you on her case this evening?” I spoke up.

“Abegi! Leave that one. Must everyone be like you, Stingy Sister Mary.”

“Na you sabi.” I replied.

“But seriously, girls, the world is changing and we need to change with the times.” Janet said. “Me o, I can never date a guy, not to talk of marrying him, without testing the real thing. I don’t want to end up marrying a man who can’t satisfy me in bed.”

teased.

“Abeg, leave Tosin o. She doesn’t have a ring tone yet,” Janet said. “She’s saving it all for the Bro who finally puts a ring on it.”

“Ha! Ngbo Tosin, is that true?” Mayowa asked. “Ha, you have to change that decision o. You don’t wanna to enter one

That was how my Auntie entered one chance and before we knew it, she was sleeping with someone else she mistakenly got pregnant for.”

“Whatever you say, Janet, sexual purity is still the best.” Tosin countered.

“What are you talking about now? Learner ni ba-

# of awelewa



by yi ke. This girl is really a learner,” Mayowa rejoined. “Wait, if you want to buy a car, won’t you test drive it first to know it is working well? Will you just buy and take it home only to discover that there is something wrong?”

“No! God forbid!” Richard twisted his fingers over his head.

“Ehn ehn, it’s the same with marrying someone without being sure of their sexual capacity. It’s a whole life of frustration ahead.”

That was when Yvonne a.k.a Iron Lady, walked in. Yvonne was a tough lady who rarely smiled or joked with anyone, something many of our colleagues, especially the guys, attributed to pride especially since she was two steps ahead most of us that were her age mates.

However, she was notorious for donning miniskirts and short dresses that screamed ‘Party Girl’. The funny thing was she was good friends with Mayowa and he used to talk about them going to clubs together, though their friendship was platonic.

She walked up to Janet’s desk and was asking her something.

I turned to Mayowa. “Mayowa, so if a girl is not capable, you move on to the next one, abi?”

“That’s right,” he replied. “Until you find the best one for you. God no go vex.”

Udeme and Janet laughed.

I shook my head. Why do people who are wrong always have facts to present and are bold enough to defend their wrong. Comparing test driving cars

with sex outside marriage and even encouraging multiple partners.

“So Tosin, forget that thing o, the Bible was written for the children of Israel in those days when there was no civilization,” Mayowa continued. “Things are different now.”

“Say whatever you want. The Bible is still relevant for everyone,” Tosin replied.

Udeme shook his head. “You are a naïve somebody.”

“Come to think of it, Mayowa, no matter how old-fashioned and boring the Bible sounds on issues, I reason with its principles,” Yvonne said.

I jerked my head up. It took some seconds for me to realise my jaws were slightly far from each other. Yvonne was the last person I expected to hear that from.

Mayowa scoffed. “What principles?”

“You see,” she said, “my parents were each other’s firsts and it wasn’t because they were Born-again or something. They just wanted to wait for each other. They told me staying faithful in their marriage and loving each other was easier because there were no sexual and emotional baggage, unlike some of their friends who constantly complained about their marriages.”



I noticed Udeme and Janet had started to listen. Tosin's attention was intently focused on Yvonne.

Yvonne continued, "My mum even talked about one of her friends who keep complaining about her marriage, that sex with her husband was way different and less exciting unlike one she used to have with her former lover."

"Hmm," Udeme nodded. "That's true. My former babe kept complaining I don't love her enough. It's always Dayo used to do this, no, Dayo didn't use to do that to me. I had to tell her to go look for Dayo. I ain't gonna be compared to any man."

Mayowa chuckled. "Girls can be funny sha. What was she thinking? But Yvonne, I still maintain that waiting till marriage is a risky business."

"Well, my mother said they both had to learn their way through and today they are enjoying themselves very well. Waiting was worth it," Yvonne replied.

"Whoa, you discuss sex that deep with your mum?" Janet asked.

"Uh-huh," she nodded.

"Wow, that's weird."

"What's weird about it? I learnt a lot about relationships from her. She is my role model."

Yvonne smiled and I saw affection for her mum in her eyes. "Chastity worked for her and that's why I choose to wait till marriage before giving any man my body."

"Hear, hear" Tosin pumped her fists in the air.

Yvonne gave her a weird look and everyone burst into laughter.

Hmmm, lessons to take home today. Although Yvonne girl always behaved as if she didn't need Jesus in her life, knowing that she believed in the Bible made my heart sing. And now, I appreciate my Bible more because it carries instructions and principles that are timeless, flawless and always relevant no matter the times.

It says flee from sexual immorality, a.k.a, sex outside marriage or with someone who is not your spouse and I am going to stick to it. No Sex Until Marriage!

In the meantime, I made a mental note to minister to Yvonne.

... to be continued.

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Adeoye Akinwumi  
AKINWUMI'S HANDWRITING(S)  
<http://nikeadeoye.blogspot.co.uk>

There is how the world knows you, there is how the brethren know you and there is that perception of yourself that you have. Many times we over rate ourselves. At other times, it is as a result of the flattery from the world and even the Church. They make us feel we are on course of our destiny at a 5000% rate.

They psyche us with spiritual banter, 'the very great woman of God' (GWOG). They already give us the Apostle's tag, when we are only just scratching the surface of our

destiny. They tag us superintendent Evangelist when we have only ministered to 2.5% of the souls expected of us.

Sweet as flattery may sound, even self deception, I thought to remind you, that very soon, you shall know as you are known by the master. Whether the dichotomy is large or not, you shall know. Whether all you have been chastised on earth about will determine your eternal destiny, though you rejected the chastisement so badly, someday you shall know.

Soon we shall all know as we are known by our saviour.

Do you know that hymn? The last verse trips me.  
.. *Where Thou leadest we would go, Walking in Thy steps below, Till before our Father's throne*  
**WE SHALL KNOW AS WE ARE KNOWN.**

# SOON, we shall know



*Toyin Seth-Ogungbe'*  
**TEE-WAI**

<http://toyeenmakogungbe.blogspot.com>

They told me I could sing the house down;  
then I sang.

They said if I read up some more I will be  
the next big thing; then I read.

They said if only I had more panache; I  
mastered it.

They said if I were taller, fairer, darker,  
thicker etc. They thought they could de-  
fine, restrain and conform me to their lim-  
ited minds.... they lost me there.

Amidst whom they made me to be, I could  
not find who I am.

I wanted to dance until my feet hurt. I  
wanted to sing and then I did not  
want to anymore.

wanted to build castles and I was ready to work to  
learn how to. I wanted to light up a room when I  
walked in and slide in through the back on other  
days. I wanted to speak before Kings and have  
them take notes. I wanted to curl up on my bed  
and read myself to sleep too.

I wanted to find faith and walk in it, I wanted to  
fail on my own terms and find faith again.

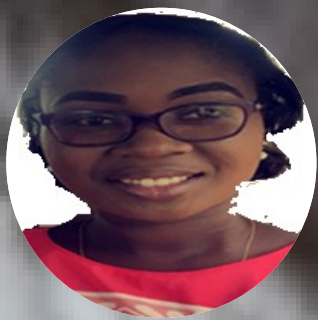
Here I was, sitting, counting the opportunities I  
missed and the ones I shouldn't have. Living back-  
wards, defeated by the emptiness of it all.

Before I lost all of me, God reached out and illumi-  
nated my soul, gave me his word and the honour  
to choose my path daily as he watchfully guides  
me.

So, I smile today because I have the reins back in  
the hands of the Potter. I no longer ask, "Who am  
I?" ... I just live and enjoy the beauty in the person I  
express day to day. Little wonder I was made by  
an inexhaustible God. You cannot know all of  
me... I don't either, but I now enjoy the journey  
of living.

# Who am I?





*Wunmi Falodun*  
**MY LIVING HOPE**

[www.mylivinghopealternatives.org/](http://www.mylivinghopealternatives.org/)

Sometime ago, I saw two kids (a boy and a girl) fighting. The boy was hitting the young girl's chest violently. I overheard him say: "I'll beat out your chest down." I stepped in, scolded him so much before I even cared to listen to what transpired or who was at fault. Then I schooled him on being responsible, gentlemanly and civilized. I belong to that school of thought that no matter what, do not ever get physical, not to talk of hitting a woman.

My experience with these kids got me thinking: I may never meet those children again in my life, but they

can meet my own children, anywhere anytime. I have quite a number of children around me, and I just cannot imagine any one of them being treated in such a barbaric manner without defense. Indeed, it takes two people to bring forth a child, but it takes the whole community to raise that child.

The hope and future of the next generation depends largely on the present generation. We are to lead them right and show them the way. If we do not catch them young, they will definitely go astray.

Do not be tempted to overlook a child's shenanigans next time you see one, you just might be saving a generation from danger. You just might be securing your child's future. No matter how well brought up your own children are, the children they mix with, make friends with or even marry will to a large extent determine the viability and durability of all they learnt at home.

My doctor sister once called me and said her patient gave her a dirty slap.

# intentional parent

*“Guess what? This patient was an 18 months old baby!”* The first question I asked her was, *“And what did you do?”* She said, *“Nothing, I just smiled, his mother was there, smiling.”*

That did not go down too well with me. If an 18 months old baby is wise enough to slap an adult, she should be grown enough to receive just two taps at the back of her hands.

On the other hand, I was on the phone with my sister, my 16 months old nephew sneezed, his mother said, *“Bless you”* and he responded, *“Thank you!”* How amazing!

These children need to be trained and raised. However, much more than that, they need to be prayed for.

We are not to get bothered about our children mixing with the wrong kind of chil-

dren; we are to be deliberate about TAMING THEIR TERRAINS.

Since I learnt this secret, I pray for all the children around me like a complete crazy woman.

We are to commit their sojourn all through life to the hands of the all-knowing God. Pray for them before you have them, come against all evil friends, ungodly relationships and friendships, heartbreaks, their handwriting, intellect, vision and purpose in life, their academics and careers, their marriages, their organs, all their body systems and what have you.

One thing is sure, the effectual fervent prayers of a righteous man or woman avails much. Our faith is not in faith nor in prayers, but in God and God alone. Faithful is He that calleth who also will do it. There is hope for your children; there is hope in their future.

Rejoice!

# nting



*Tobi Olowookere*  
**GRACEDPAGES**

<https://gracedpages.wordpress.com>

## ARISE AND EAT

*Then as he lay and slept under a briar tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." 1 Kings 19:5 NKJV*

People eat to get strength. That is why you went to study. To get the knowledge required to run in life. You have done well for yourself.

Eat! Your life is a journey. You will need a lot of strength. Food is not one of many options, it is a key for survival.

Read!

Read books that will make you grow in knowledge. Life will ask you questions as you progress. You need knowledge to respond. Invest! Invest in yourself. Go to quality schools. Learn to read and write. In the world of today, it is basic.

Eat, I mean try to get a university degree. It seems to be the least that would be expected from anyone in the near future. Do not just lay down there. It is too early in your life to be idle. Stuff yourself up.

Eat! The angel gave Elijah food and advised him to eat. He would need the food for the journey. *Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. 1 Kings 19:6 NKJV*

# do what you



At least he had eaten something. He laid down and continued his rest. So, you already have a First School Leaving Certificate and you think you have eaten enough? You just want to enjoy your life. So, you just have the Secondary School Certificate, and you think that's all that matters, you don't want to go further? You have a first degree and you say, "That's all, I'm done with studying. Now, all I want to do is to make and spend money like the others."

**EAT SOME MORE...**

*And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." 1 Kings 19:7 NKJV*

*But everyone one else are already settling down? My mates are already getting married. They are getting good jobs already. They are driving big cars around the town. My mates, who do not even have my kind of degree, have gone far ahead. Why? Why is mine so slow? Why is life only giving me options*

*to study more? Why must I go to school when I can sit home and manage my father's properties? Why must I go for a Masters and not a job now? Why does it seem like the next opening for me is a PHD when what I really desire is a wedding? Why must I spend the little money I have now to invest in myself when others are using theirs for overseas vacations?*

**Take heed to the voice of your angel.**

**"Get up and eat some more, for there is a long journey ahead of you."**

**What is obtainable for you today is a perquisite for your journey tomorrow. Do not look at the other man. The only competition you have is you.**

*Then the angel of the Lord came again and touched him and said, "Get up and eat some more, or the journey ahead will be too much for you." 1 Kings 19:7 NLT.*

# have to do



*Ope Rowland*  
**THRIVE**

<http://operowland.blogspot.com>

*and you are complete through your union with Christ. He is the Lord over every ruler and authority in the universe.*

Colossians 2:10 NLT

You are complete by being in union with him. This means that if you are not in union with Christ, you are not a complete person, you cannot reach the best of your potential, you are not your full person and you are not hundred percent. When you allow your life to come in union with him, by living your life like your Lord, your life comes in union and then you are completed in him. You get to one hundred percent because you are living your life in him. To be at your best, you have to be in union with Christ. This

Christ has been made Lord over everything. He is above all, “and God has put all things under the authority of Christ, and he gave him this authority for the benefit of the church.” (Ephesians 1:19-22 NLT)

If Christ is seated above all powers, all creatures, animate and inanimate, then we are reigning together, “for he raised us from the dead along with Christ, and we are seated with him in the heavenly realms--all because we are one with Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:6 NLT)

We are in charge together. When you are made complete, you reach your full potential. Your full potential is to do what Jesus is doing. You are to be seated with him. Therefore, if we are in union with our Lord, it makes you to be in charge of all that is in his charge.

When a man and woman are joined together in matrimony, they come into union with each other. All the estate of the man becomes the wom-

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# complete!

conforming your life to his, bring you in union/ matrimony with your Lord and whatever he has, becomes yours. So if he is in charge of all then being seated with him confer on you enormous authority.

For instance, just as Jesus would send angels on errands, if you were in union with Christ you can send them on errands. Angels have been given to us who have pledged allegiance to Christ as ministering servants (Hebrews 1:14). They are to be at your disposal. So take charge of your world. You can send angels on errands.

However, what makes your command to be obeyed and makes your lordship to be respected is because you are seated with him and you are in union with him. We learnt more about this when a Roman officer came and pleaded with Jesus when he arrived in Capernaum, for the healing of his servant.

*Then the officer said, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed! I know, because I am under the authority of my superior officers and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this or that,' they do it."*

Matthew 8:8-9 NLT

What made the Roman officer's authority over others to be effective was because he was under authority.

What will make your lordship in this world to be tangi-

ble and manifest is to be under the lordship of Christ. You demonstrate this by living your life like him.

Do you submit to him? Do you still have some areas God cannot address? Submit and see God work it out for your good, even when it seems difficult. Do you have his permission in your plans and intentions?

You can only have one lord at a time: "*No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.*" (Matthew 6:24 NLT)

If you are influenced by money, he cannot be your Lord, "*but we know that there is only one God, the Father, who created everything, and we exist for him. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom God made everything and through whom we have been given life.*" (1 Corinthians 8:6 NLT)

You are permitted to have only one lord at a time. He is either Lord over everything or he is Lord over nothing. That little portion of your life you are withholding from his lordship makes him Lord over nothing in your life.





*Femi Babalola*  
**FRESH BREAD**

[www.iyiolafemibabalola.wordpress.com](http://www.iyiolafemibabalola.wordpress.com)

What if Abraham failed to entertain the strangers that came to his territory?

Genesis 18:1 tells us that *"the Lord appeared to him"* but when he lifted his eyes and looked, he saw three men standing by him. The Lord appeared to him but he saw men. Invariably, the Lord appeared to him in the form of men.

How we have ignored the Lord when we ignored men! How we have failed to recognize Him because what we saw were mere men. Abraham, however, saw the Lord in the men that stood by him.

These men never initiated any discussion with Abraham; they were simply standing by him watching and waiting for what was going to be his reaction. Will he be sensitive? Abraham never knew that these seemingly ordinary men standing by him came with his long awaited miracle.

What most of us are looking for running helter-skelter is simply standing by us in the form of men that God has placed around us. Some people have gone to

Sokoto with what they are looking for right inside their "sokoto." What a waste of time, energy and resources!

Abraham's miracle may still come but it would have been postponed until God knows when, if he had been insensitive to the men that God sent to him.

Have you ever thought about this? How will Joseph ever get to the palace if he ignored Pharaoh's butler and baker who were sad because of the dreams they had?

Who would have brought him before the king when the dire need of an interpreter came up? What Joseph did for the butler and baker looks like a little act of kindness but was the small seed that would bring in a massive harvest for him in the future. The fact is Joseph's interpretation has nothing to do with the fulfillment of the dreams these officers had. It would still happen, even if no one interpreted the dreams. God gave the dreams and He is committed to the fulfillment.

However, God, in His benevolence, brought these men his way so they can be a stepping-stone to his own breakthrough. God gave them those dreams because He knows an interpreter was close. The butler could have been called back to work and the baker hung without a dream.

How often we have ignored the opportunities

# when you do what you can do

God brought our way in the form of people's problem. How we have closed our eyes to God-orchestrated needs in the lives of people meant for our promotion. That call we failed to make, the text we failed to send, the appointment we did not keep, the letter we did not write, the counseling we postponed, the visit we never paid and the gift we kept back were seeds meant to bring in great harvest for us in the future. Joseph should and could have been bitter such that he would not have the time to attend to people. He was wrongly accused but he decided to focus on other people's needs instead of being preoccupied with his predicaments.

While it is true that God has not sent everyman to you neither are you sent to everyman, however, you need to arm yourself with this basic truth – man remains the channel through which you will do anything for God or God will do anything for you. God will not come down from heaven to do anything for you; He will send men to you. Neither will you have to go to heaven to do anything for Him; you will do it to men.

This is why God had to become man in order to redeem us. While He remains God, He cannot save man.

We often claim to serve God, love God and give to God, but in the real sense, do we really do these things to God? The Bible says, "No man has seen God at any time..." (John 1:18; 1 John 4:12). So, how have we served, loved or given to God we have never seen? If we have indeed done these things to God, we actually did it to men.

John said there is no way you can love God you have not seen when you do not love men you have seen (1 John 4:20).

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did

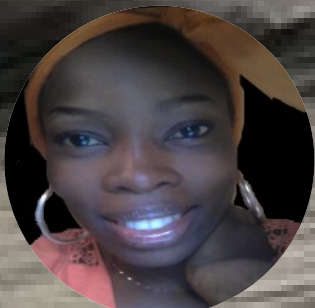
not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Matthew 25:34-46 NKJV

Those on the left were condemned eternally because under the same situation, they ignored the Lord when they ignored the men God brought their way.

Every man you see on the road is created in the image of God. Every man needs a man as much as a man also needs him. We are inter-dependent. We are here for all of us. Our needs are met when we learn to meet the needs of others.

When Abraham met the need in the lives of those strangers, he did not know he was entertaining the Trinity who brought his miracle. So many have been praying for God to show up for them but they kept ignoring men. God may never show up still but He will always bring men across your way. Your dispositions to them will fast track the delivery of your miracle.

May the Lord give you a discerning eye to see men from God's own perspective henceforth. May we all stop seeing men as trees. May we be sensitive to the men God has sent us to irrespective of their appearance. May we never judge by appearance but according to the right judgment. May our understanding be enlightened to know that what we do to men is indirectly done to God. May we be earnest and passionate like Abraham who ran to the aid of those strangers.



*Ibukun Abraham*  
**MAXIMIZING TEEN-HOOD**  
<http://pathofloveteens.blogspot.com/>

Christ never promised us a life free of storms, even His disciples encountered storm while Christ was with them. In the last edition I talked about keeping hope alive, and now I want you my beloved readers to know that the ugly situation you may be going through is not strange in human history, in fact, somebody somewhere has a more terrible situation. So get up and stop pitying yourself. Stop thinking that God has forgotten you or that He is unfaithful to you.

I need you to know that no matter what happens to you in life, God is God and He is good. So stop judging God unfaithful over your circumstances. You are not the first to go through it and you won't be the last.

No storm is meant to kill you. The way you handle them will determine the outcome. For instance, someone is going through a very difficult time in marriage or finance, and such a person stops praying because he or she thinks God does not hear prayers anymore. In fact, maybe the person thinks going to church is a waste of time. At that moment, such an individual has opened the door of his or her life to the devil to take charge of the situation that is bad already, and when the devil does take charge, I tell you, he is without mercy, and will finish such a person.

Storms of life are meant to polish your view about life, situations and your view about how God works in ways beyond our imagination. For instance, it might take somebody some-where having an ailment to appreciate that God is indeed able to heal and restore him or

# facts about storms



her. Such a person would appreciate LIFE by the time they recover from it. You know sometimes we take life for granted, we think it is our rights to live and live healthy, but by the time you fall ill and you almost lose your life, then you will learn to appreciate God better for the gift of life.

You need to know that storms of life are meant to make you stronger, better and tougher. All these are values or virtues we all need to survive in this world. For instance, if everything you ever desired get to you so cheaply and effortlessly, how would you develop the virtue of patience and endurance? If you have never in your life been grieved before, how would you develop the virtue of forgiveness? Some of these virtues or values are developed through one difficult experience or the other.

The last thing I want you to know about storms of life is that it make you a coach to others who will go through the same or similar situation later in life. For instance, if you don't know what it is to be homeless and helpless, how would you comfort someone who is going through such situation? To be frank and sincere with you, it is easier for people who have been through certain situations to comfort or help others that are going through the same situation. Someone who has lived fifty years of healthy life may not

feel the real pain of someone who has been living for 30 years in pain and illness. Therefore, the 50-year-old healthy person may not be able to help emotionally, or psychologically, even though he or she may say, "I feel your pain" but that is not exactly true because they are in two different worlds, the 50-year-old has never fallen ill before so he or she cannot really feel such pain except by mouth. However, by the time a man with similar health history comes, he knows what words to use to comfort the sick because he's been through it.

Dear beloved, going through storms of life is not funny. Sometimes it can be a health challenge, academic failure, loss of a loved one, failed relationship, joblessness, rejection, abuse of any kind, disappointment, bareness, sickness or terminal diseases and the likes. No matter what the storm is, just remember that God is faithful and He does not want you to die in that situation, so don't give up on Him in prayers, fasting, worship and even praising Him. Remember the story of Paul and Silas in the prison and how they praised God and they were miraculously delivered. So please don't let the devil deceive you into thinking that God has forgotten you or that He doesn't answer prayers anymore. Just hold tight your confession, keep your hope alive, lean on the grace of God to see you through and always remind yourself that God is too faithful to fail you. Be full of assurance that He will come to your rescue.

Also, bear it in mind that it's for a reason, always imagine yourself triumphing over the situation, and don't forget that when you come out of it, you too

will help others  
come out of their own storms  
too.  
Love you all.

# ms of life



*Tosin Babalola*

**THE PREVAILING WORD**

<http://tosinbabalola.blogspot.com>

I had a personal experience some weeks ago. Things got so tough, I mean really tough (financially) - I could barely afford anything. And guess what... I gradually got discouraged and slowed down in my regular routine of praying and sowing seed-words.

Until one day the Holy Spirit jolted me; it was as though He sat me down to have a chat that morning. He said to me, *"If (your) praying was that palatable to the devil, why have you*

*stopped? The devil has talked you into discour- agement and has*

*distracted you from sowing seed-words"*. Then He said, *"So what are you going to do about it?"* I got a clear-cut instruction from the Lord that day to get back on my feet, to get back to the place of prayer, to get back to the place where I first began; after all, it won't cost money to declare God's promise concerning my life. I made up my mind to get back on track, whether it was palatable to me or not. Words are seeds, they create our world and they must be sown at all times, we became born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever (1Peter 1:25). As seeds, words need to be cultivated.

*How?*

The answer is 'continuity' – you have to continually remove weeds from around you seeds.

Let's ponder on that question once again: *If the*

# cultivate through contin

devil likes the fact that you pray and confess the Word of God often, why have you stopped? .... You got so discouraged, very busy, or too comfortable to pray-to sow seed-words.

The parable of the sower explains this point. The enemy tries to choke the Word in our lives by distracting us - the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things. (Mark 4:7.18-19).

The Word of God is Spirit and it is life (John 6:63) but the devil will succeed in stifling the Word planted in your spirit as soon as he is able to take your attention off it. When he gets you to this point, you begin to live in unbelief and doubt. Doubting comes easily. We don't wake up in the morning and say to ourselves,

"Today I'm going to doubt God." No, doubt moves into a vacuum; it takes over when we do not do the right things. (James 1; 6-8)

As Christians and soldiers in the army of the Lord, we must constantly fight the good fight of faith putting on the whole armour of God especially the shield of faith (Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.) I was able to establish earlier that faith is speaking that which you have believed. It is the declaration of an unwavering belief. (see: [http://grenepages.com/issue\\_5/my\\_words\\_my\\_world.php](http://grenepages.com/issue_5/my_words_my_world.php))

In ancient Greek, there was a disgrace attached to warriors who lost their shield in battle; it was regarded as the deepest dishonour, a crime that was punishable with death. The shield could only get lost by their own neglect or imprudence. We should not be like the cowardly soldiers; we must not cast away our confidence, which has great recompense of reward. (Hebrews 10:35).

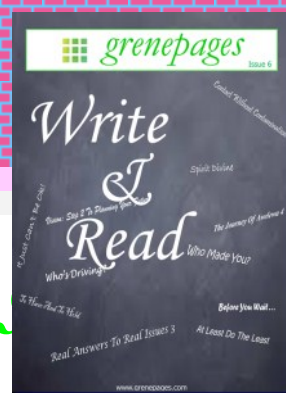
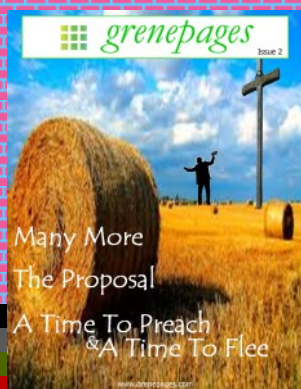
Circumstances that come your way should never get a hold of you. Be determined to create your

own world with the abundance of your lips irrespective of the things going on around you. It may be good, it may be bad – the devil will distract you anyhow.

Remember - we walk by faith, not by sight.

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