



grenepages

Issue 9

TIPS & DOWNS

The Day You Lost Your Miracle

A New Covenant

In Case Your Jesus Sleeps On Crossover

Behind The Scenes

www.grenepages.com

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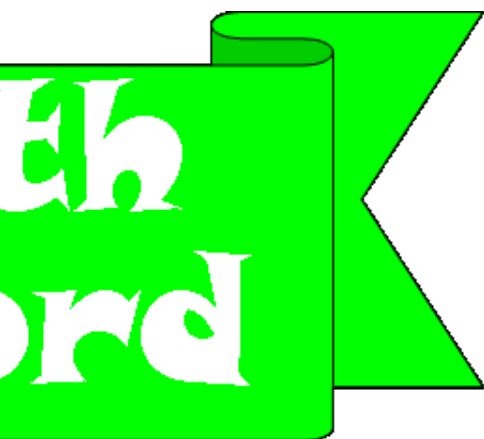
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I'm not sure how the years have been for you. You loved it all through? Were there sometimes you prayed and it seemed not to be working? Some experiences you hope never to have again?

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation. Psalm 42:5

The picture of a wave comes to mind. Moving from one point to the other, it never does so in a straight line. While it approaches its destination, there are

Tobi Olowookere



ups and downs. Sometimes from its highest points called the crest, it sinks to its lowest point called the trough. The most important part however, is that point where it reaches its destination despite all.

In this 9th edition of *grenepages*, we share the mind of the psalmist. In the journey of life, there are troughs as much as there are crests. Things will not always go as planned. Do not let your soul be worried. You shall praise him again.

Welcome to *grenepages*!

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THE DAY YOU LOST YOUR MIRACLE

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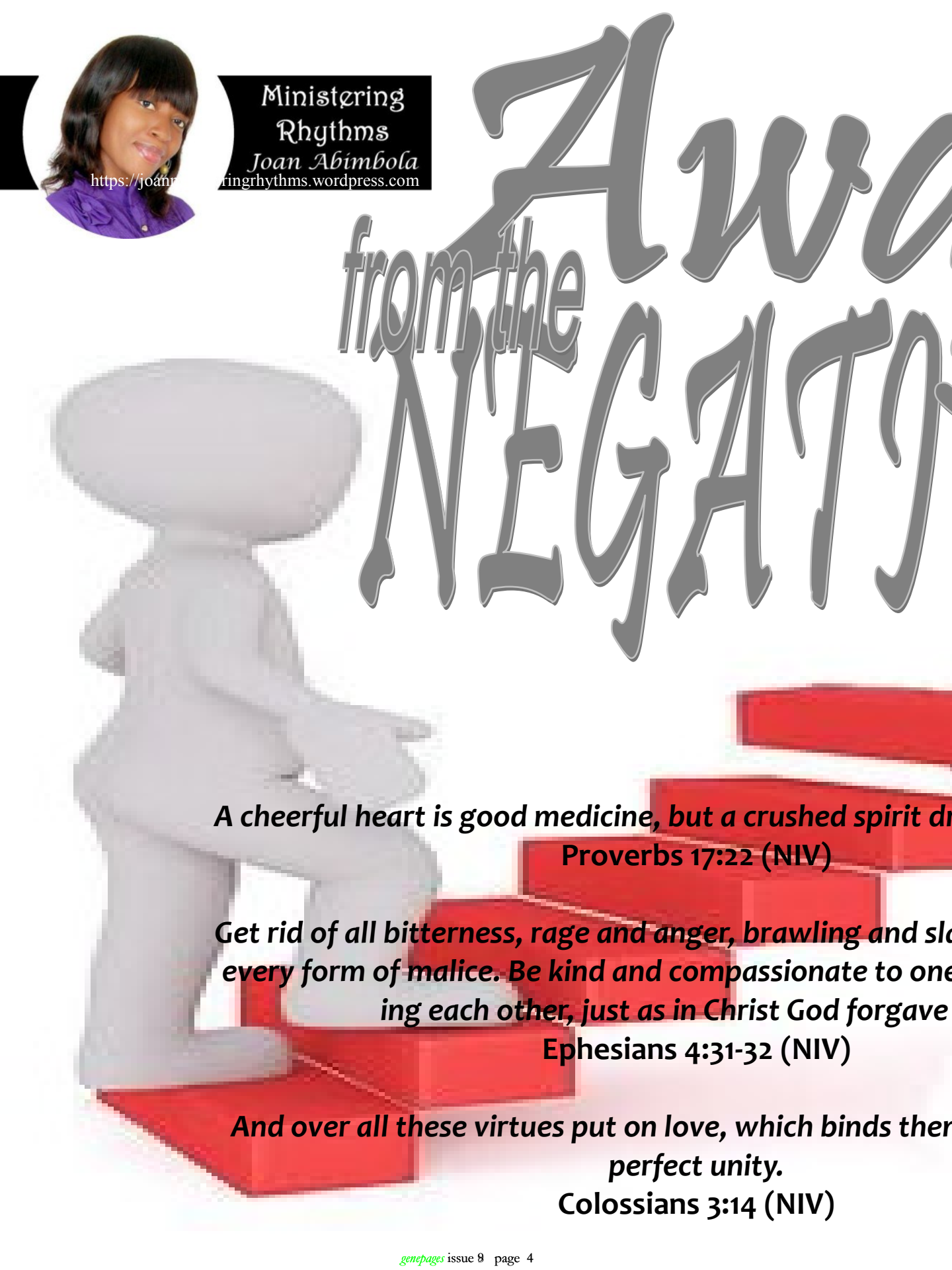
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A NEW COVENANT

Femi Babalola
FRESH BREAD



Ministering
Rhythms
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[ringrhythms.wordpress.com](https://joanrhythm.wordpress.com)

Two
from the

NEGATIVE

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit d
Proverbs 17:22 (NIV)

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slo
every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one
ing each other, just as in Christ God forgave
Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV)

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them
perfect unity.
Colossians 3:14 (NIV)



ries up the bones.

*ander, along with
e another, forgiv-
you.*

n all together in

Worries
Fears
Pessimisms...
Negative thoughts – soul's fever
From your heart severe

Frustration
Anger
Guilt
Negative feelings –
Start peeling

Destructive criticisms
Slanders
Curses...
Negative words –
Don't put to work

Love
Faith
Hope
Vibes of gratitude –
Let them reign in magnitude

Go positive
Overcome the negatives
Believe you can win
And by grace you will
Here are better days indeed!



Treasures in Jar of Clay

Femi Sobayo

<http://oluwafemisobayo.blogspot.com/>

One Saturday morning, from our living room where the children are playing I heard the voice of my first child calling out to me “Daddy, Zoe is writing rubbish in her book”. The elder sister was calling my attention to her younger sister’s wrong action. She is a little more matured than her sister is and knew what her sister was writing was rubbish and that I am responsible for stopping them from writing or doing anything wrong. I came out from one of the rooms to meet my efico daughter to stop writing rubbish in her book. In defence, she said, “Daddiiii, it’s not jagajaga”. Since when did my own small daughter start knowing so much than I do?

When I insisted that she should stop, she taught me a lesson with her response. She said, “Daaddddiiiiiii, it’s my book”. “But I bought it for you”, I debated. She said again, “Daddiiii, it’s my book”.

Well, she was right, partly so. I bought her the book; I have transferred owner-



ship of the book to her. But I own her and all that she has. She may own her storybook, but I own her and her things.

This incidence brought three lessons to my mind:

We need to fully understand that we do not own our lives.

As believers, we can get off the track in our relationship with God the moment we get used to thinking in ‘first person’ position; me instead of Him, our redeemer.

We say things like *this is my home, my life, it is*



my money... We do not just say these things; we also think and act them. My daughter owns her book, but I own her and God owns us. We need to humbly keep up with the truth that God Owns Us. *"I know, LORD, that our lives are not our own..."*(Jeremiah 10:23 KJV)

Except we are guided, we can erroneously but proudly mess our lives up.

With the joy with which she was scribbling

'jagajaga' (as she called it) on her book, it was evident that she did not know the definition or impact of rubbish on her book. Sometimes, we do not know how destructive our actions can be. *"There is a way that seemeth right.... but the end is destruction"* (Proverbs 14:12 KJV). We do not know what we purport to know. We do not know which way to go. We need a sure guide always.

Even when we have our lives in order, we should truly care for the lives of others.

The elder sister has her own book intact, yet she called out to me to save her younger sister from defacing her book. We are not just called to be comfortable; we need to reach out to the lost and to the erring. We need to pray for the brethren, watch out for the neighbours and be concerned about the lost. We were brought that same way to Christ.

Know this: GOD is God, and God, GOD.

He made us; we didn't make him.

We're his people, his well-tended sheep.

(Psalm 100:3 The Message)



The Daughter's Inspiration

Adeyinka Oresanya

<http://adeyinkaoresanya.com>

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

"Oh my God! Awe, we missed the AMVCA awards. I just saw it on LIB's now." Sara came into the living room, *ipad* in hand, and flung herself on the couch.

"Ouch! How did we forget?" I looked up from my phone. She leaned towards me. "Check this out. My love, O.C. Ukeje, won the best actor." She giggled.

I rolled my eyes and collected the *ipad* from her. "Love ko, husband ni. The guy doesn't even know you exist."

"Whatever! Killjoy." She pouted.

I scrolled down the page. "But this is great o. Ivie Okujaye got the trailblazer award. I love her acting. I think she deserves it."

"And Jacqui Bannerman got the award for best make-up. I'm happy for her." Sara leaned in to see the pictures again. "Awe, that's my dream o. To get into movie and TV make up, do great exploits like this lady and Jennifer Ale-gieuno. You know there is a hot talk about the wonderful job she did on Rita Dominic in 'The Meeting'? I bet she will have tons of awards this year." Her eyes had the faraway, dreamy look. I knew she was imagining herself mounting the podium to collect her plaque.

I smiled.

She sighed. "Awe, I can be like these people. These small small jobs and pouty brides don dey tire me."

"Come on, Sara," I replied. "Don't worry now, you will get there. You just keep at it."

"Of course, baby. All I need now is a gig from my second love, Kunle Afolayan and bam! I'm there." she snapped

The Journey of Awelewo

Episode 7



her fingers.

I rolled my eyes and tapped her. *“All you need now is to attend a real beauty school, build a portfolio, then we can talk about knocking on doors like Kunle Afolayan.”*

“Mm-hmmm,” she replied.

There was a turn in the lock and our heads turned towards the door. We definitely knew who it was—only Bola had the third key. Just about time. Bola had not only spent the weekend out but the whole week and I was beginning to wonder if she had decided to start living with her boyfriend. One couldn't put it past Bola. She was capable of anything.

The door burst open but it was only shopping bags we saw. And then Bola staggering in with the rest of the bags.

Sara jumped up and ran towards her. *“Girl, where are you coming from with all these loads?”*

“Abeg, help me first now,” she replied.

Sara took some of the bags from her and came to drop them on the centre table. Bola also walked to the centre of the room and dropped the remaining bags on the floor. Some of the bags were from Vera's, one of the most expensive shops in Ibadan. I raised my eyebrows.

“Ha,” she murmured as she flopped on the couch. *“It's been a long day, girls.”*

“Babe, what have you got here?” Sara started to delve into one of the uncategorized bags. *“Oh my God!”* She screamed as she pulled out a pair of baby pink Pigalle Spikes peep pumps. Pure unadulterated Loub. And my own jaws dropped.

How in heavens was she...my eyes popped as I realised that it was the same shoes we had seen on *adiba.com* when we were browsing some weeks ago. That was what we usually did on lazy Saturdays, when everyone was around, browse online stores to check out the latest fashion pieces in stock and dream of our next

prized possessions. Even though we knew we would have to save and save to get any thing that caught our fancy.

We had logged on to *adiba.com* and went to the shoe section. This pair of pink Loubs stood out on Sara's *ipad* screen in all its beauty. We knew its price would match its beauty.

Straight sixty thousand naira!

We fawned and fawned over the shoes, discussed what bag and what accessories would go with it and on what dress. Then we took our eyes off and proceeded to the next item. There was no way we could spend 60k on shoes—a rookie banker, an upcoming make up artist, and an unemployed gal.

But here was our unemployed gal, Bola, with no business, no savings, a proud owner of a pair of pumps worth a whooping sixty thousand naira.

You see why my jaw dropped.

"I know I know," Bola grinned. "The Lord is good, girl."

"Huh huh," Sara said, pulling out a matching Louis Vuitton tote bag from another shopping bag. "You can say that again!"

My eyes narrowed and I wondered how the Lord had been good to Bola this time.

"Babe, gist me," Sara said, as she delved into one of Vera's bags. "How has the Lord been good?"

Bola smiled. "I met this charming guy, we fell in love and he decided to show me how much he loves me." She waved at the goods before us and shrugged. "Now, this

is true love."

"Hmmm. I thought you were at Kola's place?" I finally uttered.

Bola scoffed and waved it off. "I changed my mind about going to his place. I went to Obi's place instead."

"Obi is this new guy?" Sara asked.

"Yes." Bola smiled again, leaning her back against the couch.

Sara shook her head and smiled back. I shot her a cold look and the smile evaporated.

"I bought you something, Sara." Bola said. She reached into a bag and brought out a bottle of *Hermes* perfume. *Terre d'Hermes*, the label read.

"Wow!" Sara jumped up. "Bola, thank you so much."

"And I didn't bother to buy anything for you," Bola crossed one leg over the other and pointed at me.

"I am not in the mood for sermons."

I shrugged and smiled. Sara was busy opening her gift and taking a sniff.

"So, I called Flora to ask for an update about your interview, and she said you didn't turn up. Again." I said sweetly.

Bola shrugged. "I changed my mind."

I sat up. "What do you mean by you changed your mind?"

"Yea, I don't want to do broadcasting again." Bola replied. "Someday, maybe, but not now."

I shook my head. "I thought you wanted to become the next Toolz."

"Nope. I'm better than Toolz."

"That was not what you said some weeks ago."

"What I said yesterday doesn't matter anymore but what today has to offer." She said. "I'm gonna be a

model now. Obi said I should consider it. I have the looks and figure.”

I rolled my eyes. What is this twenty-five year-old thinking, deciding to pursue a modelling career now, because a guy she met yesterday said so? “Obi is your counsellor now?”

“None of your business. I don’t remember ever choosing you as my counsellor either or my mother for that matter.” She started to rise up. “And I’m done with this conversation. I’ve had a long day.”

“That wasn’t what you said when I was pleading with my friend to help me work out a space for you. Do you know how this looks? What it portrays about me?”

“Whatever, girl! Stop being self-righteous.” She waved me off and walked towards her bedroom, leaving the shopping bags and their contents, obviously for Sara to pack.

“Awe, go easy on this girl. Why don’t you just keep praying for her.”

I turned to Sara and scowled. “What else would you say? Iya oko Bournvita!”

She giggled and stood up, carrying some of the bags.

“Whatever!”

I shook my head and leaned back on the couch. I dropped Sara’s *ipad* beside me in frustration. I couldn’t understand how a lady could be like that, changing guys on a whim. Having her as my flatmate was devouring all of my patience. Coupled with the fact that she was a bad influence on my not-yet-steady-in-the-

Lord girlfriend, Sara, and that influence was frustrating the work I was doing on Sara.

Yet the Holy Spirit kept telling me that Bola was my work, too. And that I would need a lot of patience, the more reason why I have made myself a self-appointed ‘counsellor’. But where Sara is malleable, easily bent to any side (which is why I’m scared), Bola is as stiff as a rock, unbendable, and I didn’t know how far I could go before I gave up on her.

Patience, Awe.

“Lord, I keep hearing patience but I need help. I don’t like these insults I get from Bola all the time. She insults my personality and my dedication to you. She makes me feel I’m a pretender. Please, help me not to react to her in a way that will push her further away. Help me to be the real Christian I’m meant to be.” I prayed.

Laughter erupted from Bola’s room.

Sara’s voice was more prominent. She must be enjoying the Obi gist.

I sighed.

... to be continued.

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Akinwumi's
Handwriting(s)
Adeoye Akinwumi
<http://nikeadeoye.blogspot.co.uk>

My Talent



Talents are icings on our cakes. They are like extras to our ordinaries. Salvation, godliness, holiness and righteousness amongst others are the pillars of Christianity.

Talents are not the same as spiritual gifts, which are listed in the book of 1Corinthians 12:8-10 as; the word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, healings, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, divers kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

I would not exactly classify talents as amongst all these. Talents are the extras that edify the church of God and the kingdom of God at large. As a Christian, the ultimate goal is to edify the kingdom of God.

I have heard of people, who the grace of God came upon to play the keyboard without any formal or informal training.

Let us talk about playing out a script or acting out expressions as your talents. You must understand that unbelievers act drama without knowing Jesus Christ. Therefore, acting can be anybody's talent if God bestows on him or her. What makes it a ministry is when

its primary and secondary goal is to propagate the gospel of Christ.

We have established that our underlying allegiance is our call to salvation. Therefore, as we strive to take our place fully in our father's kingdom, we should give our all, spend ourselves and search within us to see what the icings on our cakes are.

Let me say that some people already knew what their icings were before giving their lives to Jesus Christ. If you are such person, now that you have surrendered to Him, you must align your totality to His will.



y Ministry,

My Destiny

However, if you discover your talent after confessing Christ, then, it's all good. You can weave your talent into your ministry.

Many people who can act can also do other things such as singing or playing instruments or some other things. As many as you can do, do it altogether to the glory of God. Give yourself to it fully.

You are not allowed to act drama for mere show, that is, so you can be

'seen', which will be carnality.

You must deal with every form of vainglory and flesh before you take on any drama role.

You must see the drama ministry as your own way of preaching the word of God, and you cannot do that, living in sin.

Finally, if you are not convinced that you are fulfilling destiny while you are in the drama ministry, then maybe you should not be doing it.

If God has fully invested into you the measure of grace to act out the word of God, then he will hold you accountable for it, when he returns to call us home. Just as in His parable in Matthew 25:14-30.



Inked Words
Tosin Iosef Kehinde
<https://inkright.wordpress.com>

To be is to exist, to continue. It signifies a state.

To be **steadfast** is to **be** resolutely or dutifully firm and unwavering. It means to **stand firm**.

When 2Corinthians chapter 15 verse 58 says ‘... *be steadfast, immovable...*,’ it was trying to lay emphasis on the level of standing at which we should be operating. That implies there are various levels of ‘standing’ with some being more sure than the others. Some might be shaky; others might be unbalanced et cetera. The word *immovable* says something very important: take a firm stand such that you would be able to withstand any [and every] force trying to displace you.

A man standing on quick sand cannot be sure of his stance when compared with another man who is standing on a rock. This tells us that we need a solid ground to be steadfast. We could recount the stories of Joseph, Daniel, the three Hebrew lads, Papa Paul et al. These men stood their ground despite the overwhelming opposition and were able to overcome because they had a good foothold – Christ Jesus. Papa Paul laid emphasis on this in his letter to the *Colossians* ‘... let your **roots grow down** into Him [Christ] and let



your lives be **built on Him**. Then your **faith will grow strong...**’ [2 vs 6-8].

“... roots go down...” = depth

“... built on Him...” = base or foundation

In addition, we humans have two feet, which are necessary to achieve balance. You might be able to stand temporarily with one foot but you would easily fall over with the slightest push. This same analogy can be applied in the spiritual. Remember we have been warned ‘*He that THINKETH he stand...*’ This is a very succinct warning that reminds us that



ndfast...

even our two feet are not enough to ensure we stand nor can they guarantee that we shall remain standing! Thus *'...I am warning you ahead of time, dear friends. Be on guard so that you will not be carried away by the errors of these wicked people and lose your own **secure footing...**'* [2 Peter 3 vs 17]

The phrase *stand firm* is more like an order or a command. The Boys' Brigade Nigeria has a very similar motto: **Sure and Steadfast**. It tells of total commitment. Trying to stand with just one foot is synonymous to a doubting mind: your trust is

divided, so is your faith. You receive NOTHING!

Now I need to draw your attention to something very conspicuous yet which is scarcely noted: trees and leaves. Trees bud and bloom in the spring (rainy season). New leaves emerge. In the fall (commencement of dry season), we see that the trees let go of these leaves. Now the reasons are simple: the leaves are used to excrete water AND the leaves are a weight! Letting go of them ensures the tree is able to manage what little water is available as well as reducing its weight and foliage.

Note that other trees also let go of their leaves, thus reducing the 'obstructions' to the wind-flow and this results in more ferocious and violent wind heads. In letting go of the leaves, such a tree is able to ensure that greater wind speeds neither blows it over nor up-roots it.

The storms of life are seasonal and it takes determination, wisdom and understanding of the times to be able to stand firm and weather the storms.

In summary, there is no disputing the fact that we need a good dose of commitment and determination to remain steadfast. All resources need to be devoted to this task. Be on high alert; putting on the whole armour of God.

Shalom



Conceive The Big Picture



Writing And Not Just Thinking



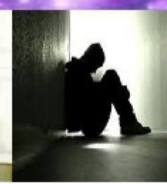
For The End But Ready To Begin



More Is Just Not



The Chipping Wren



I Love You More



Mixing Up Teenhood



The Fox & Goose



The Progress



Gifts



Managing Debt



What A Day!



What A Wonderful Thing To Be Grateful



May We



A Time To Proceed, A Time To Pause



Peace In Fear



Don't Be Afraid To Try



Real Answers To Real Issues



Who Has The Third Core?



A Time To Move On And On



The Journey Of Answers



The Power Of Choice



Little Is The Measured Much



The Available Becomes The Able



Day And Night



The Journey Of Living



What A Wonderful Thing To Be Grateful



The Journey Of Answers 2



The Journey Of Answers



Spoken Word



The Journey Of Answers



The Journey Of Answers



The Journey Of Answers



The Journey Of Answers



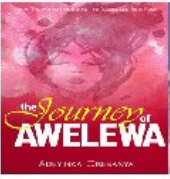
The Journey Of Answers



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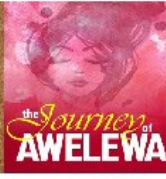
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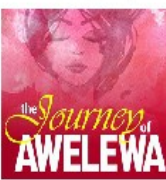
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The Journey Of Answers



Consciously Make It Happen



Winning Past The Finish Line



It's the Devil but You are the Sinner



What is Destiny?



The Drugging Virgin



I Have No Man!



Maximizing Teen-hood



The Path to Destiny



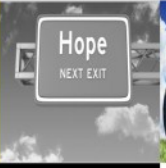
The Proposal



Gifts...



Maximizing Desire



What A Day!



We Are Not Just Trying To Get By



More More



A Time to Preach and a Time to Plee



Faces of Fear



How To Receive Your Healing



Real Answers To Real Issues



Who Has The Third Cord?



A Trip To Marland China



The Journey Of Awelewa



The Power Of Choice



Little Is The Needed Much



The Available Becomes The Able



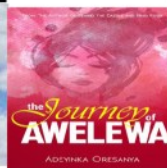
Day And Night



Life Living Or Leaving?



Real Answers To Real Issues 2



The Journey Of Awelewa 2



Distracted Into Death



Spiritual Storch



Where Have You Laid Him?



Living Homes



Get Breathing



Your Future Is Now!



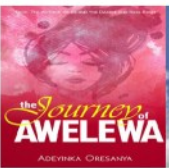
Walking Away From A Wrong Decision



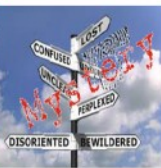
The Secret Is The Secret



Hey Ladies!



The Journey Of Awelewa 3



Mysterious Ways, His Purpose To Fulfill



Countdown



Prayer: Step 1 To Planning Your Future



My Words, My World



How Positive Is Your Vocabulary?



When Made A Stakeholder



It's Now Trendy To Be Busy



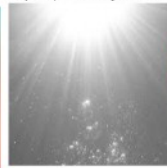
When He Comes...



Of Prophecies And Fulfillment



At Least Do The Least



Spirit Divine



Vision: Step 2 To Planning Your Future



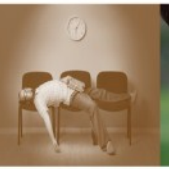
Who's Driving?



Real Answers To Real Issues 3



Who Made You?



Before You Wait...



To Have And To Hold



It Just Can't Be Ok!



The Journey Of Awelewa 4



Contact With out Contamination



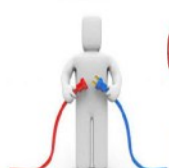
Spread Your Wings



Surviving A Difficult Time



Miracle...



Connecting To The Real You



Everyone Else's Opinion



The Errors Of Presumed Pathway



Let Your Words Become Flesh



The Identity Crisis



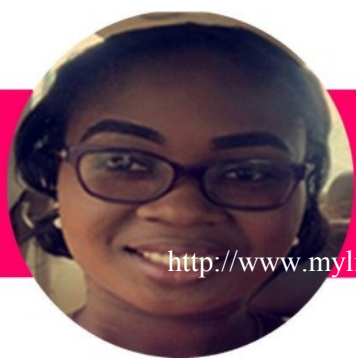
The Journey Of Awelewa 5



What Is It A Name?



It Is Time To Manifest



My Living
Hope

Wunmi Falodun

<http://www.mylivinghopealternatives.org/>

Recently, I had to go to the studio for a photo-shoot session, and some of my sisters came along. We had an amazing time at the studio and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The pictures were so beautiful; I was elated when I eventually saw them. As the photo-shoot was going on, my sister was taking the behind the scenes pictures, which she eventually sent to me. The behind the scenes pictures were so crude, so unrefined, and everywhere was rowdy. It showed virtually everything that went on in that studio, raw and uncut. They were not as beautiful, certainly not as beautiful, and certainly not as captivating as the professional pictures that were already “treated.”

This got me thinking and left me with something. I am sure you know by now that I am one person who learns very big lessons from simple and seemingly irrelevant things. Those behind the scenes depict who/what we truly are. That is where

Behind



God takes us through painful pruning processes. It is where we learn, shout, cry, argue, fight with God, pour out our hearts and labour, until we eventually learn to be still, trust and obey. The behind the scenes is where we are sharpened, shaped, refined, directed and reformed in order to be presentable, posh and admirable.

When we are then being showcased to the world, people see honour, grace and glory, without actually realizing that a lot has gone down; lot of effort, discipline and training has been invested. Behind the scenes is where we seek God, and find Him. It is where He directs and instructs us. It is where He

The Scenes



deals with our weaknesses and shows us loving-kindness. It is where He reveals our character and exposes the quality of our integrity.

I had many help at the studio, someone held the light, someone told me what to adjust, someone did my makeup, and there was a director of photography and so on. Of course, I had to do one or two things myself, and the pictures came out nice. This is exactly what the behind the scenes of our lives does for us, what happens in the closest will eventually speak for itself.

I didn't share the behind the scenes pictures that were taken, because they weren't perfect, who

does that anyway?

When we see “seemingly” perfect/nice looking people, ministries, marriages, or what have you, the price is being paid behind the scenes.

Behind the scenes- a place of openness, honesty, vulnerability and discipline. *“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:11”* its high time we started taking the behind the scene situations of our lives serious.



The Prevailing Word

Tosin Babalola

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Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out. But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. But He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"

Luke 8:22-25 NKJV

I read this few verses of scriptures and though they were not new to me, the perspective I gained was definitely new. They gave me a different view on the events that have taken place in my life recently.

It was a good day and Jesus' disciples were having a great time with Him. I mean the almighty Himself was with them; the one who had performed miracles, a large crowd sought after



Him. What a privilege. It kind of sounds like that time when the presence of the Holy Spirit is apparent in our lives and people close to you can attest to it. I am speaking of that time when you are having a vibrant walk with the Holy Spirit and you receive every word/ instruction from Him with deep conviction, fellow believers around you want to have that kind of deep conviction too. God is with you and you know it.

Jesus asked His disciples to come along to the other side. That is the same way I sensed God was calling me to the other side recently - another side. Certain policy changes took place in my office and the restructure required that I moved to another department and because I wanted a

Case Jesus Sleeps Crossover

more career- promising unit, I took the offer but that required me to move to another side, to change geographical location. I crossed over completely out of my comfort zone to an unknown "other side".

I prayed about it and I was convinced that was part of God's plan for my life. I knew I had His approval. It felt safe, believing that every other thing was going to be sorted out. I also launched out because the 'path of the righteous' ought to shine brighter and brighter, right? And our path can't shine brighter unless we walk, I mean walk with God, right? So, the disciples launched out too.

But as they sailed, He fell asleep.

If he had fallen asleep and the sail remained smooth, that would have been okay. Instead, He fell asleep and there was a storm of wind. What a bad co-incidence. Have you ever had such a bad co-incidence before? I have had one. After I got into a new environment, things did not turn out the way I expected. The challenges I encountered felt like Jesus was in my boat, but He had fallen asleep. I had no friends. I had hostile colleagues who did not want you to move ahead or past them in anything. I needed a place of my own to stay. I didn't know what church to attend. I had frequent malaria, conjunctivitis and other minor health challenges set in. it was a devastating experience and obviously anyone could tell that the Jesus in my boat had fallen asleep. Then the bad co-incidence was that I lost the job, the same job for which I relocated. My confusion heightened. Could it be that when the disciples saw the storm and turned to Jesus only to find Him sleeping, they felt like jumping out of the boat to swim back to shore? I mean right back to where they used to be- back to their comfort zone. Well, that was what my natural instinct told me to do, but I saw that there had to be more in this for me. Thank God, the disciples did not jettison Jesus (the only saving factor from the sinking ship).

When the same storm comes on your ship and Jesus, though in your boat is sleeping, do you jettison Him, jump off the boat and swim back to your comfort zone?

That storm could represent a very difficult time in career, relationship, marriage, adulthood, business, parenting and it could be poverty or intimidation that makes you feel like the Jesus in your ship is asleep. Your ship may be filled with water that begins to erode everything you once held dear. You must remember that there hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

It is not the time to throw all hope away for we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. (Hebrews 10:39)

So they had to wake Him up and that was okay, yet it seemed like it was not the proper thing to do. He did not expect them to wake Him up, not because he loved sleep but He expected them to have calmed the storm by faith in His name and a word of rebuke. I am glad he calmed the storm before He revealed the whole essence of the journey; after all, He was in it with them. I wish I gained this earlier. That Jesus was with me in my situation and that He never sleeps nor

slumbers and when I am at my wit's end, just about to break, he always makes a way.

So what was the essence of the crossover expedition? It was an opportunity to express faith, an avenue to attain maturity. The disciples were certainly going to narrate their crossover story in future but it would no longer be just a story but a life-changing event that would transform the lives of others.

That is how I feel about my experience today. He called me for a crossover to the other side but He was setting me up for something - something more than just me; something to press me, shake me, cook me until I learnt how to trust Him only. Something that has helped me to see me better and see life through a completely new perspective. Something to help me trust, depend on and obey Him all the time. Something to help me learn the pattern in which He walks with me. I am glad I chose to cross to the other side. How about you? Has He been asking you to come on a sail and you are bothered that He is going to sleep off? Or have you began the sail and He is not only sleeping but the storm, wind, and flood are about to swallow you up? Don't wake Him up yet, lest He asks, "Where is your faith?" Exercise your faith today. Face that situation and let the devil see that because Jesus is in your boat, you can never sink. Learn through the experience and let it gradually bring you to maturity.



Word Alive
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Question

I am 32 and I am not even in a relationship. I am under pressure to get married but the men that have been coming my way are either not believers or not committed. I am almost getting frustrated, please I need help.

Answer

As a believer in Christ I will like you to keep in mind that God wants the best for you with regard to marriage. I understand the pressure on you. Please don't allow pressure to get you into marriage with an unbeliever or a man that is not committed to you. God will bring the right man across your path very soon. In the time being

keep making this faith confession,

"The Lord leads me to the right man for me. He will recognize me and I will recognize him. My marriage is a done deal and there will be no more delays."

Keep this confession in your mouth daily. When you make confession you are releasing your faith to bring to pass the will of God for you.



Question

Can someone miss heaven for not paying tithe or giving offering?

Answer

NO, you can't miss heaven for not paying tithe or because you don't give offering. While the bible strongly encourages giving, there are no scriptures that say giving tithe or offering will get you to heaven. Giving in whatever form is an

expression of our faith in God. I believe in giving but I don't believe giving will get anyone to heaven. The only way to heaven is to accept Christ as your personal Lord and saviour. That is the only requirement for salvation.



gracedpages
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The Day

She had been barren for long. It was a pain in her heart. She was an object of ridicule. Penninah taunted her. Many days she would cry but the child wouldn't come. she was dedicated. She was religious. She wouldn't miss the annual sacrifice for a thing. she was prayerful but her answer did not come.

The D-day came when her maker remembered her. The day came when the Lord would answer her. He would wipe away her tears of many years BUT NOT WITHOUT A TEST.

Her miracle was just about five seconds away. I don't think she knew it. She knelt down to pray and just when she felt she was ascending the heavens, the pastor came in.

"Will you get up you drunk? Shameless woman. Its just 9.00am and you are this drunk."

Salt over injury! Hannah should have flared up to answer the man in the tune with which he spoke. She wouldn't have been wrong if she had kept silent and left the place, thinking *silence is the best answer for a fool.*

but what would have been her portion? *"Sir, I am not drunk. I am just praying."* And the rest of the story was her miracle.

Hannah wouldn't have been wrong to be annoyed, but she wouldn't have gotten her miracle too. What if it had been you?

Patience!! Be patient! It is your test.

Your Mi

The day you lost your respect for that man was the day you lost your miracle.

A woman came to Jesus who wanted a miracle so badly. Her daughter was sick and dying. As soon as Jesus saw her, He saw a great faith. On the spot He was ready to deliver to her a miracle. Such faith must not go unrewarded, BUT NOT WITHOUT A FINAL TEST.

You lost miracle

How best could she be tested. What test would match a faith as great as this?

"You dog," Jesus said, "Who will give you a child's food?" Did she not have every right to flare up? Jesus had no right to call her a dog. If she had said, "It is not your fault, I am the one who came for a miracle." Would she have been wrong? "Yes I know I am a dog. Please let this dog eat of the crumbs fall-

ing from the child's table."

And the rest of the story was her miracle. What if she got offended and walked away? What would have been her lot? What about you? What would you have done?

Patience!! Be Patient! It is your test. Every answer to your life's question are tied to tests.

The result you strongly desire is tied to a test.

That problem keeps coming because you keep failing its test.

That guy you wouldn't speak to again.

That lady you never want to set your eyes on, any longer. That man you claim to have lost respect for.

That woman who offended you and you told not to call you again.

Patience!! Be Patient. That man, that woman is your test.

The day you lost them, was the day you lost your miracle.

Yes they offended you. Oh Yes, the offence was great, but if you need that miracle, you must let them go.

There is always a test to pass before your miracle. You can't avoid that test. Take a cue from Hannah (1Samuel 1:15 & 16). Take a cue from the syrophenician woman (Mark 7:27&28).

Patience!! Be Patient! Don't lose your miracle.



The

The LORD guided them by a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. That way they could travel whether it was day or night. And the LORD did not remove the pillar of cloud or pillar of fire from their sight.

Exodus 13:21-22 NLT

Then Moses led the people of Israel away from the Red Sea, and they moved out into the Shur Desert. They traveled in this desert for three days without water. When they came to Marah, they finally found water. But the people couldn't drink it because it was bitter. (That is why the place was called Marah, which means "bitter.") Then the people turned against Moses. "What are we going to drink?" they demanded. So Moses cried out to the LORD for help, and the LORD showed him a branch. Moses took the branch and threw it into the water. This made the water good to drink...

Exodus 15:22-25 NLT



The Israelites were to move when the cloud is moving and stay when the cloud stays. It was the same with the pillar of fire at nights. This was a form of God leading them. A foretaste/foreshadow of God leading us in this dispensation by his spirit at work within us.

Moses and his compatriots have had stops at some 'bus stops' designated by the cloud before this 'bus stop' at Marah. They have been on a long journey in an unfriendly environment and weather conditions. When you go on a journey under such conditions by no sophisticated means of transport but by foot, what you look forward to is a rendezvous sort of 'bus stop' where you can be refreshed, get something to drink at the least.



However, they saw Moses stopped at the water that could not be drunk because of its bitterness. Moses did not stop here, the cloud did.

God led them on their journey to Canaan to stop for a while by bitter water.

Some on their journey of destiny are presently being led by the Holy Spirit to similar 'bus stops' as this. Bitter! Questions arise from the individual and onlookers, "Are you sure this is God?" To the rational mind, this leading is not God. How can a good God lead you to bitter waters?

Some are working in places they believed they were led to by God, but has found unpleasant.

Some have picked career paths they believed they were led to by God, but has found unpleasant.

Some have married spouses they believed they were

led to by God, but has found unpleasant. Some have found themselves in churches they believed they were led to by God, but has found unpleasant.

Some have moved into neighborhoods they believed they were led to by God, but has found unpleasant.

Some have started businesses they believed they were led to by God, but has found unpleasant.

Some have enrolled in programs they believed they were led to by God, but has found unpleasant.

So many have taken steps hitherto believed to be led by God, but has met unpleasantness that is birthing doubt, complaints, murmurs, growling as the Israelites did when the cloud stopped at that unpleasant water.

Instructive to note is that Moses did not move on because of the unpleasantness or/and reactions around him. He stayed because the cloud stayed. He prayed to God and God worked on the unpleasantness.

In as much God is not leading you away from there, stay, pray and see God at work.

Until the cloud moved, Moses did not move. Do not move until God says so.

That spot is an important 'bus stop' you need to pass to get to your destination.



Fresh Bread
Olufemi Babalola

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A New Covenant

It is a new dawn; a new year is here! While some are entering the year with excitement and great expectation, others are not. The lack of excitement being the product of past failures, disappointment and dashed hopes. Several people have received a prophetic word for the year in the past and they have believed God to fulfil that word but alas, the years have passed and the Word has not been performed.

Such set of people are not likely to be excited as churches and ministers of God declare God's counsel concerning 2017. There is likely going to

be a quiet doubt in the heart as they receive God's Word. They are likely to laugh like Sarah at the Word of God or respond with the words of the woman of Shunem at Elisha's prophecy. "No, my Lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant." This is a reflection of how hope deferred makes the heart sick.

Perhaps, the illustrations above describe your situation. You have seen God's Word "fail or fall to the ground" on several occasions. You seem not to believe the Words coming to you right now. It is not because you did not want

to believe, it is just that your heart no longer responds because of the recurrent failures of the past. You are like a conditioned fish in the aquarium, which sees a prey but will not attempt to go after it because it has hit its head against a transparent barrier in the past. The fish has stopped trying even now that the barrier has been removed. You have given in to fate; you are throwing in the towel.

First, I need to restate to you that God's Word does not fail irrespective of your experiences. Your experiences cannot redefine God's Word. Your experiences cannot make God's Word void or invalid. God's Word is true and authentic. It has been tried and tested. It is impossible for God to lie. If God says it, He meant it. God does not feel compunction. He is committed to His Word. He is watching over it to bring it to pass. We have the responsibility to believe and allow God's Word to shape our experiences in life.

Each of us must come to the place where we can say, "No matter what my experiences are, God's Word can never be faulted." I have personally resolved that I will not allow the so-called realities of life give me a faulty view of the power and the Word of God. Rather, the experiences of my life will have to comply and be realigned with the Word of God. I have chosen to believe what God says about my finances, marriage, career, health, etc. irrespective of what I see or the way I feel.

What I am driving at is simple; your failures or even "disappointment by God" in the past is not enough a justification to doubt or fault His Word. In addition, you should stop extending the jurisdiction of your past into the future. God has great plans for you, your past notwithstanding.

There are a number of reasons why God's Word, prophecies, promises or covenant seem to fail. One of these factors is the fact that the fulfilment of every prophecy is predicated on the premise that man will fulfil his own part of the contract while God also fulfils His own part. Our part sometimes may be to simply believe or take a step of faith

or obey an instruction, which will trigger God to act. Prophecies fail because we fail to do our part. We fail to live by the principles that will facilitate the performance of God's promises.

God's promises to you may also fail if it involves a third party who is not willing to play his or her role. This is why God often changes people. David was Saul's substitute. Esther replaced Vashti. Boaz replaced the closer kinsman of Naomi. Samuel was a make-up plan for the failure of Eli. All these people failed to play their role in accomplishing God's purpose. Hence, they were replaced. No one is indispensable. You should understand that while the purpose of God for your life is constant, the process, plan or people involved might change. This is why you should be flexible in God's hand.

I just want to encourage you to trust God again especially as we begin a new year irrespective of the failures in the past. I see God making a new covenant with you in the New Year. In addition, let me inform you that when God makes a new covenant with a man, it serves one of two purposes: CANCELLATION or CORRECTION. God CANCELS a negative covenant by making a new covenant. Colossians 2:14 says, "*Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it*

out of the way, nailing it to his cross.” (NKJV)

He also CORRECTS an old covenant by enacting the new. *“For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. Because finding fault with them, He says:”Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah... In that He says,” A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away”* (Hebrews 8:7-8; 13 NKJV).

The new covenant God made with us in Christ Jesus serves two purposes: it cancelled the satanic covenant that came into our lives through sin and corrected the old covenant, which could not effectively deliver us from the power of sin.

God never denied the fact that He was the Author of the faulty old covenant. In fact, He wrote it in a Book so that we can refer to it eternally. Meanwhile, the fault in itself was not with the law but “with them.” The law was perfect but we had an imperfect nature. Hence, Christ came not to change the law but to change us so the demands of the law can be fulfilled in us.

Perhaps, you also have a book where you have written several promises of God, which are yet to be fulfilled. If He is indeed the One who said those Words to you, they will indeed come to pass. The Word is perhaps still taking its course. Every Word has to take the required time for its fulfilment. Joseph had to wait for thirteen years before His Word came back and found expression. You may need to wait more until the One who speaks fulfils His promises.

If not, I see God making a new covenant with you while He is not denying the old one. I see God correcting “the fault” in the old covenant in this New Year. Be flexible! He is changing plans and people connected to

the fulfilment of His counsel for your life. I see a complete revamp coming to every aspect of your life by the power of God.

Is your opportunity or position given to another? Has your fiancé or fiancée dumped you? Are you facing a disappointment currently? Have you been denied of what is rightly yours? Have people failed to fulfil their promises to you? Friend, every sunset is the birthing of a new sunrise, someone said. Therefore, I will encourage you never to begin the New Year in depression. Rise up because God is making a new covenant with you. New opportunities, new set of people are coming your way. New doors, which no man can shut, are being opened for you. Let Vashti vanish because your Esther is coming. God is bringing a David, stop mourning for your Saul.

This is the Word of the Lord to you, *“Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the LORD for a name, For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off”* (Isaiah 55:13 NKJV).

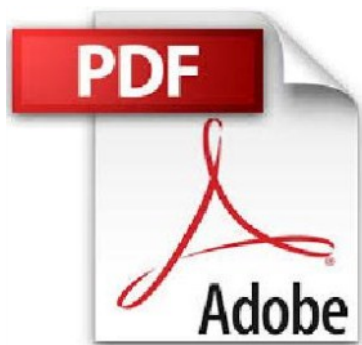
“Instead of bronze I will bring gold, Instead of iron I will bring silver, Instead of wood, bronze, And instead of stones, iron...” (Isaiah 60:17 NKJV).

What I need you to take note is the word, “instead.” God is doing a replacement this year. So get ready because God is making all things new for you.

I love you.

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