



*grenepages*

Issue 7

*when*

**YOU**

*become*

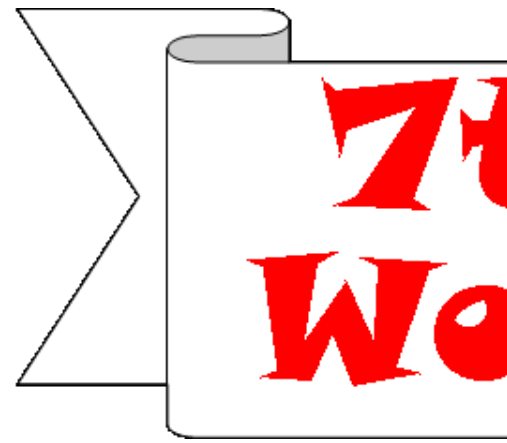
**the world's focus**

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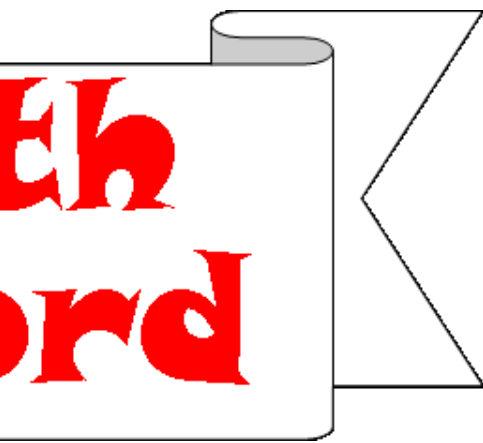
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Sydney hosted the year 2000 Olympics and caught the attention of the whole world. For every athlete and tourist moving in and out of Sydney, the Sydney Harbour Bridge was unavoidable, especially with the bold “Eternity” inscription on it. Those who watched on TV did not escape it either.

As the fireworks of the closing ceremony came to life right on the bridge, it only brought the inscription (Eternity) to the world’s full view. The whole world was reminded about eternity, and the question on people’s heart was - “If indeed there is an eternity, where will I spend mine?” Eternity became a household name in Sydney because a certain Arthur Stace decided to write the word so bold that everyone will live with the consciousness of eternity.

It is another Olympic season in the year 2016 and Rio de Janeiro is the host. Every Day, cameras focus on an image in the City Centre called “Christ the Redeemer.” As the world watches the Olympic Games and the camer-

*Tobi*



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7TH WORD

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LET YOUR WORDS  
BECOME FLESH

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...MIRACLE...

*Toyin Seth-Ogungbe'*  
TEE=WAI

as keep covering that image, a mes-  
sage is constantly passed across-  
"Christ is the Redeemer."

These two cities were chosen to host  
the Olympics among several others  
who wished and applied to be chosen.  
By God's arrangement, why they were  
chosen is not farfetched. The gospel  
must reach everyone before the Lord  
comes...

God wants to answer your prayers of  
excelling, but why should he? If he  
raises you high, picks you out among  
your equals or makes you the focus in  
your family or your organization, what  
will they see?

As you read this edition of *grenepages*,  
we call your attention to the fact that  
the father wants to lift you up, but  
when you become the world's focus,  
what is there in your life to see?

I am sure you loved the last six. Wel-  
come to our seventh issue.

*Olowookere*





Ministering  
Rhythms  
Joan Abimbola

<https://ministeringrhythms.wordpress.com>

*“Arise, shine;  
For your light  
has come!  
And the glory  
of the Lord is  
risen upon  
you.”*

Isaiah 60:1

NKJV

Arise and shine  
For here comes your light  
The long awaited glory...  
Stand! Shine! Do the work boldly

Do not look back  
In resources you won't lack  
Now be encouraged  
Move in courage

Live your dreams  
Not a single one leave  
Who says it's not possible  
When with God nothing is impossible

Let the vision speak  
Go attain the peak  
Work! Build! Plant!  
And your rewards, uncountable as the sand

It's time to spread your wings  
Don't start to mind the wind  
Like the eagle soar  
Above the thunder that roar

Take the shackles off  
Open all its locks  
Your dreams are the keys  
It's time to set yourself free!

You've dreamt big  
Now truly see it  
Make your life fit in  
It's time to work it out and win!



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spread your wings



## Treasures in Jar of Clay *Femi Sobayo*

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

God does not stay where you wish he could stay, he stays where He wills. He does not say what you wish he would say, He says what He will say. He is God, you are his sheep, do not presume him, follow him. Always know that his thoughts could always be far from ours.

*"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

Isaiah 55:9 KJV

I have always had issue with the cliché 'the voice of the people is the voice of God'. God's voice is God's voice, independent of whatever the voice of anything; people or spirits is. It does not matter whether people or nations speak something else or not. He is the sovereign God.

We all have moments when we think for God, moments when we expect him to behave in a certain way, more because we become emotional about such things. I have almost advised God to 'kill all politicians who loot and cause pains to the masses'. At a time, when an *agbero* (roadside tout) hit a conductor hard because the later will not pay the forced levy, I became so emotional that I wished thunder could just

# *the* errors *of p*



slap the tout instantly and avenge the poor conductor. If I had that free uncensored power, I could have done so. We may find it hard to balance revenge and forbearance. Thank God, we are not the Almighty God; I do not think there will be this world again.

**Elijah** once expected God to be in the wind, God was not there. Later, he opined that God should be in the fire or at least in the earthquake. God was not in any of those places. God was in an unexpected still small voice (1 Kings 19:11-13). By default, Elijah just felt or presumed the Almighty should be in a mighty wind or a fierce fire or something more dramatic.

*resumed pathway*

**Samuel**, seeing Eliab, Jesse's first born quickly brought out the Oil (2 Sam 16:6). *Samuel* took one look at *Eliab* and thought, "Surely, here before the LORD stands his chosen king!"

That is more like saying, "Waoou, see a kingly figure, this must be God's mind". Alas! God had his spirit on another person, a most unlikely person. Thank God, men are not the almighty God.

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There is no single physical indicator of spiritual bearings. We cannot assume the way of God. We cannot determine a spiritual path by studying a physical map. It does not matter how much it looks like it. If it is not it, it is not it. The undoing of men is that we run ahead of God assuming the path to trail. We must learn to follow God's leading indeed, if we must be successful.

*"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."* Jeremiah 10:23 KJV



## The Daughter's Inspiration

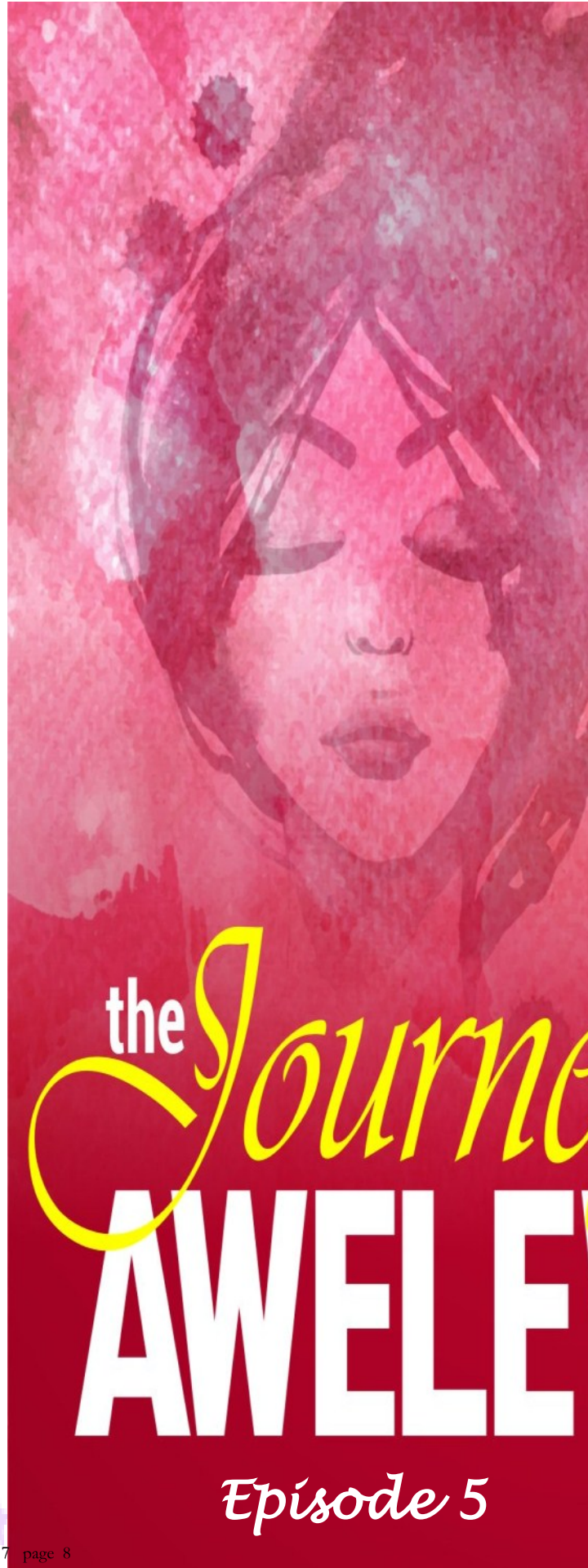
Adeyinka Oresanya  
<http://adeyinkaoresanya.com>

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

“Oh God!” I groaned when the lights went off, just when I was getting into the drama of Olivia Pope and Mellie Grant in *Scandal*—two women, rivals, striking a deal over the heart and the business of the president of America.

PHCN could be so insensitive at times.

Waking up this morning, I had felt like lazing around. Akinyemi had finally travelled to France for his course. We eventually settled our little quarrel, and it was decided no *iru* and no dogs. We are happy and moving on. Glory to God!



# the Journey AWELE

Episode 5



Sara had gone to her parents' house in Lagos to chill out after her bad break up, and Bolanle was spending the weekend at her boyfriend's place as usual, so I was alone at home on this bright Saturday morning. It was just natural that I felt like lazing around.

Hence, after my morning devotion and cleaning my apartment, I had settled into the thrilling movie, before PHCN decided to spoil the fun, and now was not the time to trek miles in order to buy fuel to power the generator. It was lazing-around Saturday, remember?

Sighing, I picked up my phone and began to browse through Facebook. Sara was grooving at the Elegushi Beach with some friends, and she had tagged me in her pictures. In a pair of black shorts, cameo-pink chiffon top, and a wide-brimmed hat that covered her hair weave, which had been let down, Sara, didn't look like her heart had been broken just some days ago. Her smile was so full of sunshine. You go, girl! I scrolled down to see if Ayoade was among the people she had tagged.

[comment](#)

He wasn't. A part of me



wished she had tagged him; he ought to see what he had passed over. Nevertheless, my home girl was looking good!

This further drove home this point for me—if you had just had a bad break up, try not to spend time moping around. Yes, it is easier said than done but very achievable. Visit friends, read good books, go for church programs, attend conferences and events, go to the beach and enjoy life, because it is not the end of the world! Just make sure you do something with your life. Who knows, you might eventually meet your very own this way.

I clicked 'like' on Sara's photos and moved on. Just then, my eyes caught a picture of a set of triplet boys tagged to the profile of a friend from my undergraduate days. The name of the guy who owned the picture was so familiar. I quickly clicked on his profile and searched for his pictures.

Just what I thought.

I stared at the screen of my phone,

at the guy I used to love with the whole of my heart so much that it hurt; the guy who took advantage of the innocent love I had for him some five years ago.

Bukunmi Williams.

In my third year at the university, I met Bukunmi Williams through my friend Folake who also happened to be my course mate. Bukunmi was Folake's elder brother's close friend. He also happened to be the vice-president of their fellowship, which was a popular one on campus. One night, Folake and I had planned to go study at one of the lecture theatres in the Faculty of Science when Dele, Folake's big brother, called her to come to the Faculty of Administration lecture theatre in order to collect a package their father had sent to her through a neighbour's son who was also attending our school.

When we got there and Bukunmi and I were introduced, the only word I said to him throughout was, "Nice to meet you, too." I was tongued-tied, star struck.

Folake was at ease with both guys and they gisted for a while before she informed them we were going to read somewhere.

"Stay here to read," Bukunmi said, his eyes on me.

We studied there that night and several



nights after. The more I saw Bukunmi, the more I fell in love, the more I felt it was right just because he was a passionate Christian and the vice-president of a fellowship. He was also good looking. What more could a Christian girl ask for?

I began to spend more time with him. Everyone around us, his friends and Folake, knew I was in love with this guy. It was like I wore my love for him on my sleeves. Everyone also knew Bukunmi was NOT in love with me.

And no one informed me.

... to be continued.

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# 13 writers



# 7 issues



# 72 stories



*grenepages*





Akinwumi's  
Handwriting(s)

Adeoye Akinwumi

<http://nikeadeoye.blogspot.co.uk>

Everyone else's opinion is often readily available than your opinion. There is always someone who has got an opinion on where you should be at the moment and on what you should be eating.

There is always somebody, who will come into the room to suggest that the trousers you are wearing are too long, that your fingernails are too long, that you should have used palm oil to fry plantain instead of vegetable oil, to avoid the dangers of cholesterol. They may be your mother's friend, your friend, your acquaintance, a stranger, or even your enemy.

Moreover, some do not merely suggest, their opinions can come with speed, insistence, suggesting authority and discouraging dissent. They feel you should have married someone from your tribe instead of considering an intertribal marriage and you do not attend a "correct enough" physical church.

I can go on and on and on, about everyone else's opinion. Everyone else's opinion can show up many times, before you can think deep about the situation at hand. You see, Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, made a valid point when he said, *"If someone isn't what others want them to be, the others become angry. Everyone seems to have a clear idea of how other people should lead their lives, but none about his or her own."*

Trust me, everyone else's opinion can be overwhelming, they can drown your thoughts.

However, the beautiful thing about everyone else's opinion is that you get to be the judge of them. Opinion, can remain as it is- an opinion. The best it can be is an opinion, if you leave it at that level.

I got to a stage while growing up, where I wanted people's verdict about every of my action and



# everyone else's



attitude. Once a friend popped in for a visit, and after minutes of chit chatting, and a warm reception, I moved to my business-as-usual-what do you think about me? The problem was not the fact that I wanted other people's opinion about whether I was relating well or not.

In fact, the scriptures in the book of Philippians chapter four and verse five says, *"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."*

So I was not too far from the Bible's injunction with that habit of mine, God did request that our moderation be evident to men and not Him alone. However, the problem afterwards, was that I was controlled by these varying opinions of others and I was fast fulfilling the words of Oscar Wilde that, *"Most people are other people. Their thoughts are someone else's opinions, their lives a*

*mimicry, their passions, a quotation."*

The danger in daily filling your ears with what is wrong about you is that you are likely to fight from a loser's standpoint. You are likely to want to struggle to be a better person with more fear of impossibility than of possibility. That is the very reason I avoid children of God that are more aware of what the devil can do to them than what God can do for them.

I agree, that there are weaknesses and each person has their own reasonable share and that there are still some more masteries to be won, but don't live in a pool of your inadequacies.

Your (intending or current) spouse and your immediate family are most likely the best judge of your character and you should hear them every now and then, but do not walk on the streets with your mind filled with everyone else's opinion.

It is one major way I know of losing the driver's seat of your life. Do not give the devil that privilege.

Yes, go ahead and build fortresses around your weaknesses that you have observed and that have been mentioned to you by others, but do not consistently make life decisions around other people's opinions.

Therefore, I ask you like Steve Maraboli once asked, *"How would your life be different if...You stopped allowing other people to dilute or poison your day with their words or opinions? Let today be the day...You stand strong in the truth of your beauty and journey through your day without attachment to the validation of others."*

I urge you to receive the wisdom of mentors by all means, but if you have never received an instruction directly from your creator -God, but you have always decided cogent issues in your life based on second hand opinions of fathers, loved ones, friends and enemies, then, maybe they created you.

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

Meriam-Webster's Dictionary of English defined name as "a word or phrase that constitutes the distinctive designation of a person or thing OR a word or symbol used in logic to designate an entity OR a reputation OR a family, clan..."

Dictionary.com defines a name as "a word or a combination of words by which a person, place, or thing, a body or class, or any object of thought is designated, called, or known..."

what is in a  
 NAME?

Kabalarian Philosophy defines a name as "the grouping of several letters of an alphabet, or other symbols, which represent the identification of a person or an object." It noted, "The power of a name and its value has long been immortalized in prose, poetry, and religious ceremony. Everyone recognizes himself or herself by name." It goes further to ask a critical question: "what does a name mean and how does a name influence a person's character?"

A name as a form of identity transcends the facial and physiological features of an individual. From the above definitions, we see that a name can [and does] act as a representative of an individual. Thus, it is safe to say that the significance of a name transcends the physical identification. It has even greater meaning in the spiritual. Moreover, we know that the physical is controlled by the spiritual.

In the book Macbeth by William Shakespeare, Juliet posed a question, “What’s in a name?”

The unique thing about the inquiry is not the question itself but the outcome of the question.

The names that we call things are just randomly assigned by us. Just because people named something a billion years ago does not mean that’s what it is. Names might not hold any significance at the beginning, but over time, they become relevant and indispensable.

Have you ever wondered why a horse was named a horse and not a cheetah? Some might argue that names are just arbitrary and random combination of alphabets and symbols and so we should not read so much meaning into them. There is no distinct reason a horse should be called that initially.

If I should say a horse is the fastest animal on earth (when I meant a cheetah), I would be regarded as an unserious or insane individual. Thus, we see that traits and characteristics can be attached to a name for plants, animals and humans and these are what really define a person.

We usually come across this phrase when people argue that a name does not really matter. After all, we are only interested in the use of something, not its name. This might apply to designer brands. What is in a name anyway? You can buy the made-in-Nigeria replica far way cheaper and still have a dress or a purse or whatever. Why should we assign so much meaning to a name or label in the first place?

Father Abram had 318 trained servants in his house! These did not include the women and children. Indeed, he was an ‘exalted father’. It was not until his name was changed that he became a father indeed. Jacob lived according to his name [deceiver] until God effected the change and the deceiver became a prince.

Jabez was headed in the wrong direction because of the name he answered to until he decided to effect the required change.

Thus, we see that a name does not just identify a person; it defines the course of his/her life.

However, there are some painful exceptions to the rule.

Ananias is a Greek name that means *Jehovah has been gracious*. Sapphira is an Aramaic name that means *Jewel* or *beautiful*. This couple ended their lives in shame and without any glory or beauty.

I-chabod, translated the glory has departed, was the grandchild of Eli the Priest of a family who should have been relevant. However, we observe that aside the record of his birth, nothing more was heard about him.

We should not hide under the canopy of grace and allow complacency or acquiescence to rob us of the promises due us.

Lest we forget, God knew AND called us by name before we were born [Isaiah 49vs1]. If we end up with another name aside that particular one, due to one circumstance or the other, there would be dire consequences. Recall John the Baptist. Recall our Lord Jesus Christ. The list is endless...

Friend, there is a whole lot in a name.

What is your name?

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## The Prevailing Word

Tosin Babalola

<http://tosinbabalola.blogspot.com>

Identity crisis simply means a feeling of uncertainty about who you really are and what your purpose in life is. An example of someone who may have had an identity crisis in the Bible is Moses (although this is not recorded).

Exodus 2:10-11 tell us that he grew up as a Son to Pharaoh's daughter, in the Palace, learning and internalizing all the ideologies of being a Prince. His mannerisms and comportments may not have been different from that of a Prince. He may have had certain rights and privileges to enjoy. Although all of these happened to Moses, he never lost sight of who he really was. As we could evidently see later on in his life, he tried to identify with his own brothers by killing an

Egyptian for their sake.

Jesus Christ asked His disciples; "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" (Matthew 16:13-17 KJV). The striking thing is there was no uniformity in all they said. This means that when you allow any other source (apart from the Word) to define you, all you will get are varying opinions. In the end, only Peter gave the correct and required answer and

that by the Spirit of God.

Some of us have lost sense of our identity. We have allowed people around us (friends, family and fans) to define us. Some people are born into royalty and they see themselves as such, some into slavery, some into wealth et cetera and all have acted in accordance to the acceptable norms and values of such settings.

# the identity crises



There is a danger in allowing people or your social environment to define who you are. Human beings are not stable in their ways, their minds and their judgments. They give you a particular attribute today and tomorrow they give you another. This is why the Bible warns us not to put our trust in man.

*It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.* Psalm 118:8 KJV

Man can never give an accurate description of who you really are because he did not create you. Only the Ancient of days, the One who knew you before you were formed and made you with His own hands can accurately describe you and guess what!- His judgment is forever the same, He will never change His mind on whatever He says you are. His word can never fall, fail nor falter,

for Jesus does not change—yesterday, today, tomorrow, he is always totally himself. (Hebrews 13:8)

The question therefore is ‘Who am I?’ Never try to avoid this question. If you do not answer it soon enough, the devil will tell you lies about it. Circumstances of life will ask you this same question, as it did the seven sons of Sceva, “*Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?*” (Acts 19:15 KJV) I bet you do not want to wait until then.

The definition of who you are is not far-fetched. It is right there in the Word. You are a new Creation.

*Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it!* (2Corinthians 5:17 The Message)

Because of this, there are certain things that have been made available to you, God labeled you with them (as your identity) and they are called New Creation Realities'.

One lesson you must learn at this point is; do not allow anyone to define you. Your true identity lies in the Word of God. On the physical, it may not look like it but the Word of God is ever true. It takes faith to walk in all that we have been given through it.

*that's why we live with such good cheer. You won't see us drooping our heads or dragging our feet! Cramped conditions here don't get us down. They only remind us of the spacious living conditions ahead. It's what we trust in but don't yet see that keeps us going.* ( 2Corinthians 5:6-8 The Message)

Always give thanks to God because He alone has designed your Identity Card and has put it in the Bible. He also promised that He will never alter anything in it forever – not your ever superior position, not your status. Hallelujah!

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faintest pen proves better than the sharpest brain. Write it down as soon as it occurs to you and you have it with you for life. Let the word be with you as the word was with God. Would you believe even God advises that ideas be scripted? *“And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it”* (2)

Keep the idea with you by writing it down. That proves to be the best method ever known. Unfortunately, it is not necessarily he that recieveth that runneth. It is him that readeth, that runneth. If he that received refuses to read the vision, he may not run.

*The word was God...*

The idea became God’s consummation. He so digested the idea, that it became a major project. Everything about Him just wanted to carry out that idea. He must have thought about it repeatedly. He must have built several strategies to implement that idea. He gave the idea every shot, just to ensure it sees the light of the day. For anyone who will ever implement an idea, that is what it looks like. As it comes to you, let it stay with you, and let it become you.

God did not stop at just been passionate about carrying out this vision. If He had stopped at that, we

all will still be slaves to sin today. Soon, *“... the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth”* (3)

God’s idea left the phase of just an idea, it left the phase of written ideas, and it became concrete. God carried it out for all to see. God implemented His idea. Everyone saw it manifest. That is our father laying a perfect example for us that every idea he gives to us must be made manifest. The word became flesh, something we can see and touch.

Unfortunately, the only thing most people do with their ideas is to boast about them. Some even party on ideas, but the implementation; it never happens.

The Holy Spirit himself inspires us with so many revelations, but the time to carry them out remains tomorrow; a tomorrow that never comes. The implementation of the idea that God conceived is the reason we live today. The bible says, *“We beheld his glory, full of grace and truth.”* Full of grace means, it was a huge success. Full of truth means, it was a huge breakthrough. It was unbeatable. That is what happens to every idea that occurs to you and stays with you when arrested and well thought of.

*“And the word was with God...”* tells me that God did not rush into implementation just as it occurred to him; he took his time to plan.

As the word was in the beginning, I know you have an idea now. Let it stay with you as it was with God, in fact, let zeal of it consume you, as the word was God. It shouldn’t stop there, let it become flesh. Let it dwell among us; let us behold its glory as a one that can come only from a unique person like you.

Your world is waiting!

*The earnest expectation of creation awaits the manifestation of the sons of God.* (4)

Go! Succeed!

(1) John 1:1 (2) Habakkuk 2:2

(3) John 1: 14 (4) Romans 8: 19

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# Connecting to the REAL YOU

The whole bible actually forms the whole counsel of God for humankind. However, what you have in the bible is the generic will of God- what applies generally. You need the specific will of God to live your own life because you will not see in the bible specific details of your life written in letters.

In the medicals, they have specialists in diverse fields. However, the specialists did not start their learning from that specialization. They all have to study the general medicine first and from the general they proceeded to the specialization. Therefore, if you are going to understand the will of God, you must start from the generic and get to the specific. Because whatever you are going to practice, as a specialist will not contradict, what you are told as a general practitioner. Likewise, the specific will of God for you will not contradict his generic will.

God's specific assignment for you on this earth had been specified from the beginning and was committed to your spirit, which had existed from that same beginning. Your assignment was written in the name of your spirit. Your name might not be spelt out then, but your spirit was already alive and God knows how he identifies your spirit. When that spirit arrived this planet thousands of years later through your mother and father, your body and your soul tries to live a life. For some, their soul will still try to pick something from their spirit and get some traces and tries to play around it. However, if you are going to do God's will hundred percent your spirit must be regenerated. You must be born again to do God's specific will for yourself.

*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10 NLT*

Before you can do, you need to know. If you do not know, you cannot do it well. Randomness, trial and error becomes the order of the day. You play a guessing game with life. Therefore, you need to know the will of



God so that you can do it. Note that the will of God is not a one-time event but an accumulation. Therefore, you must know per time what he wants you to do. The secret of knowing is also the secret of doing. It is the Holy Spirit.

Only the Holy Spirit knows what is in the mind of God concerning you. You do not know your neighbor thoughts except him. Likewise, only God's spirit knows God's intent, plan and purpose for everyone.

*But we know these things because God has revealed them to us by his Spirit, and his Spirit searches out everything and shows us even God's deep secrets. No one can know what anyone else is really thinking except that person alone, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. And God has actually given us his Spirit (not the world's spirit) so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. 1 Corinthians 2:10-12 NLT*

The Holy Spirit downloads God's plan into our hearts. When you have data on your device, the volume of the data you have determine the access you have to information. Likewise the more you are full of the Holy Spirit, the more information- revelation you can access from the heart of the father. *What is the size of your spiritual data?* You need as much

of the downloader- the Holy Spirit as possible, to assess the much you need. When you know as much as possible, it will be easier for you to do as much as possible.

*for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Philippians 2:13 NIV*

The spirit takes over some of your senses. He causes you to will. Before you do something, you must have determined to do it. If you were going to stand, you would have willed in your mind that you are going to stand up. Now to get that will, determination and mindset, the Holy Spirit cause you to will. The Holy Spirit gives you a prompt, urge, and nudge, and you feel like you want to do something you never planned to do before. A new and fresh thought is formed in you and you sense the need to do something, make a call, and go somewhere. The Holy Spirit is causing you to will, to make decisions and he helps you to carry it out if you yield yourself. While we do his good will, he abides with us still for those who will trust and obey. Several times, you receive promptings and yet you do nothing with them.

When you pray, check the promptings that come to your mind. After praying in tongues, check the thoughts that flow through you. Speaking in tongues clear the debris on the road. It makes the path of communication smooth for the Holy Spirit to be able to push his thoughts forward. What makes contact with the world is the body. That is where your sense organs are placed. The soul is in the middle while the spirit that is in contact with the Holy Spirit is behind. The more you pray in tongues, a road is made for the spirit to come to the front. The flesh still wants to make a battle, but more praying in the spirit pushes your spirit forward ahead of the senses. That is why some things you cannot remember, you remember them when you pray in tongues. Things you are not aware of, you are acquainted with them when you pray in the Spirit. You get praying in the Spirit and God shows you some picture, the spirit has gone on a journey and praying about those issues. Praying in the Spirit makes the flow of communication easier.

How lovely it will be to maintain the Holy Ghost atmosphere continuously with your will and desire being shaped continuously to conform to God's eternal purpose. There is a prompting inside you connecting you to purpose.

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**Fresh Bread**  
**Olufemi Babalola**

<https://iyiolafemibabalola.wordpress.com>

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God was in existence before the beginning began. The so-called beginning was not the beginning of God. Genesis 1:1 says, *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* He could not have begun the beginning if He does not pre-exist it. He is often called the Alpha and the Omega i.e. the Beginning and the End but this Beginning has no beginning. He is the End who has no ending.

Meanwhile, we did not know about God until He began the beginning even though He was already in existence. The beginning introduced God to us. Whoever He was or whatever He has done before the beginning is not known to us. The creation of the heavens and the earth brought God to the scene of human history. His existence seems to make no difference until He began to create. As far as humans are concerned, the beginning was the beginning of God to us. Perhaps, He is known to some other planets unknown to us but it was that beginning that made Him known to us. There would never have been the story of God without the creation of the heavens and the earth.

You too have been in existence for a while now. Perhaps this is your first, second, third or fourth decade on earth. You have been existing in the same way God existed before the beginning and just like God, you will never be known except you begin to create. You will die buried in the abyss of time unknown, unheard and uncelebrated until you begin to harness your potentials. You will be like that mythological snake that walked over the rock without a mark or that bird that flew in the air and we cannot trace its path or the ship on the sea whose track is not known. You will simply add up



to world's statistics except you begin to fulfill the reason for your creation.

Be reminded that some people died and no one knows nobody died. Millions have died that way! You want join them? Saying no is not enough, the way not to simply exist is to create something. It is what has kept some people consistently in human history for centuries. It is what made them immortal like God. They are dead yet they are still speaking to us even today.

You are created to create, to invent, to innovate. You exist to bring into existence things that are not. You ought to bring to the seen what was never seen. You ought to contribute, add value and proffer solution to the crisis in our world. That is why we are created in God's image. We are made from him and we have his attributes. We have the same potential he has, though sin doused that potential but it was restored to us in Christ. Once again, we can reign on the earth.

Psalms 82:6 says, *"Indeed I said, 'You are gods, and all of you are sons of the Most High.'"* In other words, you should live like your heavenly Father. You are his offspring!

God identified a problem and provided a solution. He saw that the earth was formless and void with darkness covering the face of the deep. He then went into action to resolve the chaos. This is how you are supposed to live. Our world is currently faced with different forms of crisis ranging from terrorism, corruption, poverty, famine, diseases, illiteracy, racism,

The point is simple, God was not known until he began to work though he was already existing for ages. You also will never be known except you begin to do the work for which you are created. Your real story will never begin until you find your work and you begin to do it. The key to your revelation or manifestation is beginning your work. It is time you identify the problem you are created to solve and begin to create the solutions.

Let history start writing your Genesis 1:1 today. Let it be said

that in the beginning, you created something. Moreover, do not get it twisted; your physical birth is not your beginning. Your real beginning is that moment when you start doing what you are created to do. You need to know that you already existed before your physical birth. You were born because it was time for what you are supposed to do. You came out of time into time because it was time for you to climb the stage and manifest. That is why your birth will make no difference if your life was not used for its purpose.

Jeremiah existed before he was born. God told him, *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."* In other words, there was Jeremiah before Jeremiah was born. He was born because his prophetic ministry was now needed. However, do you observe that the Bible never said anything significant about him until he received the call to do what he was born to do? That call was the actual beginning of Jeremiah. If he rejected the call, we will never know someone like Jeremiah existed in history.

Jesus also existed before His existence on earth. In fact, the Scripture told us He was slain from the foundations of the earth. However, Jesus did not begin until He began

what He was born to do. What made His birth significant was because He fulfilled the purpose of that birth. Apart from the discourse, he had with professors in the temple at age twelve, nothing significant was written about Him until He began His work at age thirty. Most of what was written about Him was written from that moment when He resigned from carpentry into His ministry. John 2:11 recorded something profound about Jesus after He performed the first miracle.

The Berean Literal Bible says, *“THIS WAS THE BEGINNING of the signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and He revealed His glory...”*

In other words, His birth was not the beginning. It was not the beginning when He was making money from His carpentry job. It does not matter how fat your salary is or how much you earn from your job as long as you are not in your work. It was not the beginning for Jesus until He began to do what He was created to do. He simply existed. When He began, He revealed His glory. So, your real glory will never be revealed except you begin your work. Your glory is connected to your work.

The heavens will only record that which you do on earth that correlates with what was written concerning you. They will not begin your story until you begin your work.

There are countless examples of people who only existed until they began their work. What made their history important to us today was their work.

Nehemiah simply existed until he caught the vision of rebuilding the broken wall of Jerusalem. We did not know Elijah until that day when he walked into Ahab's palace and declared God's counsel. That was his beginning. He seems to be one man in the Bible whose lineage was never traced. It is because it was not necessary. His real beginning was that evening he confronted the wicked king.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a pastor until he realized the reason for his creation. No one knew him until he began to do his life's work; challenging the status quo. No one remem-

bers him today for being a pastor but for waging war relentlessly against racism and the marginalization of the blacks in the society. Martin identified a problem and he died solving it. This same thing can be said of so many other heroes in the community of faith.

The world system also teaches us the same truth that you will only exist until you begin to create and solve a problem. No one knew Bill Gates until he created Microsoft. No one knew Walt Disney until he began the Disney World. Mark Zuckerberg was faceless until he created Facebook. This same thing can be said of Steve Jobs, the inventor of Apple.

It is time for you to begin and stop existing! Start creating. Start contributing! Start adding value! Starting solving a problem! Stop looking for a job but a purpose. Find your assignment. Explore the sea of resources within you. Bring out the treasures in you. Locate the ingenuity inside of you. Write your book. Start the business. Create that software. Go and register that company. Fulfill your ministry. You have the gift. You have the grace. You have the potential! The resources will come. Believe in God. Believe in yourself. The earnest expectation of the whole creation is waiting for your manifestation! Give us what you have. Your grace is not meant for the grave. Begin to create! Manifest!





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# ...miracle...

I had the privilege to visit an orphanage recently, and the experience was humbling, exciting, emotional and altogether fulfilling. I met such happy and beautiful kids. One child stood out as she touched my humanity in a way I do not encounter every day. Her name; Miracle.

She is a beautiful girl who cannot walk, talk nor hear. I noticed her gently move her shoulder to the music and I wondered if she was hopping excitedly around like the other kids in her mind. She seemed accustomed to sitting on one spot all day. Her eyes spoke a thousand words, as I sensed her acceptance of her reality. While others jumped, hugged, danced and sang, she just watched smiled slightly and mostly had a straight face. I wondered if she was used to everyone reaching out to others and waving at her from a distance. As I moved closer to her, I reached for her cheeks, and she smiled. That smile could light up a room. It brought me to tears. And no, I don't cry that easily. I sat by her and held her hands as we played a silent 'pick a hand' game. When it was time to leave, I had a group hug with the others and then I approached her and before I could, she lifted her arms as far as she could to initiate her goodbye hug and I gave her an embrace. I wished I could imprint in her heart with that hug that she was beautiful, loved and perfect in God's eyes. I thank God for the opportunity.

Miracle reminded me love is louder in actions than spoken words. We spoke so much without a word. I left

that home feeling as if she spoke to me, as if she was saying; ***Ty, you have ears that hear, a mouth that can speak and legs that can walk; so you have no excuse not to be all that you can be.*** So I am reminded to say 'I love you' in words and in deeds to those who mean the world to me, because the fact that I can say it, is a miracle. I could choose to dwell on the things that are not going right or make the best of what is and work hard and aspire for much more. The fact that I have life is a miracle. Love is a language that the blind can see and the deaf can hear. Show some love today, because you can, because life is miracle.

To the ones who envision and build these homes, nurture the orphaned and abandoned, give their time, money and life to putting a smile on their faces, you are super heroes. God will honour you exceedingly.



## Maximizing Teen-hood

Ibukun Abraham

<http://pathofloveteens.blogspot.com>

God did not promise us a difficulty free life; he only promised us victory through Christ our Lord. So do not be too burdensome because of this difficult time nations are going through right now. God has a purpose in every situation, including a very bad one like the one we are in right now in this country.

*How can we therefore survive this situation?*

### **Be Prayerful**

The word of God says that we should pray without ceasing. When you turn to God in prayer in a difficult time like this, He gives you strength to go on. You will also enjoy certain level of favor that will make things quite easier for you.

Through prayer, God gives you direction as per what to do, where to go and probably who to go to for certain assistance with a guarantee of favor.

### **Be Hopeful**

Even when it seems that your prayer is not receiving a quick answer; just be hopeful and steadfast in doing good. God will surely answer when you do not give up too soon. Have assurance that things will be better.

# Surviving A Difficult Time



### **Be Diligent**

Bible says whatsoever your hands find to do, do it with all thy might.

Do not be too proud to find certain honorable but small jobs too low for you to do. Remember, the token that comes into your hand at the end of the day is better than nothing. At least it saves you from being totally dependent on people. Moreover, who knows maybe from that small job you will be promoted or you may meet a destiny helper. Despise not the days of little beginning. Do not be lazy.

### **Be Thankful**

This is the will of God concerning us in Christ Jesus. Do not just thank God alone in prayer; let it be a lifestyle. After all, many people who are better and richer than you are dead. Therefore, for every little blessing you get, be thankful for it and see how God will come to your rescue.

***Come to think of it, why does God allow us to go through difficult times?***

### **To produce strength of character in us**

If you haven't gone through a tough and rough time before, how do you know your strength level? By the time you come out of a difficult situation, there is no way you will not become better or stronger, except you refuse to learn because God will not

force you to learn. How do you know if you can resist the temptation of stealing if you are not faced with a situation that will almost leave you with no choice but to steal? However, when you stand your ground not to steal no matter what happens, then you have become stronger in that area of your life.

### **To strengthen our faith in God**

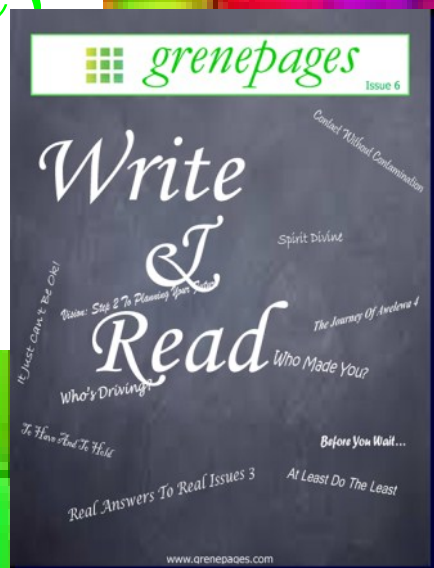
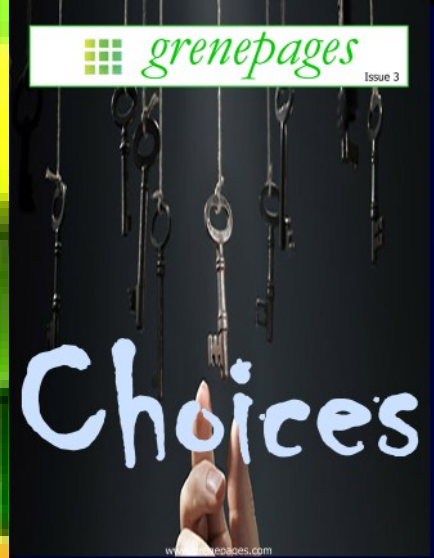
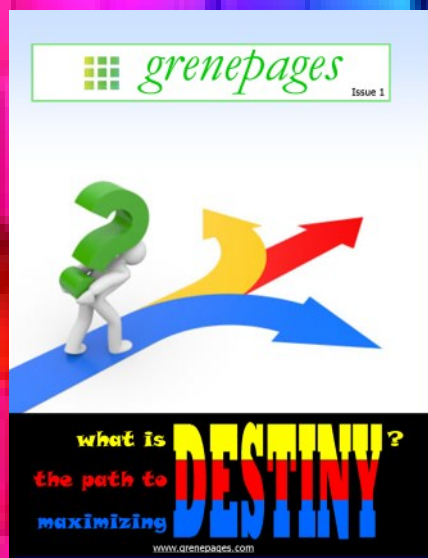
Difficult situations have a way of pushing even the worst sinners to God. Why will you have faith in God if all you want is available at the snap of your fingers? However, when you are faced with lack, disappointment, discouragement, failure, etc., then you surely would have no choice in most cases than to turn to the One who never fails.

### **To help us know our true friends**

Your true friends are the ones that stand by you when the going gets tough, but when things are working out well, everybody is your friend. Difficult situations enable you know those that are worthy to be called friends.

***So you now agree with me that God has you in mind in every situation of your life?***

***See you next time!***



Title: grenepages issue 7

Published: August 2016

Publisher: grenepages.com

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Pages: 28

Language: English

Formats:

