



grenepages

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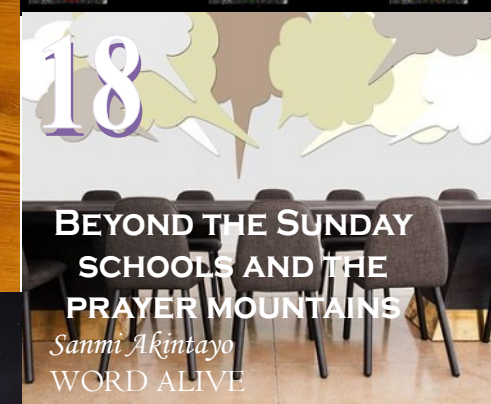
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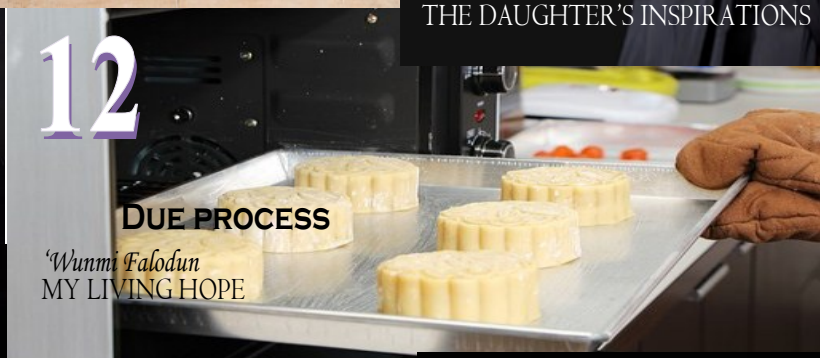
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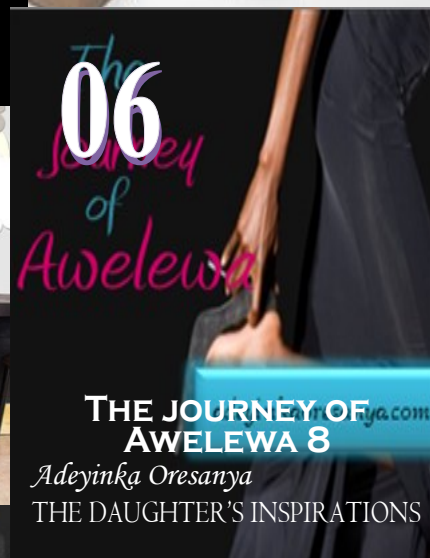
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NOT INTIMIDATED IN RIGHT DOING

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10th Word

Some much is said in the world today about deeds, only a few is said about doing good. Much less is said about the most important - doing it right.

So we are all up and doing. We tick our boxes; this done, that completed. Yet with all of these, we only get a little reward. Are we doing them right?

THOSE THINGS, DEAR SISTER and brother, goes BEYOND THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND PRAYER MOUNTAINS. It does not even matter if you keep a NIGHT-WATCH. THE DYNAMICS OF GOD require us following the DUE PROCESS, DOING IT THE RIGHT WAY.

GET OFF THAT TRAP of ticking mere boxes. DO NOT BE INTIMIDATED, KEEP HOPES ALIVE even if you are alone in THE JOURNEY.

In this 10th edition, we draw your attention to the little, but vital details that we often leave out while we serve the master. We must do it right.

Welcome to *grenepages*.

Tobi Olowookere





those

Joan Abimbola

MINISTERING RHYTHMS

<https://joanministeringrhythms.wordpress.com>

Our troubles
Our struggles
Those things that make us fret
Are only stepping-stones to strength...

Our shame
Our pain
Those things that make us feel 'lame'
All have a way of leading to gain...

Our errors
Our failures
Those vices that make us feel lost
Are sometimes moulding a better us

Our 'defeat'
And all that make us 'unfit'
Those sour parts of our story
Do have a way of leading to victory...

But as for you, be strong and do not give up
2 Chronicles

e things

Our Tears
Our fears
Those things we dread to face
... Are to be used to build our courage...

Keep breathing
Keep believing
Keep living with strong hope
Dwell not on the stones life throws...

Never give up
Even when it's tough
Let out good attitudes
Like that of gratitude...

There's an end
A product of faith or fear
What you believe
That, you'll receive...

ve up, for your work will be rewarded
S 15:7 (NIV)



Adeyinka Oresanya

THE DAUGHTER'S INSPIRATIONS

<http://adeyinkaoresanya.com>

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

When I drove into our compound, only one thing was on my

mind—Indomie Bolognaise. Don't ask. And only one person knew how to cook it well—Sara.

I knew she was going to be home because she was always home on Mondays. As a makeup artist, mid-week to weekends were her own gig

days, hence she always chose Mondays to relax at home. So, armed with three bars of Toblerone, I set to coax her into cooking me some delicious bolognese.

I walked into the house and made straight for Sara's bedroom.

"Sara," I called.

I narrowed my eyes. Sara's bed was neatly

made, and she was standing before the mirror, dressed in jeans and an egg-yellow blouse, doing what she knew how to do best, carving her face.

"Babe, how was your day?" she greeted.

"Where are you going?"

"I h-a-v-e a d-a-t-e," Sara sang, jiggling her waist to the music.

There went my Indomie bolognese.

the journey

"You remember Dapo, the guy who walked up to us at Shoprite?"

I crossed my arms around my chest.

"Nope."

Sara rolled her eyes. "Anyways, we've been chatting, and he asked me to meet him at Tantalisers in Bodija."

My frown deepened. "Why would he ask

you to meet him at Tantalisers?”

She applied lipstick and pouted her mouth. “Awe, o de o. You have started again. What’s the big deal in meeting a guy at Tantie?”

“There is no big deal in meeting a guy at Tantie. I just have a slight problem with where this might lead to. Don’t you think it’s too early to start seeing another guy?

us are hoping and we can’t afford your teeny weeny ideals.”

Ouch! That hurt. Why do friends always think I have it all perfect just because I try to point out the obvious? I would love someone to do the same for me if they would only take time to observe and care. However, no matter what they thought about me, I would still say the truth if it would help us all get to have that successful relationship we all crave for.

I tried again. “Sara, it’s these bits of ideals that turn into big issues in the future.”

“Please, save this for another day, okay?

This girl you are looking at is going on a date. Who knows, this might just turn out to be it.”

Ayoade’s palaver is barely a month.”

Sara turned to me. “You know it’s easy for you to always lay things out in black and white, Awe. You keep talking about ideals because you are in a decent relationship. Guess what? Some of

“Alright, then.” I raised my hands in surrender. It was time to shut up.

“Let’s get to know this guy before we start to judge.”

A smile crept up her red-coloured lips. “Thanks, Sis. How do I look?”

“Perfect!” I said and found my way to my bedroom, my bars of Toblerone in my bag, to be use-

of awelewa

8

ful another day.

I finally made the Indomie bolognese myself, even though I didn't get the satisfaction I craved for, and was about to wash my empty plate and pot when Sara called out to me.

I glanced at my watch and frowned. It wasn't up to two hours she had left for her date.

"In the kitchen," I yelled.

What's up? The guy didn't show? I thought.

Sara walked in.

"Hey, what's up? Bro. *What's His Name* didn't show?" I asked.

She eyed me and burst into a weird laughter. She laughed so much, her eyes began to tear up. I paused my washing and stared at her.

"What happened, Sara?"

"I've had my share of crazy men, Awe," she said in between laughs. "I don't think there are still any decent guys out there."

"Come on, girl. Out with it already!"

"He came in, alright," Sara narrated, "after about twenty minutes of holding me up, all dressed in suit and killer shoes. Just can't figure out the designer. Thinking of it now, it must have been Aba made." She burst into laughter again.

"Sara, be serious now!"

"I'm serious, jo," she said. "When he got to my table, he said, 'I'm so sorry I'm late. I had to stay longer at Iya Dapo's place to fill up my tummy. I was—'"

"Hold up, who is Iya Dapo?" I asked.

Sara rolled her eyes. "His mum. His name is Dapo.

Well, that was how I got to know all about Iya Dapo in the remaining fifteen minutes I spent there."

She deepened her voice to imitate Dapo's. "Do you know how to cook at all? Iya Dapo is the best cook in this world. Before I get married, my wife-to-be must first go for a three-month tutorial to learn from Iya Dapo... Iya Dapo, my mum, she is a superwoman, Iya ni Iya mi... yada yada yada."

My mouth was permanently shaped into an O. "This is unbelievable!"

"You better believe it, Awe." She clapped her hands. "I had to feign stomach upset and begged to leave. I didn't know the worst was not yet over."

"Ehn ehn?"

"He said, 'Wait, how much have you spent for food and how much is your transport fare?' and then made a show of searching his pockets, probably, for his wallet." Sara continued. "He looked at me with confused eyes, 'Ha, I must have lost my wallet when I was rushing down to meet you. It must have been the okada man. Don't worry I will reimburse you. I would even need to get transport fare from you till I can get home to transfer to your account.'"

“Seriously?” I said.

“I looked into his eyes and saw the lies and deception.” Sara shook her head. “I thought, how did I end up here? And I started to laugh.” Sara laughed again.

“Seriously, Sara, you laughed to his face?”

“Oh yes, I did. He was such a fool and I had to let him know. I just picked up my purse and walked out of the place.”

“Ha, you left the guy stranded, Sara. At least you could have dashed him transport fare now.”

“God forbid! I don’t care if his behind walks all the way down to Iya Dapo’s place. Foolish dude.”

I burst into laughter and she joined in. This was really ridiculous and I couldn’t wrap my head around it.

“Awe, I’m sorry for snapping at you earlier. You were right, I need a break.”

“No problem, babe. It’s okay,” I replied.

“Hmmm, I need to spend time to rebuke all losers from my destiny in Jesus’ name.”

She began to shake her head vigorously.

I burst into laughter. “Sara, you are not a serious person.”

“Alright o. You will soon see that I’m serious,” she said. “Look, I’m off to my room to watch movies, what I should have done in the first place.”

“Yes, baby. Enjoy yourself,” I replied.

“Scandal all the way.” She smiled at me and walked out of the kitchen.

I shook my head at the funny story I just heard. Three-month tutorial from a future mother-in-law. Really? Seriously, some guys need to grow up.

Then, single ladies need to take a chill pill in the area of searching for Mr Right. Some guys are like sharks that smell blood. They smell desperation and go in for the kill, begin to treat a lady anyhow once they sense that she desires a relationship badly or she’s limited in her choices.

I would keep praying earnestly for my dear friend to find her Prince Charming and for my own relationship not to scatter, too. Every good thing needs prayers, ain’t it?

... to be continued.

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

there are no godly men.

It is a painful ride, that at some point you think you know too much.

Let me let you know, the last time I asked if my knowing too much might be a challenge, this is the reply a big brother gave me, "You don't even know enough."

Have you thought maybe the fact that you have given yourself deeply and early enough to the road of destiny might be a threat to men?

I am not majorly encouraging you to wait some more this time. I will still do so.

My highlight here is that I feel what you feel.

There are too many unserious brothers all around. You start courting them and you are shocked! "Bro, were you not under the sexual purity discussion?

What of the

entire sermon about purpose?"

You then realize only a few including yourself have been working out these teachings and the brothers with the big bibles were only attending programs religiously.

I KNOW HOW IT FEELS!

I know how it feels that you have to painstakingly wait for such brother whose deep can call out to yours.

The wait will not be so long again.

Dear Sister,

Pèlè, I understand how you feel.

You are passionately pursuing purpose and all the potential suitors are just upgraded riff raffs.

Yes, Christian brothers come along once a

dear sister!

while, but the subject of destiny is not so understandable to them.

You have even tried to patch one up, but your deep kept calling so loud, and his shallow could not keep up.

It is why you cannot explain yourself so well too mere people or you are sad people do not understand when they wonder why you are still single. You know it is not because



Tosin Babalola

THE PREVAILING WORD
<http://tosinbabalola.blogspot.com>

That I am confused and feel helpless and it looks like God is nowhere in the picture does not mean He is not in it; working something out. Ask Ruth!

the dynamics of God

That all the 'i's seem dotted and the 't's crossed and everything looks picture perfect does not mean that God is in it. Ask Samuel!

That God does it through me or for me at a time or through a process that is contrary to logic does not mean my results do not hold sway. Ask Peter about his broad daylight fishing expedition!

That you have tried to solve a problem six different times and you are about to give up does not mean you will not succeed at the seventh attempt. Ask Joshua!

That no one else is doing it but God has asked you to do it does not mean He is not in it, however how long it takes the proofs to show. Ask Noah of his 100 years #projectark!

Joseph the dreamer had an encounter and he told. Mary had an encounter and she kept them in her heart. Their reactions did not hamper

their destinies.

To thyself only, be true!

Do not put God in a box or a straightjacket because... *"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."* John 3:8 KJV



Wunmi Falodun
MY LIVING HOPE

www.mylivinghopealternatives.org/

Sometime ago, my goddaughter dropped by to say hello. Because she had not seen me for a while, she refused to play with me, come close to me, neither did she allow me carry her.

due process

She studied me for a while and we eventually began playing, then out of excitement, I threw her up happily and she responded with the loudest shout/cry I have ever heard in my life.

I became both confused and afraid and I asked her mother, "Don't you play with her like that?" She responded, "We do, she just doesn't trust you that much yet."

"Wow! My 11 months old daughter understands the concept of trust and discern-

ment much more than I do?" I could not help but ask myself.

She understands that these things take time. How often do we jump the gun and circumvent the process without 'testing all spirits' simply because we're excited and emotional? In addition, we end up in places God never intended for us. We conclude about seasons, people, circumstances or what have you based on assumptions, without finding out, without being led by the spirit of God. Our emotions are capable of clouding our sense of reasoning and can very well prevent us from hear-

ing from God.

Some things in life take time and there is nothing we can do about that, other than to give it time.

Stop trying to rush the process. Time and the Holy Spirit reveal a whole lot to people. The process is good for every one of us; it reveals a lot and prevents us from unnecessary mishaps and happenstance.

When next you are tempted to jump the gun or do things irrationally, stop and think of the benefits of following due processes.

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any issue!
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Tobi Olowookere
GRACEDPAGES

<https://gracedpages.wordpress.com>

“God should have really shown he is the almighty. He should have created the whole earth in one second. Why did the creation have to take him six days? In fact, is he not all-powerful? Why did he have to rest on the seventh day?”

God chooses to do what he wants, whenever he wants, wherever he wants, however he wants, to, with and for whomever he wants. None of these change who God is. God is God. God is sovereign. Even if it takes him five years to draw a line on your piece of paper, he is still God Almighty. God almighty dropped some lessons for us at creation, it is important that we pay attention to some of these things.

doing it the

One of the greatest words ever spoken remains, “Rome was not built in a day.”

After each day’s job, God took his time to go over it again. That was why the bible said, “He looked and saw that it was good.”

Yes, we say no man is perfect, but God says we can do perfectly as he does his things. How? Go over things again as He does. By that, you take away all errors and be sure that your work is good.

I should not do a job and immediately give my Client/Boss; I should check it out again and assess myself. I should not rush through an exam and just submit to the examiner; I should take time to go through my scripts again to ensure no mistakes.

If God almighty who would never make mistakes reviewed his work, who are you not to?

God did not finish all his creation in one day. Even though he is the almighty God and could have spit-ted the whole thing out of his mouth all at once, he took his time to do it bit by bit.

Patience!! We should learn to be patient with the execution of our ideas, assignments and all that we do. The fact that you know what to do, you have all the resources at hand does not mean you should just rush through it. God demonstrates it is better done bit by bit. No Rushing!

At close of business each day, the way God looked at his job and passed comments suggested that he always knew it could be better.

Have you read your Genesis? God would come up the next day, go back to the job and add something new. He did that continuously until the seventh day. He was never satisfied with yesterday’s achievement. We should never be over-satisfied/ complacent and sit down in the same place because of a huge result/success. It can always be better. No matter how good

it is. We can always improve on every beautiful thing, just like God.
Whatever you have is not the best you can have. It can be better. Whatever you have done is not the best you can do. Look at it again; you can do better.

God Almighty had the ability to be a one-person committee, but he chose not to. "Let us make man in our own image," he said.
"Let us..." suggests a way of asking for people's opinion on a matter.
"Let us..." suggests a way of asking for help in executing the project.
God did not need anybody's help for anything, but he chose to bring other persons in. He definitely did that to show you something.
On earth, you will always need help. You were not cre-

right way

ated an island and you must not act like one. Man is designed to need each other. Even when it seems like you have all you need, always seek people's opinion. Always ask for help. You will need it.
"Come now, Let us reason together...", that's God again.
If the creator will ask his creature of its opinion, how bigger are you than your fellow man? Always seek help/assistance.

God looked at all that he created, and saw that it was

all very good. God saw all. The bible says God finished his project (Genesis 2:1). God did not stop the project until it was all done.
How many times have you begun things and you stopped by the way? God dropped a lesson for you at creation. Never stop until all is done. It may get difficult and you may face oppositions. There may be unforeseen challenges and it may be taking longer than you thought.
Just put on that godly attitude; "Never stop until it is done."

God rested on the seventh day; I mean God— all powerful, rested on the seventh day. He had to, for your sake. God did not rest because he was tired. God never gets tired but he decided to rest. As a man, your strength goes out as you work. You should learn to decide when to rest. Do not wait until you break down before you are forced to rest. Always make a decision to rest even though you are not feeling tired yet. Rest should not be a reaction; it should be a decision.
Back in my secondary school days, a Muslim classmate always came top of my class. I felt insulted, so I decided to check out what he was doing

extra. I started writing "IJN" on my scripts when I noticed he writes "BRR" on his. Guess what? That made no difference. While I was the "wuruwuru-to-the-answer type," he, on the other hand, did his own things very carefully. Good success is not a gift; it is a reward.
But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. 1 Corinthians 15:10 NKJV



Ope Rowland
THRIVE

<http://operowland.blogspot.com>

As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once.
Philippians 4:15-16 NLT

Paul was not just the vessel used by God to start a number of churches in Asia; he remained a continuous blessing to them through his oversight, visits, prayers, letters and dispatch of emissaries to them. One would have thought that one way the churches would have shown their gratitude was to support Paul. Alas, this was not so. Paul openly declared this in his epistle to the church in Philippi, which was the only exception. This situation was not a secret, as Paul said, “As you know...” The Philippian church was doing what not everyone was doing and continued at it. They were not intimidated by the others not doing it. One

could be tempted to argue that may be the other churches were not aware of Paul’s situation. However, must Paul beg before they know he was to be supported?

What do we say of the church in Galatia that was taught through the writings of their mentor that “Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches” (Galatians 6:6 NKJV).

not intimidated

What do we say of the church in Corinth that was supporting the ‘super apostles’ that came their way after they were established that Paul had to challenge them, “If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 9:11-12 NKJV)

It was obvious that the other churches knew

the right thing to do. Nevertheless, they did not do the right thing. Nevertheless, unlike the others, the Philippian church did the right thing and continued in it. They refused to be intimidated by the passiveness of the bigger and older churches.

How often have we stopped doing the right thing because we realize we are the only one doing it. On realizing that even the 'super brothers and sisters' do not even do it, we question what our stress is after all. We

in right doing

too tend to compromise when we realize that other Christians in our circle have long compromised on that issue. Even when we still have the urge to go on with the right thing, we refused because we do not want the backlash from others, which could be verbal and non-verbal. We do not want to be looked at cynically as the 'holier than thou'. We just want to be comfortable enough to blend in with the others. Amidst the super charged spiritual ones, we step down because we do not want to be seen as a rebel. We are intimidated from doing the right things.

How many have shied away from the truth because they realize there is no one to support them, look up-

on as models or no like minds around. We are simply scared of being the minority and the different one.

At some point, the Philippian church sent the support while Paul was with the Thessalonica church, another church that was not doing what they were doing.

Sometimes, we are bold to stand by the right in front of some but when it comes

to doing it before people who should know but are not doing we backtrack and soft-pedal. Probably because we do not want our right actions to paint them in bad light as their passiveness becomes obvious. Therefore, we are intimidated because we want

them to look good. The people in Philippi church were not 'environmental do goods'.

Even when we allow ourselves to be intimidated and we refuse to do the right thing; it still does not change the right thing from being the right thing.

Oh that we might be courageous enough to insist on the right thing even when it seems unpopular like the Christians in Philippi did amidst the other churches.



Sanmi Akintayo
WORD ALIVE

www.sanmiakintayo.com/

Let me start by saying that I'm somewhat ac-

tive on
social me-
dia and it
has been
an inter-
esting ex-
perience
for me. I

found social media to be a platform that can easily be used to champion a course. I make comments on issues that bother on nation building, the direction of the country and sometimes on political issues on social media. I remember a few months back I made a series of post on *Facebook* about the socio-economics situation of Nigeria and the need for our leaders to do much more than they are currently doing. To my surprise a respected senior friend who is a believer dropped a comment on one of my posts querying them and referring to them as taking to "activisms". I was more than shocked by the

comment because adding a voice to a national concern is not out of place for us as believers as long as it is done in a good spirit and in a responsible manner.

The bible says we are in this world though we are not part of this world. It didn't say it is wrong to contribute to making our societies

beyond the sun and the prayer

better and contribute to the development of our nation. Our faith in Christ and our work with the Lord do not exclude us from participating in nation building or from contributing to the development and well-being of our societies. I am still wondering why we have designed for ourselves a brand of Christianity that doesn't go beyond going to prayer mountains, attending Sunday schools and giving offerings in churches while the society rots and the nation is on the verge of collapse. While praying, going to church and giving offerings are important, they do not replace our roles in nation building and the advancement of our societies

and social courses. If we pray until tomorrow and we leave the affairs of our societies to rogues and thieves and people who have lost their conscience, we should have ourselves to blame.

Silence and passiveness are not always golden and this applies to us believers too. Our participation in issues of the society is golden. The bible calls us the salt of the

humanity and the society. We must listen to the Holy Spirit and act on those things He puts in our hearts to contribute to our society and nation. Yours could be in politics and nothing is wrong with it as long as you don't play it dirty. And another person may

have his role outside politics. Each one of us must find our place and begin to bring the glory of God

unday schools er mountains

earth and the light of this world. We must begin to radiate that light into the society and add flavor to our nation.

The problem in our nation is not insufficient prayers. We probably have prayed so much to last us a century. We need a people who have good hearts and skilled hands to lay hold on the key affairs of our nation and society so we can emerge and radiate the glory of God. Our roles as individuals in our society will be different and diverse but each one of us has a role to play beyond just praying and giving offering in church. Note, I love praying and I am not against giving offering in any way but we must go a step further and contribute to issues that will bring peace, stability and wellbeing to

to bear in societal affairs. If you are a believer and you have no impact beyond the four walls of your church you need to begin to rethink your purpose. How will this world become better because of you? How will your nation and your immediate community feel the goodness of God through your contributions? Go to church and pray but also contribute to the progress of your community and nation. It's our job, and the earlier we get down to work the better it is for us and the society.



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

Every great man and woman on the planet earth today has a story to tell. It is easier to envy them and desire them after they are made, but nobody cares to know what they have been through. Dear friends, let nobody deceive you that life is easy and cheap, there will be good moments and there will be seriously bad moments, but here are some tips on how to overcome such moments. Remember that the economy on its own can add to the bad moments of an average person at this time where money is not easy to come by and even the little you are able to gather has lost value in the market.

There is a saying that tough time do not last,

but tough people do. Being tough is not just a thing of physical strength; it requires a very strong will to overcome any tough situation that comes your way.

Secondly, you need to stay in a positive atmosphere like the church. No matter how depressing your situation is, please do not stay away from the church, somehow God

keeping hope

has a way of communicating hope to you during church services. Keep friends and association of positive people. Some people naturally are hope killers; their words can render you completely hopeless and fearful, identify such people and run far away from them. Rather, choose people who still see good in your situation.

Thirdly be in charge of your thoughts. There could be time that your mind may be playing pranks on you, making you feel miserable and hopeless. When such moments come, use the word of God to deal with it. Remember that the bible says that there is hope to them

have life, you have hope.

Lastly, never think your case is the worst. When you manage to listen to other people's stories, you will laugh over yours. Always tell yourself that someone, somewhere, has been through that thing you are going through and they are out of it. So comfort yourself and laugh over it that you too can overcome your own bad moments.

hope alive

Allow me to round up with this, you need prayer, no matter how terrible your situation is, even though there are moments you are too burdened to

that are joined to the living and a living dog is better than a dead lion. This means that no matter how terrible your situation is, you are better than those millionaires and successful people who are dead.

Therefore, do not allow your mind to cheat you, because when you

pray, but please try to say something to God. No matter how short or uncoordinated your words are, just pour out your mind to him, he surely will understand and hear you because he loves you too much to lose you to hopelessness which is the bedrock of depression and suicide.

**NO MATTER WHAT YOU ARE GOING THROUGH,
KEEP HOPE ALIVE.**



Tosin Iosef Kehinde
INKED WORDS

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Ten people out of ten would probably tell you that the best thing to do at night is to get a good, long sleep... What else could be the best reward after a long, stressful day?

Defined as ‘a period at night during which a person or group of people is stationed to look out for dangerous trouble’ AND ‘a person or group of people stationed to look out for danger or trouble AT NIGHT’, a night watch plays a key role in any institution.

The nighttime is the time for nefarious activities. The cover of darkness makes it easier for perpetrators of evil deeds to act. Remember that it was “... while men slept...” that the enemies acted.

However, light and darkness cannot coexist. Thus, whenever light turns up in the darkness, the darkness flees and such area becomes bright. However, it is worth noting that darkness does

not show up on its own accord. It is always lurking around waiting for light to depart or diminish. Hence, the natural state of things (from the beginning of time) has been dark-

night

ness.

Papa Paul and Silas were imprisoned for the sake of the gospel. The circumstances surrounding their arrest and imprisonment were appalling. Yet they found greater joy in their suffering so much so that they were able to pray and praise THROUGH THE NIGHT! Hello! What would be their lot if they had chosen to sleep – after all we can’t fault them on that. Could we? They had journeyed all day through the city. They had been stripped and severely beaten (with wooden

rods). They were thrown into the inner dungeon of the prison and their feet were fastened. What else could have been expected of them than a good sleep – to forget about their pains

All these are few examples of the transition that occurred during the night, victories won during the night and destinies changed (for the better or worse) during the night.

watch

The enemy came to sow tares
WHILE MEN SLEPT.

So night does not necessarily
mean the period between
dusk and dawn.

It could very much be the period
when we lose our guard.

When Habakkuk said *“I will
stand upon my watch, and set
me upon the tower, and will
watch to see what he will say
unto me, and what I shall an-*

swer when I am reproved...” there was no
room for guesswork neither was there any
timeframe.

The decision was simple and straightforward:
I WILL STAND UPON MY WATCH.

I wouldn't know if there are individuals who
are ready and willing to take up this stand...

I. WILL. STAND...

and sorrows?

Yes, they did not sleep but Apostle Peter did sleep when he was imprisoned after Apostle James had been killed. He slept what some people describe as the sleep of death. His sleep was so deep that after he had walked several meters he still thought he was in a trance! Hmmm...

Lest we forget, the greatest exodus in history started at about midnight. Six hundred thousand men on foot! That's discounting other men on camels or donkeys, women and children...



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FRESH BREAD

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While growing up as kids, we set traps for small animals. Those who could not catch any game ate their meal without any piece of meat in the evening. Therefore, we had a great quest. Our traps must catch some game—everyday.

Over the years, I have observed something about traps. Traps do not necessary kill. Whether the animal is killed depended on the type, or the impact of the trap on the animal. Sometime, the trap immobilizes or wounds the animal, until the hunter lays hold on the game.

This was what happened to the ram Abraham offered up instead of his son, Isaac. The ram was trapped until Abraham came to it. Scripture asserts he almost slaughtered his only begotten son as a sign of absolute obedience to God, before the angel of the Lord interrupted him.

Abraham's obedience seems to seal God's com-

mitment to offer up His own Son for our sins. Abraham was a typology of God offering His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ for humanity.

Immediately Abraham was interrupted from killing his son, the Bible says, *"Then Abraham looked up and glanced around, and behold, behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up for a burnt offering and an ascending sacrifice instead of his son!"* (Genesis 22:13 AMP).

We were not told the angel directed Abraham to the ram. It was in the process of lifting up his head in reaction to the voice he heard, that he saw the ram. In fact, he

get off t

"glanced around," before he saw the ram. The ram was not directly in front of him. The ram was behind him. He actually searched for the ram before he found the ram behind him, caught it, and sacrificed it, instead of his son.

This ram, I presume, was supposed to be in

the sheepfold with the rest of the sheep or at least within the confines of its owner. However, it got estranged from the fold until it was trapped in the thicket by its horns. The ram somehow got isolated from the rest of the sheep, and was eventually caught and slaughtered.

TRAPPED BY THE HORNS

The Scripture specified that this ram was trapped by its horns. The horns signify the strength of the ram. With the horns, it fights and defends itself. The horn is its power. The horn is the ram's "logo." Unfortunately, this ram was not caught by its legs, trunk or horns. It was caught by its instrument of defence; its source of strength. There was no way the ram could fight back. Abraham would have been afraid to go near the ram if it was trapped elsewhere; but the ram was caught in its most critical part -

hunting. Decoys are materials used to attract or trick the animal so that it would be easy for the hunter to gun it down. The thicket was the decoy that got the ram entangled. The thickets immobilized the ram such that it could not escape when Abraham arrived.

This ram typified two individuals in the Scriptures:

SAMSON

Samson was trapped just like that ram. He broke the hedge and the confines of grace and godly counsel provided by his parents. He had escaped several traps in the past, but he was eventually caught in Delilah's snare. He did not know Delilah was not an end in herself but a means to an end. Delilah was a decoy; hers was a preliminary catch for the real and eventual catch by the Philistines' lords. Delilah's mission in Samson's life was clear. The Philistines told her, "...

Entice him and see in what his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him that we may bind him to subdue him..."

In the past, they caught him somewhere else. That is why he escaped every attempt. Now Delilah was out

What trap!

at its horns.

TRAPPED FOR THE REAL CATCH

The ram was trapped by its horns in the thicket, so that it would be easy for Abraham to capture the game. The purpose of the first catch was to fulfil the ultimate catch - the catch for the sacrifice. Hunters engage decoys during

to catch him by the horn. She was to “trap where his strength lies.” The enemy knew he could not catch Samson except by his horns. Only then, can he be overpowered and taken captive. Eventually, Delilah succeeded after several attempts. She ensured that she discovered Samson’s horn of strength—the secret of his unusual power and when she caught him, he could not escape until the Philistines took him and brought him into the house of their gods. An invincible man became a captive. He became a big game. His strength was gone. He has been caught by his horns. The Scripture said, “Having put him to sleep on her lap, she called a man to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him. Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” He awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him. Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in the prison.” (Judges 16:19-21 NIV)

DINAH

Dinah got trapped too. She “went out to see the daughters of the land.” She was caught when she decided to leave the jurisdiction of God’s grace. The preliminary catch was the lustful desire in her heart to see the daughters of the land. She wanted to belong. She wanted to see what goes on out there in the world.

Perhaps, Dinah quietly slipped out of the house.

Obviously, she did not expect to end up in a trap. She probably planned to catch just a five-minute glimpse, and get back home but she got glued to the scene until she was eventually trapped in sexual immorality. The Scripture told us that “...when Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he

seized her, lay with her, and humbled, defiled, and disgraced her” (Genesis 34:2 AMP).

It is true Dinah was raped but there was not any record that she cried out for help like Tamar, David’s daughter did. Dinah was held back in Shechem’s home even when he was not legally married to her. The wedding plans were still under way. This is an act akin to what most unmarried singles do today. They call it fun, cohabitation or trial marriage but the Scriptures called it “...a disgraceful thing in Israel... a thing which ought not to be done” (Genesis 34:7NKJV). It might indeed be fun in the world but in Israel—the church—it is a disgraceful thing.

Dinah became a victim of the uncircumcised. Even though her embittered brothers rescued her, she did not come out whole anymore. She has been “de-filed” – the enemy had extracted vital documents from her destiny file. She was caught by her horns. Her virginity was the password to a fulfilling marriage but the enemy caught her just there.

BEWARE OF ENTANGLEMENTS

The ram, apart from Samson and Dinah, depicts the condition of many today. How often we get estranged from God’s fold. We despise the counsels of our parents in the Lord, and we are lured away from the confines of grace by this present world. We roam in the wilderness of this world not knowing again the route back to our home. Just like the popular prodigal son,

we travel out of the coverage of grace into a far country and soon we are caught in the thickets of sin. We are webbed in unholy dealings. Soon we find ourselves grappling with injurious thoughts, secret sins, dangerous habits and additions. How many spiritual giants today have been secretly subdued by sin and siphoned of their strengths!

We should never forget that just like Abraham looked round for that ram, there is an adversary, the enemy of our soul. He is like a roaring lion moving about and looking for whom to devour (1 Peter 5:8) and he often comes in the form of common activities that seem harmless, such as a TV show, a film, a chat, a date with someone, an Internet site, a hangout with friends. Several people have been entangled in alcoholism, drug abuse, pornography, masturbation, and other dangerous addictions from these simple activities. Others have become victims of rape, unwanted pregnancies, HIV/AIDS, STDs—as a result of these satanic decoys.

Such seemingly harmless entanglement will usually take you farther than you are willing to go, keep you longer than you wanted to stay and cost you far more than you are willing to pay.

Usually the target of those traps is your horn; the secret of your spiritual strength. Quietly, a season film takes your prayer time; Facebook and WhatsApp replace your quiet time. You

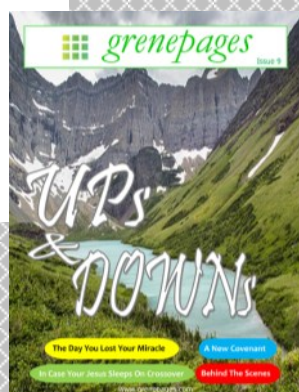
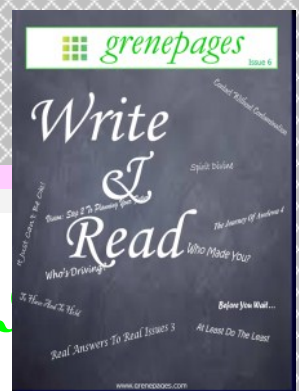
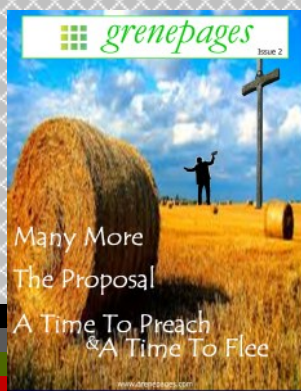
could not fast because of a date and a romantic novel engages your Bible study time. Before you know it, your spiritual horns are warped in the thickets; you are entangled. Your spiritual immunity is broken down; you can no longer resist temptations. You can no longer pray and you sleep while you read the Word. Your recurrent thought is now about sex outside the jurisdiction of marriage; you are trapped!

YOU CAN ESCAPE!

It could be that you are already webbed by your horns in the thickets of dangerous habits and additions. Like the ram, you have struggled helplessly, but you could not free yourself. The Lord wants to free you before the final catch by the enemy of your soul. It is not bad that you have been trapped, what is bad is for the adversary to meet you in that state. You can escape today before it's too late.

The Psalmist recounts how he was delivered from such snares. He said, *“Blessed be the Lord, Who has not given us as prey to their teeth! We are like a bird escaped from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped!”* (Psalm 124:6-7 AMP)

You do not have to become the prey of the enemy. The Lord wants to break the snare and release you from that bondage, addiction and ungodly relationship. He wants to break the yoke of every satanic obsession and oppression. If you can cry to the Lord today, He will break the snare, and you will escape.



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