



*grenepages*

Issue 16

neither

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nor

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There are friends we keep tabs with on a daily basis. We must get worried or look for them if they don't show up for just one day. For some, it's a weekly thing. For some, one call will be sufficient in a whole year.

Guess what? It takes nothing away from your friendship. Our fellowship with God is not exactly so. The quality of a Christian life directly depends on the man's relationship with Him. He is not to be called once a day, weekly or yearly. Many men want to be "this and that" for God, but how much can He trust you with, really? You go on and off, over and over.

This time at [grenepages](#), let's call your attention to a quality consistent fellowship with God.

Beyond the words on these pages, allow the Holy Spirit to guide you on what he expects from you particularly.

Welcome again, how have you been?

*Tobi Olowookere*



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# enough

I have come  
Just as I am, before the Son  
Nearer as He bids  
Calling that He be enough for me

Come and be enough for me  
Again, I've left it all for Thee  
I know You are my ALL in All  
You are my need; my dear Lord

What else can satisfy  
On who else should I rely?  
None! None! Oh none but Thee--  
My Love; my Life; my Shield

King Solomon had it all  
Yet here's his call--  
All is vanity and vanity  
All but a godly life till eternity

# MEDITATION:

Truly, all of the completeness we seek in our lives can only be found in God.

*“Jesus replied, I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty ”.*

*(John 6:35 NLT )*

*for me*

So here is my heart's voice

Yes this is my own choice

You shall be enough for me

In rest or in distress, You shall be my Peace

In all

Lord be my ALL

When I seem to have all the best

Come and be my very best!

Through it all

Lord be my ALL

When it seems all is gone and none is left

Your Love is enough; Your very Self

My soul's essence--

Your constant Presence

Please hold me close

And never let me go.



## Treasures in Jar of Clay Femi Sobayo

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

Diverse versions of God's will and standards, as authored by men are everywhere now. One version says this, and another version says that. A faithful steward, as an individual should be diligently responsible to build his own roots, in the pure primary source of the Truth; The Holy Bible. Moreover, when other versions come against what he holds, he should keep firm within his conviction.

This conviction, can be examined and re-examined frequently if need be, but the benchmark for all convictions should not be a secondary source, but the Spirit of God; the Word of God, which is the source of all truths.

Few months ago, we changed to a new apartment. Days after we settled in, one of my well-meaning neighbours; a brilliant, well-spoken, intellectual-ly sound Christian woman called me on the phone.

"Hello Mr. Sobayo would you be free today or after church tomorrow for a discussion?"

According to her, she loves to relate with fellow Christians like herself to check up on them the quality of what they believe. So, if my belief was wrong, she would help me see clearly, so I can realign well. What a nice ministry!

So, over a refreshing serving of snacks, she asked me, "What is your opinion on sin and works, having impact on our salvation?"

"Hmnn..." I began, "we are saved by faith through grace, not by works. If we keep faith in Jesus, the grace is available to keep us from going into sin, but if we fall, we should promptly stand up again by repenting and appropriating the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. We must not abuse the grace of God by being careless, romancing iniquities every now and then" In my wildest imagination, I never expected a debate over that simple expression. I was wrong.

We were there for almost two hours. She thinks that we can never lose our salvation again. We cannot become unsaved again. Once we are

Beware of men's revised version



saved, we are saved for life, irrespective of anything. The salvation will keep us from sin and we can never lose faith again.

Arghhhh! I have heard of the eternal security doctrine, but I had not seen an apostle of it face-to-face.

That is not the only revised version of God's truth I have heard; the internet is filled with thousands of revised standard versions of God's truth as propounded by men. The truth is that some of these men do not mean evil. Those are their versions, by conviction too.

A pastor once said that masturbation in itself is not a sin; it is the guilt of it that is. My much-loved pastor once said, "If you do not pay your tithes, things will be tight for you".

The most important part of our lives is our conviction. It determines our life perspective, and ultimately our destination. We will keep having diverse versions on matters of life and afterlife, but we must learn to be responsible for our own convictions.

**But examine everything carefully;  
hold fast to that which is  
good;**  
1 Thessalo-

nians 5:21 NASB

A lot of us would absorb instructions from secondary sources (teachings from books, tapes etc.) directly. There should be a filter for every version we receive. Secondary sources, should be treated only with reference to the Primary Source; God (through the Holy Spirit).

Every man is at best a man. Only a lazy man will absorb the convictions of others, out of respect for the man. It is less costly to seek the primary source of inspiration and have every secondary source diligently filtered by and matched with the Word of God.

This is the way to grow our own root and be responsible for our beliefs.

*Acts 17:11- Now the Bereans were more noble-minded than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if these teachings were true.*

# Version of God's Standard



The Daughter's  
Inspiration

Adeyinka Oresanya  
<http://adeyinkaoresanya.com>


neither

nor

**HOT**  
**COLD**

Neither hot nor cold,  
The coffee I took this morning,  
Promise of aromatic sweetness masking the hypocrisy of bitterness  
A sour betrayal in my mouth that I couldn't stomach  
Disappointment gripped my heart  
The kitchen sink was its destination  
Neither hot nor cold  
I heard the Lord say to me,  
Girl, I hope you understand now just how I feel  
When you offer me the cup of lukewarmness to drink





When you leave me to wonder

Whose side you are on

Whose camp you really belong

Neither hot nor cold

Your voice, every Sunday morning

Riding on the wings of the wind

Carrying the fragrance of your melody up to my throne

Casting crown

Lifting hands

Bowing down

Is all you want to do

But every other day of the week,

Your voice,

Curses, blasphemy, expletive

So the twenty four elders in horror wonder,

To whom does your voice really belong?

Neither hot nor cold

Your hands, every Sunday morning


Lifted high to the heavens

Praises, prayers, supplication

Your hands


Dipped humbly into the tithe bowl for your contribution

Your show of devotion



But your hands, every other day  
Move swiftly to snatch another man's property  
Your hands, never hesitating once,  
Lift that girl's skirt up to see what's beneath  
Your hands, never thinking twice,  
Unbuckle that boy's belt to seek untimely pleasure  
I have not given him or her to you  
Your father and your mother  
They say no to that request  
But your hands, unashamedly  
Dips into that pot, that purse, that cupboard  
To fulfill your desire  
They have not given it to you  
So my son stares at his pierced hands  
Wonders in pain  
To whom do your hands really belong?

Neither hot nor cold  
Your feet, rise at the crack of dawn  
Every Sunday morning  
Barely eat, barely unwind  
Straight to my house  
Praises, weeping, joy, repentance  
But your feet, every other day  
Walk into the abode of the fetish  
Must make money this year with yahoo  
Your feet, walk into that bar

A glass of lemonade with a lemon slice and a thermometer. The thermometer shows a temperature of approximately 37.5 degrees Celsius. The background is a soft-focus image of oranges and a green leaf.

Down every bottle  
Hail every buddy  
Argue till dusk  
Angels stand at a distance  
Watch in dismay  
Whisper to themselves  
How do we minister to this heir of salvation  
When we can't even stand in his favorite spot?

Neither hot nor cold  
Your heart, let's not get started on it  
Crippled because of negligence  
Reeking of decay  
Your heart, devoid of my Word  
The third in trinity wonders,  
How do I live in this terrible place?

Neither hot nor cold  
Too cold for comfort  
Neither hot nor cold  
Unusable for Me  
Neither hot nor cold  
Grain or chaff  
Barn or thrash  
You need to pick a side  
But I ask  
That side be mine





Grace is what makes the Father punish me when I do wrong. Yes, Grace!

It does not sound like it, but it is true. It shows He trusts me and is not happy with what I did. He expected me to do better. It shows He loves me and does not want me to go astray. It shows He is not done with me yet. Grace, God's saving grace.

A place not to be is the "God forsaken" place. When I sin, and He is not disappointed. When I do wrong and He doesn't care. When He no longer has any good expectations from me.

*And because they had not the mind to keep God in their knowledge, God gave them up to an evil mind, to do those things which are not right;*  
Romans 1:28 BBE

# God

Saul the king was there. While he was still on the throne, even in his prime, God was done with him. God anointed his replacement. There was no going back on the decision to get rid of him. He and his son; Jonathan, were killed the same day.

Eli the prophet was there; the God forsaken zone. While he served in the temple, God was done with him. The scriptures had earlier reckoned that God's word became scarce. How much more could God be done with a prophet? While he was still in the office, God anointed his replacement too, and would rather speak to the little Samuel who could not even recognize his voice, than speak to "Daddy G. O. Eli."



# forsaken

Like Saul, Eli and his sons died the same day.

To be God forsaken is the worst that can happen to a man. In fact, it is the final destination for anyone who refuses to acknowledge God.

This zone is not God's will for any man. This is where grace comes in.

For us not to experience this, Jesus had to be there to pay the price. On the cross he shouted, "My God, My God why have you forsaken me?"

That is what I meant when I said grace is when God still has your time, so much that he is pun-

ishing you for your wrong doings so that you will make amends.

Jesus, himself took up the Godforsaken experience, so that you will never have it. There, the scriptures record, he was crying with a loud voice. I do not want to be there.

Ultimately, God will forsake sinners forever, in Hell. This should not happen to you.

Grace; purchased for us by Jesus is available today.





# False in

Your location does not make you close to God.

There are several people we stay and live close to but are not close to. We know little about their lives. We do not claim to be their friends because we stay on the same street. No, we are just neighbors. How come people then claim and assume closeness to God because of their location. Many are at best neighbors and not friends. Some people tend to see some places as holy, holier and holiest. We tend to forget that the eternal spirit is no longer domiciled in tabernacle but in the heart of men. We need to live in the reality of the torn curtain. Some clergy family members behave they are close to God because they live in the *pastorium*, which are often positioned in the church premises. If such does not work on their intimacy with God, they are at best neighbors (but God is not even

domiciled in that church).

Some boast of their stay in religious camps as if it is a guarantee or proof of intimacy with God. Oh, that believers will comprehend that what makes Bethel special is the El-Bethel. Without the Lord of the Bethel, Bethel does not differ from any place. What a blessing that the El-Bethel now resides in men. Hence, a place does not depict closeness to God but the quality of relationship.

*Jesus replied, "Believe me, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father here or in Jerusalem.*

John 4:21 NLT

What you do i.e. your activities does not make you close with God.



# Intimacy

Amidst aristocrats, those privileged to have domestic staff in their abodes, the domestic help render them a lot of service. Yet it is rare to see them develop intimacy with their masters. Activities in the name of ministry do not interpret to closeness with God. It is very possible to be carried away with ministry and forget (neglect) the relationship with the owner of the work.

People often get deceived to measure their closeness with God by their activities. You might be a busy servant and not be a good friend. Moreover, being a busy servant does not translate to a good servant because a good servant takes instructions and does not assume instructions.

Martha was busy in the service of the master,

yet she was not close. Mary invested in her intimacy with Christ by hearing him out. She enjoyed fellowship.

It is now rampant to see core workers going up and down in the name of putting things in place during congregational meetings. They forget that they should also partake in fellowship. If you have to put things in place, do so before the meeting or after such meetings. Running around during meetings is often a sign of poor organization. Moreover, you see some ordinary worshippers envying the *Marthas* because they have been made to believe such is maturity. So they are looking forward to the day, they too will graduate to start running around.

We should long to meet with God and not just to attend to him.



**Fresh Bread**  
*Olufemi Babalola*

<https://iyiolafemibabalola.wordpress.com>

The word “link” suggests a connection between two things or persons. It is to join, associate, couple, wed, or marry two things together. A link is the joint or bridge between two things. A link connects you with something.

We live currently in a world of links. People are always connecting especially as most things are now done online. In order to get information, all you need is a

links. You are not linked until you get the link.

Unfortunately, links, which are meant to connect people, now disconnects them.



# When

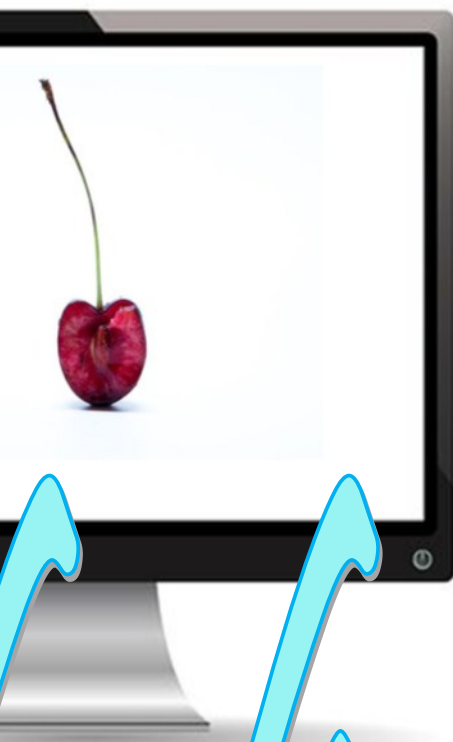
link (the URL) to connect to the site. When someone tells you about an opportunity online, the next thing you will most likely say is, “Send me the link!” You need a link to do virtually everything today.

Institutions, organizations, and establishments give out opportunities, offers, admissions, adverts and all forms of communications through

# a link

People move from link to link yet they are not linked. We seem not to find what we are actually looking for. We spend hours on our smartphones and personal computers surfing the internet yet the vacuum in our hearts are not filled.

One of the greatest deleterious habit people grapple with today is addiction to their phones.



An average person cannot go without his or her phone for more than 15 minutes. People are becoming less productive while others suffer from information overload. There is that

There is the lead magnet, which is promised to be given free in exchange for your email so that you can constantly receive more notifications and consequently you become engaged with the site. We experience a deluge of data or what is called information overload.

As we move from link to link, we experience three types of disconnection:

### **Disconnection with God**

I still remember watching a short video of a young woman who was praying but also responding to a chat. After the prayer session, she had a dream in which she was taking 'selfie'. Since she was distracted, a thief drove off her car. She obviously

# disconnects

fear of missing out. We want to be aware of everything that is going on. Social media platforms designed to connect people now create more disconnection.

Website designers have even made it more difficult to let you go once they get you in their site. The page is catchy and full of snares and traps here and there called links and hyperlinks.

understood the meaning of the dream when she woke up. The enemy took away her blessings because she was distracted.

Disconnection with God is perhaps the greatest form of disconnection people experience today. This disconnection leads to other forms of disconnection. When you are not in touch with



God, you lose touch with other things. When God is no longer in charge of the affairs of our lives, we lose control and cease to be in charge. This is what happens when we become addicted to the internet.

The time we spend in prayers today have been drastically reduced because of our attachment to our phones and computers. Yes, we get to know about the things that are going on in our world today faster because of the internet but most of us are oblivious, ignorant and naive about the things of the Spirit. We have all the links but we don't know what the Spirit is saying. We are current but we are not correct. Decisions are now made based on the trends not the directive of the Holy Spirit. We are disconnected from God.

About a decade or more ago, people spend the night praying and interceding but today you are likely to find the average person online at night. We become anxious when we run out of data or have no internet connection but there is no worry if we cannot pray for a week. As long as we are connected on earth, we no longer worry about our connection with God.

People are beginning to advocate that we return to the use of our hard copy Bibles instead of the soft ones on our phones, tablets and computers. The reason is simple - many do not have the discipline to stay focused on the Bible

they were out to read when they picked up their tabs and phones. Social media notifications and email alerts distract them. As a matter of principle, I am beginning to learn not to start my day with my phone because the tendency is to get distracted. I have also realized that once the morning is lost, the whole day would most likely be lost.

It is time we begin to cherish our link with God more than our link with the world. It is time we put more priority on keeping our connection with God than our connection with the world.

### **Disconnection with Others**

In my discussion with a friend recently, he could not stop lamenting about how he has lost the attention of his wife because she spends most of her time on the internet. This is the experience of many couples today. Communication is known to be the bedrock of every thriving relationship but unfortunately, this is becoming increasingly rare because of our addiction to the internet.

Most of us are guilty of 'phubbing'; the act of snubbing our partners for our phones. Most relationships are constantly being 'phubbed'; a phone buzz halts the juicy story your friend is telling you. Children now spend most of the time in the private rooms with their phones instead of sharing good times with family members in the living room. Tablets and

smartphones are driving a wedge between our loved ones and us. It is not unlikely that the person you are talking with is constantly looking at or pressing his or her phone. By checking our phones, we consequently check out of the conversation. Thus, our talks lack depth. We have become so superficial in our discussions.

It is time we begin to create deeper connection with our friends, partners and loved ones intentionally by ensuring a gadget free zone or a gadget free time so that we can enjoy the time spent together.

### **Disconnection with Self**

With the constant information overload, addiction to phone and the fear of missing out that keep us glued to the screen, people are becoming more and more disconnected with themselves. They feel empty, dry and unproductive. When the junk of the time has been spent online, the spirit and the soul becomes drain; we lose the ability to concentrate and do deep work; we cannot focus. Apart from these, there is also the loss of sleep time, which leads to less effectiveness.

The key to victory is to become intentional in our use of phones and other electronic gadgets. We also need to turn those gadgets into tools for our ministries, businesses and enterprises else they will continue to constitute traps and toys they have always been and we will continue

to lose our touch with God, others and ourselves.

You also need to decide on what every minute of your day will be spent for. This way it will be difficult to fall into the temptation of getting distracted with the internet.

Paul said things have power and they can exert that power on us in ways that will negatively influence our lives. This was why he resolved that he would not be brought under the power of anything (1 Corinthians 6:12). It is also not a sin to use the world and the things in it but we must not become attached or engrossed with it (1 Corinthians 7:31). There is no other time in history when we must become extremely disciplined.

Ultimately, you need to discover the reason for your living. You need to find God's purpose for your life. You need to discover what you are passionate about; it is the ultimate antidote to internet addiction. It will guide your use of time and what you browse online.

Next time when you are tempted to follow a link, think of the effect and the impact it might have on you, others and your relationship with God.

May we receive grace to live a self-controlled life in this present world. Amen.



## The Prevailing Word

Tosin Babalola

<http://tosinbabalola.blogspot.com>

On Sunday we met to break bread. Paul was discussing Scripture with the people. Since he intended to leave the next day, he kept talking until midnight. (Many lamps were lit in the upstairs room where we were meeting.) A young man named Eutychus was sitting in a window. As Paul was talking on and on, Eutychus was gradually falling asleep. Finally, overcome by sleep, he fell from the third story and was dead when they picked him up.

Acts 20:7-9 GW

His name signifies one that had good fortune—Eutychus, *bene fortunatus*. Whether he was brought to the meeting in order to be healed or he was just an attendee, we know that the meeting was meant to do him some good espe-

cially due to the Word, which Paul was preaching.


Many Christians go to church, having the same intention but somehow, along the line -like Eutychus- we become distracted with things by which we ultimately are destroyed.

That the man Paul 'kept talking until midnight' does not justify Eutychus' act of sleeping. We must do whatever we can to maintain focus when it comes to the things of God. Yes, you are married... You have a job that takes much of your time... Your leadership role in church is so demanding... You have children to look after... You are a student and you have many books to read. None of these should ever justify your act of turning cold feet towards the things of God (things that bring spiritual progress).

Despite the 'many lamps (that) were lit in the upstairs room where (they) were meeting', this man was still bent on sleeping off. There might be people around him who tried to call him to

# distracted





order and maybe he just did not listen. Just like when people begin to call you up to know why you were not at rehearsals, the prayer meeting, church service and you do not have logical explanations but you just continue in your absenteeism. That is the Eutychus spirit at work and it always heads toward self-destruction.

Distraction creeps in gradually into an individual's life *'Eutychus was gradually falling asleep'*. For this reason we must pay closer attention to what we have heard. Then we won't drift away from the truth.

Hebrews 2:1 GW

To drift is a gradual process. When a man begins to drift/is distracted from the Word of God (prayer and fellowship), he begins to die (experience dryness).

The problem at the all night meeting where Paul preached was that Eutychus made a wrong decision of sleeping off. Sleep in the life of a Christian connotes spiritual dormancy or stag-

nation, better put, 'spiritual retrogression'. The will of the devil is to get people to the sleeping position where they begin to lose appetite for spiritual things and they become sense-ruled Christians. His desire is not only to make them sleep but to make them fall.

The ultimate goal of the devil is to see Christians become so distracted that they fall and are taken up dead.

I urge you to remain focused on God and His word in the face of (legitimate) distractions for this is the way to prosper in God.

*All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally. I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got. No sloppy living for me! I'm staying alert and in top condition. I'm not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself.*

1 Corinthians 9:25-27 MSG

# or destruction



Maximizing  
Teen-hood  
Ibukun Abraham  
<http://pathofloveteens.blogspot.com/>

and having child/ children for a guy they are not married to now call themselves 'baby mamas'. This is sinful and unacceptable before God.

There is more listed in that verse:

#### LUST:

You

see

people

two

meet-

ing for the first

time, con-

fessing 'love', and becoming sexually active or having erotic feelings towards each other; such is called 'lust'.

**EVIL DESIRES:** Isn't it real these days? The manner in which people carry out an evil act towards each other is heart-breaking. Boys killing girls or damaging their lives because of unreasonable reasons and vice versa. Cultists hacking fellow human to death like a piece of paper all in the name of fight.

**GREED:** You see girls selling their body because of money because of the desire to look good and sophisticated. Boys are dabbling into many evil deeds like stealing, internet fraud, money rituals, etc. just to make mon-

Separation means to set apart or aside. If any-one will be used of God especially in a complicated and carnal world like this, such an individual must learn the principle of separation.

You cannot mingle with everyone that comes your way, live or imitate the life style of everyone around you, or pattern your life according to the pattern of this world and expect to be used by God.

I know you want to ask me what the pattern of this world is. Colossians chapter three verse five states them and they include fornication (sex before marriage), which has become a norm in our 21st Century. Girls no longer see virginity as a virtue. Unmarried people living together like husband and wife now looks normal. Girls getting pregnant

# the joy of

ey and satisfy their material quest.  
All these and many more are patterns of the

you can  
rate

do. When you sepa-  
yourself unto God,

# Separation

world and  
beginning to  
coming part  
er, permit me  
to say, such lifestyles de-  
stroy great destinies; it makes people who  
practices such to be vulnerable to the devil  
and his demons. Some of them die untimely  
and mysteriously, and often time such death  
might be avoidable if one decides to live  
rightly and be separated unto God.

So what am I saying here?

The principle of separation unto God makes  
you live a fulfilled life. Because when you  
separate yourself unto God, he orders your  
steps and empowers you to fulfill destiny; to  
do things you never could have imagined

He guides you from all evil and beautifies  
you with glory. There are many more bene-  
fits you stand to gain when you separate  
yourself unto God.

Now the next question is how do I separate  
myself unto God?

Desist from evil communications. Bible

says that evil communications corrupt  
good manners (1 Corinthians 15: 33).

So who are your friends and what do  
you discuss when you are together?

If you know your clique of friends are  
bad, wayward, greedy, immoral, etc.,  
separate yourself from them and do it  
prayerfully.

To be continued...





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