

# Write

Contact Without Contamination

Spírít Dívine

Vision: Step 2 70 Planning Your, Pead Who Made You? Who's Driving:

The Journey Of Awelewa 4

To Have And To Hold

Before You Wait...

Real Answers To Real Issues 3

At Least Do The Least



In the last edition of *grenepages*, we discussed Revelations and its importance to every Christian. This is a follow-up. It's titled "Write and Read"

And the LORD answered me, and said, WRITE the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that READS it. Habakkuk 2:2 God seems to be saying; "I place visions in your hearts daily, you get excited about them, you thank me for opening your eyes again and again, yet I don't see them become of benefit to you. I can't believe how some of you forget these things completely."

First, He says, "Write the vision..." The faintest pen may be better than the sharpest brain. How many times have you made resolutions only to forget? Learn to write.

Then He says, "Make it Plain..." Be specific. Ambiguity sounds like, "I will close my eyes while looking in a dark room for a black cat that is not there."

Then He says, "He that reads will run..." Every time you read what you have written plainly, you find a fresh energy to actualize it. A vision plainly written is bound to be achieved.

It's *grenepages*' sixth time of making visions plainly written so that we all may read and run.

So keep reading, keep running. We all will get there. Once again, Welcome!

Cobi Olowookere

Adeyinka Oresanya THE DAUGHTER'S **INSPIRATIONS** 

Tosin Iosef Kehinde INKED WORDS

Tobi Olowookere **GRACEDPAGES** 



**CONTACT** 



To Have And To Hold

THE JOURNEY OF AWELEWA 4

**WITHOUT CONTAMINATION** 

Tobi Olowookere Write

Toyin Seth-Ogungbe' TEE=WAI

'Wunmi Falodun MY LIVING HOPE

6TH WORD

Ope Rowland THRIVE

24 26

AT LEAST DO THE LEAST

Who's Driving?

Femi Babalola FRESH BREAD



**WHO MADE** You?

ITJUSTCAN'TBE

Ibukun Abraham **MAXIMIZING** TEEN-HOOD



VISION: STEP 2 TO PLANNING YOUR FUTURE

Bimbo Joan MINISTERING RHYTHMS



Femi Sobayo TREASURES IN JAR OF CLAY



**BEFORE YOU** WAIT...

Sanmi Akintayo WORD ALIVE



REAL **ANSWERS TO** REAL ISSUES 3 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:33

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts.

Colossians 3: 15a

You need not travel far To ensure all is fine The first battle to fight Is who rules your mind

Seek the Lord first
For His Spirit thirst
His voice, be calm to hear
His word study and hold dear

As the Spirit lead, you let The toughest you can dare The rough you can bear The best you will get

Share

comment









# Ministering Rhythms

- Joan Abimbola https://joanministeringrhythms.wordpress.com

genepages issue 6 page 4

# Spirit Divine

You will conquer all plights
You will get the swiftest flight
Not by power not by might
By His Spirit you shall shine

The Spirit of ease
In me plant Your seed
On me place Your seal
Prayers to pray as you seek...

The spirit of God is the Spirit of ease. If we allow Him lead us, He takes away every of our struggles and shows us the way of grace.

A woman, in her mid-fifties came to share a testimony in one of our church services one day. It was an applaudable testimony. Summarily, her testimony was that she had never got pregnant in 28 years of marriage. Then two years ago (about four years now), she picked some instructions from the pages of a book, converted that into faithpowered action steps and kept her expectations positively high. Then, that same month.... she got pregnant! Now, after 28 years, she is a mother of twins...! Praaaaaiiiise the

I joined in praising the Lord! I was indeed moved! I danced also to 'everybody look-look, see what the Lord has done'.

But somehow, deep within me, I had questions! Has she really been waiting on the Lord for a child for 28 years or she has been slack, slothful, inactive and faithless for 28 years? It could be any of the two.

We need to be careful what we celebrate and how we understand what waiting is in the verse: "but those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength;" Isaiah 40:31 (KJV)

There is a borderline between 'being slack, slothful' and 'waiting on the Lord.'

I have heard a number of people use the verse 'I am waiting on the Lord' as a description of their passive states. To wait upon the Lord is a great demonstration of trust and confidence. It shows a demonstration of dependency on God.



plaud the 'waiters', please let's also wait here to



ing, when we have not reached the end of our responsibilities.

> The five Foolish Virgins waited also, but when the groom came,

consider whether we are actually 'waiting on the Lord' or we are sleeping away in irresponsibility! Waiting, whether upon the Lord or upon whoever is not a virtue in itself if you have not done the needful. It's sad that some things we are waiting on him for are also waiting on us to take responsibility.

"From the days of John, the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subject to violence, and the violent lay claim to it". Matthew 11:12 (Berean Study Bible)

Sirs and Mas, we all need to understand that God has BLESSED us already! If we will be as RE-

SPONSIBLE as we should be in claiming and appropriating his blessings on us, we all will operate effortlessly in full potentials. We are not called to a life of laziness or slothfulness, sitting around wait-



they could not make it. While waiting, keep doing all that is needed. Keep eating the Word, keep confessing more and more, keep praying, keep learning new skills, keep meeting those you should meet, keep going for personal development programs, keep keeping on as you wait. Waiting in the context of the Word of God does not mean a period of slothful retirement or a period of handling over your responsibilities to God; it only posits that in your pursuit of God... keep your hope in him.

Share

comment

Ireasures in Jar of Clay

#### **QUESTION:**

I need your counsel, I just found out that my fiancé has been cheating on me. I really love him, please what should I do?

#### **ANSWER:**

The fact that your fiancé is cheating on you is a clear sign that he is not fully committed to you. You shouldn't marry a man that has an alternative or substitute to you. If a man is cheating on you during courtship he will most likely cheat on you in marriage. I will advise you to quit the relationship, it is too early for you to start patching it up. You shouldn't marry a man that you can't trust.

As to the fact that you love him, there is nothing wrong with your loving him, you



are supposed to love a man that you are engaged to. However, loving him is not enough; he is supposed to be faithful to you if you are going to have a happy home. Don't marry a man who is not faithful to you. I know some young men whose marriages are under a year and are cheating on their wives. I'm sure you don't want to marry a man like that. I strongly advise that you pull out of the relationship and trust God to bring a man that will be faithful to you into your life. It is well with you.

#### **QUESTION:**

I want to ask about money lotteries and sport betting. Is it ok for a Christian?

# REAL ANSWERS

# REAL ISSUES

WORD Alive

Sanmi Akintayo

http://www.sanmiakintayo.com

#### ANSWER:

I believe

Chris-

tians should not get involved in any form of lottery or betting. Another word for lottery is "GAMBLE". We are children of God and we don't gamble.

You also need to know that money lotteries and betting are organized form of cheating, and no form of cheating is acceptable by bible standard. Some people lose their money in lotteries and betting while others gain from the loss of others. This is a form of cheating. Neither lottery nor betting is one of God's ways of blessing His people. You should rather work and trust God to bless the work of your hand. As believers, we should avoid looking for cheap money outside God's standard. It is the blessing of the Lord that makes us rich and not any form of cheating, betting or lottery.

God bless you.

comment

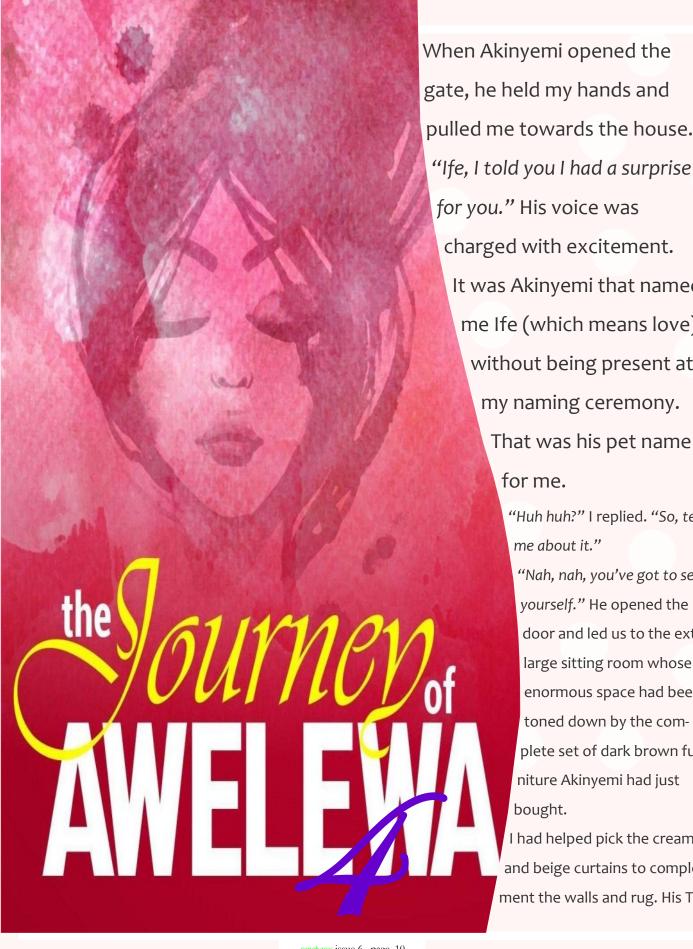












When Akinyemi opened the gate, he held my hands and pulled me towards the house. "Ife, I told you I had a surprise for you." His voice was charged with excitement. It was Akinyemi that named me Ife (which means love) without being present at my naming ceremony.

> "Huh huh?" I replied. "So, tell me about it."

"Nah, nah, you've got to see it yourself." He opened the door and led us to the extralarge sitting room whose enormous space had been toned down by the complete set of dark brown furniture Akinyemi had just bought.

I had helped pick the cream and beige curtains to complement the walls and rug. His TV

was on, connected to the PlayStation. A big white box was sitting at the passageway to the kitchen. Akinyemi was leading me to it.

"I have wanted this for us for a long time, and you will keep it for us," he said. "Surprise!"

I looked into the box and I screamed, snatched my hands from him and backed away.

Akinyemi was alarmed. "What's wrong, Ife?"

"No, no, we—I can't stand it." I shuddered. "We

have to take it back!"

His forehead creased into a frown. "Ife, it's just a puppy. It's harmless."

"No, you don't understand." I shook my head violently. "I hate dogs!"

"But it is a puppy," he repeated.

"And puppies become dogs!" I threw my hands up and went to perch on the chair nearest to the door.

He came to sit across from me and held my hands. He didn't say anything, and I knew he was expecting me to explain what came about my hatred for dogs, so I told him.

At age ten, I had witnessed a rabid dog tear off the skin of a playmate so deep that he ended up in a hospital and stayed there for days.

"Ever since then, I vowed never to have anything to do with dogs," I concluded. "I'm so sorry to upset you. I didn't know." he rubbed my palms in his.

"It's okay," I replied.

"Funny I had a completely



comment

different experience." His eyes became dreamy.

"A dog was my childhood playmate. I love them so much. I have always dreamt of having them in my home, as playmates for my children."

I didn't say anything. What was there to say? "Ife, can I help you to have a better experience with dogs?"

He didn't mean what he just said, did he? Well, I think it's time we lay it on the table.

I shook my head. "Akin, you know how you don't tolerate iru, onions and stock fish in your food?

Well, that's the same way I don't—"

"Come on, it's not the same thing, Awe," he cut in.

"Really?" I was getting irritated. "In fact, you are right, it's not anywhere near the same thing. You don't shiver when a dog is near you and you haven't experienced one tear off the skin of a child." "That's not what I meant, and you know it."

"No, I don't. I don't like dogs and I can't ever have them in my home."



# The Daughter's Inspiration

intp.//adeyinkaoresanya.com

-Adeyinka Oresanya

There, I said it.

The look that crossed Akinyemi's face cut into my heart. I felt like taking my words back, but I didn't. You see, I was a foodie and I loved cooking, ex-"Okay, I will give it out and," his voice was barely a whisper, "No... no dogs."

I nodded, but now the feelings I had bordered on guilt. I felt like the bad guy here. When the loud silence became too uncomfortable for me, I informed him that I was leaving. He didn't persuade me to stay. I wished he had, though I would still have insisted on leaving.

He saw me off to the car without a word. We said our goodbyes, and I crept into the car with a heavy shoulder. As I eased into the road, I began to judge my actions and his reactions. Should I have insisted on no dogs? Shouldn't he have understood my feelings and fears? Should I have brought up the iru/onions/stock fish issue, and compared it to my fear of dogs?

That was when my confidence returned! Don't get palm oil only to accompany the semolina. He was

scores. No, I was only try-

ing to make him understand how much I couldn't stand something. You

see the scrunched face of Akinyemi the first day I cooked for him when he visited my apartment. perimenting with all kinds of spices (local and intercontinental) and ingredients. I preferred the local ones though. So when I wanted to cook efo elegusi for my fiancé, it was just natural for me to add generous amounts of iru, onions, stock fish, ponmo and ede, so that when he would lift a morsel of semolina into his mouth, it would be accompanied with a host of heavenly things.

I tasted the soup and patted myself on the back. Good job, Awe!

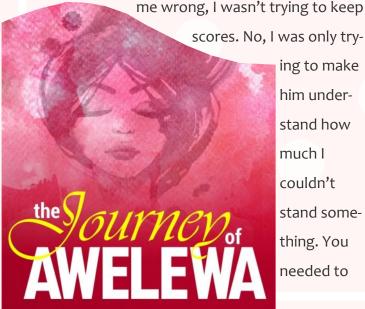
I proudly dished the food and brought it to my darling. He took a sniff and winced. I asked what was wrong but he said nothing. I sat down and began to devour my own serving.

I looked up after some minutes. My darling was pushing the soup around the bowl, and using the obviously struggling to eat the food.

My mouth fell open. "Akin, what's wrong? Is the soup salty?"

He managed to smile. "Um... no."

I was embarrassed. "Then, why are you messing with your food? Don't you like my cooking?" "I'm so sorry, Ife. I didn't mean to." He was really uncomfortable. "Um... it's just that I don't eat food with iru, onions and fish. It irritates me, and I would have to take Tom-Tom to settle my tummy."



What! Guy, are you kidding? I practically live on onions and iru! "Wow, I have never met someone that hates efo elegusi that has iru and stock fish," I finally said. "I'm so sorry; I wouldn't have put it if I knew you didn't like it." Lie, I wouldn't have cooked it at all. How in heavens would I cook vegetable soup without iru? What kind of soup was that? "I'm okay, Ife," he said. "Thanks for the meal." I packed up the bowls and dumped them in the sink, disappointment eating at my soul. I eventually got the Tom-Tom for him and since that day, I only cooked rice (or Semolina or Eba) and plain meat stew whenever he was around. He would sing my praises, I would sing hian inside of me. Who sings praises at plain stew? My fiancé, obviously.

Till now, I still didn't know how we would go about it when we eventually get married, and we would have to eat from one pot. However, I knew that when we got there, we would cross the bridge.

Now thinking of it, Akin asking me to learn to love

dogs was like me asking him to keep eating food that would not satisfy him. After all, he was going to take Tom-Tom after the meal. However, that would have been so selfish of him. Was it also selfish for me to stand my ground on having dogs or not having dogs?

The Scripture admonishes us to forbear one another in love, that is, to put up with one another, showing tolerance. However, what is the boundary between sacrificing as a selfless lifestyle and sacrificing in unhappiness? Where do we draw the lines between things we can learn to live with and things we can never tolerate?

It pained me to ask my darling to give up his child-

hood love but then I knew I could never tolerate dogs and I didn't even want to try. Was I committing a sin this way?

With the confusion in my heart, I made my way home. I hope it wasn't too early to declare to you that my relationship was drama free. I just hope with all my heart that regrets stay far away from it.

... to be continued.

This story or any of its series may not be copied, reproduced or transmitted without acknowledgement of the original author—Oresanya Adeyinka J. Thank you for respecting the author's work.

This story is purely a work of fiction. Names, characters, places and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, localities, organisations or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental and beyond the intent of the author.

This was an opportunity of a lifetime; I needed someone to pinch me as it all felt like a dream. So here was my chance... finally! I had barely slept through the night for fear I may lose track of time and miss this prospect. I could hardly eat, a few spoons and I felt so full. The excitement had filled me up and I just needed today to be perfect. A day before, I had asked my closest friends to go shopping with me so I could pick the perfect dress.

Quite satisfied with my eventual choice and general look, I rushed before my standing mirror one last time, I couldn't help but notice one hair strand standing loosely across my eye brow so I gently put it back in its place to keep from ruining the entire weave I had spent four hours and a good sum making yesterday. Brushed up and good to go, I pick my bag and I felt like a million dollars... literally. Rehearsing my winning smile as I walked out to get a cab I giggled to myself wondering, "If only they know all the effort I had put into this look."

Frustration was fast crawling in on me as my feet hurt from the heels I had put on having stood for the last 45 minutes with no cab in sight. Another bus was approaching and I was contemplating

er to my destination if nothing else. "I will simply use their rest room to put my look back in place," I thought to myself. In no time, I was seated in the bus and headed to my destination and the day was looking as bright as it started again. God must have heard my prayer against a traffic jam. It

was a smooth ride so far.

"What's that sound?" A lady by my right asked looking somewhat worried. "Sounds like the tyre," another

com-

Who's Driving?

to us disinterestedly how the conductor was going to go get fuel and come back in no time. At that instant, it occurred to me for the first time that I had

ticked every other box to make this presentation except the most important. I had not bothered to know who was driving. "Mogbe" I said aloud with my arms on my head.

I challenge you today to identify whom/what is driving your life. It's not enough to talk the part, look the part and act the part. Let God drive you, you can never go wrong on his side!

muter replied. While still trying to process their conversation, the conductor tapped me saying, "Aunty come down fuel don finish and we wan change tyre"... "Say what?" I asked in utter shock. As I stepped down it occurred to me we were on Third Mainland Bridge, the car was out of fuel and it was 9.45am. How was I to give my presentation at 10.00am?

As if reading my thoughts, the driver shows up looking something between drunken and sleepy, explaining



### Share

comment







# Tee-Wai

-Toyin Seth-Ogungbe'

There is a zone, a familiar zone; it needs not so much hard work. It's a place where nothing thrives other than living on past glory and mere wishes or daydreaming characterised by being just okay. Okay with every and anything. Okay with mediocrity. Okay with neither make us rich or poor, "simply give us our daily bread" and we will be just fine; it's okay. This zone is the comfort zone. Nothing grows in this zone. Things that once blossomed get to this zone and either die a silent/natural death or



Now, in my humble opinion, if you ever want to be relevant in life in this present age and time, that prayer, "Neither make me or poor, simply give me my daily bread" Proverbs 30:8

depreciate.

# My Living Hope

-Wunmi Falodun

(emphasis mine)

I'm sincerely tired of seeing people merely going through life and surviving rather than thriving and saying things like, "I just want to live a quiet life, be

happily married, raise my children and probably my children's children and enjoy life". Really? Any average individual can do that, but there is more! There is always more in God!

We just can't be comfortable with the status quo or status quo ante, we shouldn't be.

I'm provo<mark>ked in </mark>my spirit, and the aim is to

get you fired up too. The other day I was watching a programme on TV. I love to read biographies and autobiographies etc. I also love to watch people talk about themselves, their achievements and accomplishment, what drives them, how they're able to do what they

do so well and so on. So on this programme, different people were being interviewed, and they were celebrities (so to speak). These people were talking in retrospect about their first day at their different universities, I was honestly enjoying the programme, they shared life experiences and talked about their drives, passion and purpose until it was a particular woman's turn. This was what she had to say: "oh, my university days, we dressed to kill, we represented, and we partied and had

fun." I was dumbfounded and flabbergasted, who says that on international TV? What a shallow mind, I thought to myself.

Let's face it, you'll not find one great person who is complacent. You won't! Something drives them, something bigger than them; in fact, someone propels them constantly.

Whether or not we make it, it's just okay.



Whether or not we advance, it's just okay.

However, it cannot just be okay! It mustn't just be okay!

We need a different spirit, the type Caleb had, that caused him to excel in Numbers14:24. You need a different spirit; you can't be like others. It is this different spirit that propels people, no matter how laid back they may seem.

Your dreams, vision and purpose must be bigger, greater and brighter than you. If you're the smartest in your group, you're in the wrong

place, its better you get out real quick. The issue is most of the things we boast about, those things that gives us some level of self actualisation, those things that makes us seem as though we have arrived or at other times, makes us feel as though we are failures, making us feel disadvantaged are simply earthly blessings and unbelievers do these things just perfectly well too. It's also very interesting to note that no matter where we are or where we stand in life, someone somewhere has it better and someone somewhere has it worse. We should all strive to be better.

Now with all the Holy Ghost you claim to have, what makes you different? Only the different spirit can differentiate you. Even if all fingers are not equal, your own will not be the shortest. Your case ought to be different; we ought to have all round success, from the boardroom to the bedroom and in all facet of life. Your God ordained destiny is a global one, you're created for global prominence and eternal significance, we are called to lead and not just to follow, to be the head and not the tail, we're to press on/forward against all odds, we are to do the incredibly unimaginable and unthinkable as gods on earth. We are trailblazers and pacesetters. We are to be suction, persist, and persevere. Reject complacency cessful in the home front and prosperous in the marketplace; one shouldn't suffer at the expense of the other.

Wake up; no one achieves these by being complacent and satisfied with our daily bread or by settling for "just okay or I'm fine". It's not just okay, it cannot just be okay. Your footprints should/ must be left in the sands of time. What would you have your generation say about you after you're long gone? I once heard someone say, "Write your own obituary, and begin to live those things while you're here." It sounds extreme, but it makes sense to me.

How can anyone just come to this earth, to live and just die like that? In my opinion, it's an aberration. It's not done! We aren't supposed to live like mere men; we are kings and judges. Psalm 82: 6-7 refers to this as "complacent satisfaction" (the amplified version). It's not a grammatical error, it's to let you know the gravity. Complacency sips into every aspect of one's life and it's only a matter of time before it messes us up big time. Moreover, serious minded people can perceive complacency miles away.

You can only discover purpose in Him. For your purpose/destiny not to be jettisoned, you must say NO to "complacent satisfaction" daily! Don't buy the lies of the enemy just yet. There is more to you than you know, look inwards, pay attenat all cost and by all means. It's not just okay, it can't just be okay. There is more!

# 61 STORIES 13 WRITERS 6 ISSUES 1 MAGAZINE



www.grenepages.com

Someone once said, 'One bad egg spoils the lot' and the scripture confirms, 'A fly, though tiny, would cause a iar of perfume to lose its scent.'

# CONTACT **WITHOUT** CONTAMINATION

Contact in this context is referring to a meeting, communication, relationship or a state of being in touch with someone or something, while contamination is a state of becoming impure due to pollution. This can be paraphrased as being in touch without becoming polluted.

"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves..." Matthew 10:16 **KJV** 

Such a scenario portrays tribulation and hardship. Sheep, as we know them, are not fighters neither are they wise. Yet our Lord, while acknowledging the danger ahead, admonishes us to be 'wise' and 'harmless' - even though the wolves are on the prowl! Thank God He gives us wisdom which is 'profitable to direct.' He went a step further to remind us that 'the battle is the Lord's.

Sheep grow wool, which is meant to be white. Despite sending them in the midst of wolves,

Share







Jesus expects them to be presented, on their return, 'without spot, blemish or wrinkle.'

comment



# Inked Words

https://inkright.wordpress.com

-Tosin losef Kehinde

genepages issue 6 page 20

Apostle Paul was a mis-

sionary to the Gentiles. He became as they were (lived, ate and dwelt with them) yet he did not become ONE WITH THEM.

No enlisted soldier engages in civilian affairs. No one dress in white acts or behaves haphazardly. Those seemingly negligible actions (the little foxes) more often than not result in great loss or tragedy.

David the shepherd boy, who lacked the basic principles of war, was saying in 1 Samuel 17:47 (KJV) "And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's..." This same ruddy lad dwelt with veterans of war who depended on their accolades and experience. He must have heard them recount tales upon tales of acts of bravery, which gave them victory. He could easily have been swayed by the fact that 'you only win with tact and experience' but he knew better.

Our Lord Jesus made it clear in John 8:23 (KJV)

"... I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not

Since He who dwells above sent us here, it behooves us to make Him proud. Jesus Christ, while on earth was the light of the world. When He left, we became the light of this (dark and perverse) world. Darkness cannot withstand light.

Just as a lamp needs to be trimmed and the oil replenished for its light to shine bright, so also we need to be maintained regularly with the Word of God.

so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe

Philippians 2:15 NIV

Friends, we are in contact with the world. We MUST NOT be contaminated by it.

Are we making the desired impact in [and on] the world?

God help us!



Bolaji, banker and mother of two, was murdered by her husband after an intense argument. Kola, 36, slaughtered with scissors in his sleep in the middle of the night following a quarrel with his wife. Titi, thrown down the window from the second floor by her husband during a fight. She died instantly. This list is endless.

One of the most popular kinds of crime-news making rounds these days is that of spouses, supposed lovers, killing each other. Something has gone wrong somewhere. We need a very quick fix.

These two take the marriage vows, "to have and

and death? Can two people be married, yet carry out such devilish acts on each other? When does a marriage become sour? When does a home become this dangerous?

Let's talk about divorce...it doesn't start in court.

Let's talk about divorce...it doesn't start in court. It is not just that ultimate ruling of separation. It has little to do with the papers and procedures; it has nothing to do with the Judge. The real thing that breaks up marriages starts gradually.

How can a tale of love become that of violence

When a man or a woman begins to act against the vows he/she made on the day of their wedding, he or she has begun the divorce procedures, which may not just end in separation. Many times, it has fatal ends as we obviously can see...

How can a man who has vowed before God and man "to have and to hold" neglect his wife with-

a woman who has promised to love

to hold, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, out any in sickness and in health, to care love and to cherish... in With this Ring I thee wed, with my body I thee worship, and with all my worldly goods I thee endow: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the the Holy Ghost. Amen." world what hap-After these vows, couples are pens to her? encouraged by the church, elders, Has divorce not counselors, parents and siblings to begun? stay with their partners in their marriages no matter what happens. This sounds Your spouse only good, yet it has become important for us to knows when you are poorer, she never knows check if we if we are doing the right thing, asking people to stay under the same roof with danwhen you are richer; you are already filing for divorce. gerous people until they are murdered like Titi, Kola, Bolaji and lots of others with untold stories.

When

and cherish show disrespect to her husband, she definitely has begun a divorce process, which never ends well.

When partners begin to beat each other up, when they begin to threaten each other with weapons, when they begin to inflict wounds and pain on each other instead of honoring each other as promised, divorce has already begun.

Your little seemingly harmless acts of unfaithfulness end up breaking the marriage, sometimes, breaking heads and bones on its way.

For every broken marriage, for every home where violence is being experienced, we have no one to

blame but the leering, seducing flare-up of our own lust. Lust gets pregnant, and has a baby: sin! Sin grows up to adulthood, and becomes a real killer. James 1:14-15 (MSG)

Obviously, there are several divorced people living as husbands and wives these days. One can make bold to say some have begun the divorce procedures right from the first day of their marriages.

For each of your acts of unfaithfulness to your spouse, and every time you do things against your wedding vows, either he/she knows or not, you are simply filing for divorce and one day you will reap its fruits; breaking of heads, breaking of

To
Have
And To
Hold

bones...breaking of the marriage.

"I hate divorce," says the God of Israel. Godof-the-Angel-Armies says, "I hate the violent dismembering of the 'one flesh' of marriage." So watch yourselves. Don't let your guard down. Don't cheat. Malachi 2:16 (MSG)

Let's stop unfaithfulness in our marriages.

Let's stop violence in marriages.

It's simply Divorce!

God hates Divorce!!

Let's live according to our marriage vows...to have and to hold.

comment

#### **Share**









Christ had the measure in full but distributed it in parts to all believers.

For in Christ the fullness of

God lives in a human body

Colossians 2:9 (NLT)

However, he has given each one of us a special gift according to the generosity of Christ. Ephesians 4:7 (NLT)

Therefore, you have your part of his measure. Your responsibility is to use the measure available to you. When every believer does that, there is fullness; Jesus is actually doing his own part. Therefore, he decided to flow through you through a particular measure. He gives you a measure out of his full measure. He took out of his fullness and distributed it among us.

When you are not effective with yours, you make the whole body of Christ not to be effective. Therefore, every believer is important. No believer is irrelevant. No wonder in the parable of the lost sheep, the Shepherd left the flock to look for the missing one. That one completes the rest. There is interdependence in their measure.

The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up only one body. So it is with the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12 (NLT)

Jesus picked out of his measure to give us and that forms our purpose on earth.

"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a trip. He called together his servants and gave them money to invest for him while he was gone. He gave five bags of gold to one, two bags of gold to another, and

## AT LEAST DO THE LEAST

one bag of gold to the last--dividing it in proportion to their abilities--and then left on his trip.

Matthew 25:14-15 (NLT)

But we will not boast of authority we do not have. Our goal is to stay within the boundaries of God's plan for us, and this plan includes our working there with you.

2 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT)

God is the one that gives our respective purpose

to us, we do not choose it. You do not choose the measure of Christ that flows down to you. Your particular purpose in the purpose of Christ is your measure.

God assigns it according to his intentions and your ability, which he placed in you while creating you. He knew what he imputed in you. He will not give you an assignment that your ability cannot accomplish. The abilities he created you with were done to the specifications of your purpose. God

makes the decisions on purpose.

Believers must be sure the source of the vision they are running with in life is God. The motivation behind it must be ascertained. The danger facing this generation is the deception of materials. Visions are being guided by material gains. It is important you hear God correctly as regards that direction and journey you are embarking on. You have to travel on the journey of purpose by your conviction.



#### The Buried Measure

I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth and here it is.

Matthew 25:25 (NLT)

Measure can be buried and lost eventually. You have to think about standing before God someday, when your purpose as intended will be used as a marking scheme to check all you have done. At this your particular age, what will be your score when compared with God's timetable for your life? Many do not even know what their marking scheme look like, so anything being written seems to be right. We must identify our measure in him and embrace the part of his as-

signment that is ours.

Fear buries measure if allowed. Envy also does same.

You see your neighbor's assignment and wish for that at the neglect of yours. You might see yours as inferior and then proceed to bury it. You attempt to be like the other person. There is no need for envy. Everybody's

measure is unique. There is no superior assignment neither is there an inferior

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches..."
John 15:5a (NLT)

one.

Jesus called us all branches. He did not mention super branches or mini branches. We are all branches. Yes, some branches are big while others are small, yet they are all branches. They exist irrespective of sizes for purposes commensurate to their sizes. Let the big branch not attempt to be small and let the small branch not attempt to be big lest they defeat their purposes.

Do not envy other peoples assignment in life. Do not envy other peoples measure in Christ. Take yours as yours. Our measures vary but let us stay with that assigned to us.

Laziness can also help you to bury your measure. The servant said he was afraid but from the perspective of the master, he was lazy.

"But the master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! You think I'm a hard man, do you, harvesting crops I didn't plant and gathering crops I didn't cultivate? Well, you should at least have put my money into the bank so I could have some interest.

Matthew 25:26, 27 (NLT)

The least you are expected to do with your measure is to give that which you have to a banker to leverage on it. A banker leverages on your resource and multiply it for you. Attach yourself to another with a similar purpose to bring profit out of it. Discipleship, mentorship and apprenticeship! That is doing the least, which is better than nothing. Being under tutelage will give expression to your measure.

However, aim to maximize it by becoming like Christ who owns the measure.



He was forty and it came to his heart to visit his people. When he saw one of his brothers being mistreated, he rescued him and killed the enemy.

"... He was assuming his brothers [and sisters] to be understanding that God [was] giving deliverance to them

# 

through his hand..." Acts 7:25 (ALT). What a costly assumption! What was his confidence? What gave him such audacity? Why was he parading himself as the savior of his people? The Bible says, "Moses was given the best education Egypt. He was a strong man and powerful speaker." Acts 7:22 (CEV). His confidence was in his degrees, his formal education. He believed that by his training he was quali-

genepages issue 6 page 26

fied to rescue his people from bondage. Perhaps, he had some military training too with awards and accolades and so he thought, "I am now ready and I have what it takes to perform the job." Unfortunately, he missed the point. He did not realize this until the following day. He was still basking in his presumption when one of his own brothers challenged him, "Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?"

Speechless, Moses took to his heels. He had no time to take his PhD certificate and other credentials. The prince of Egypt became stranded in the wilderness of life. God wanted to show him that what qualifies men for divine assignment is not formal education. For the first time in all his life, Moses fetched water with a drawer. He slept on a mat that same night unlike his waterbed in Egypt. He was content to live with Jethro who later became his mentor and father in law. In a single day, he learnt meekness, hard work and

contentment; courses he was never taught in the premier university of Egypt. Through these experiences, God had a chance to take deliverer of Israel the through His own curriculum of informal trainings. He was grooming the meekest man on the face of the earth

through forty arduous years of unorganized trainings. By the time he was ready, the same man who was learned in all the wisdom of Egypt and was mighty in words and deeds confessed that he could not speak. What happened to his tongue? Was his speech impaired?





comment

Through the ages, God has consistently revealed that He does not necessarily raise His vessels through the formal education. Training for destiny fulfillment does not happen in the four walls of the classroom. Joseph was destined to be the world's most powerful nation's finance and economic minister yet he had no degrees from Harvard Business School. In fact, he was a drop out. He had to quit school because he was declared missing and murdered. Joseph had his trainings in the pit, Potiphar's house and in the prison. He had no certificate to present on the day he was to be inaugurated as the prime minister in Egypt.





There was a seminary, a school of the prophets in the days of Elijah. However, when it was time to choose the successor of Elijah, God did not go there. Rather, He went to handpick a business and the prophetic ministry?

There are countless examples of scriptural and contemporary men and women who were used by God in fields that was completely contrary to their formal education. Jesus Christ was also a perfect example of this. The Saviour of the world was raised in a carpentry workshop. What a con-

He is a specialist in using our laid out plans and programs in achieving and accomplishing his ultimate purpose for our lives, most of which we are not aware of.

tycoon - Elisha, who had no knowledge of Greek David was an Animal scientist. He was in charge or Hebrew taught in the seminary. I have not of the family's flock. Little did he know that God stopped to wonder how God would do such a was quietly testing him the day a lion and a bear thing. What is the correlation between business attacked the flock. God was watching what was going to be his response. He passed the test and God took note of it. David later understood the relevance of his underground trainings on the day he went to the battle to see the welfare of his brothers. When he heard the roaring of Goliath, it resembled that of the lion and the bear he had killed. He told the king, "I did it before and I'll do it again. The Lord that delivered me out of the in midwifery is not a guarantee you will make a ranks in the military.

Friend, even the world system is not looking for degrees but deliveries i.e. men and women who have what it takes. Your destiny fulfillment does not necessarily depend on your formal training but relevant values and virtues you are absorbing in the formal and informal situations of life.

What is your attitude to work? How are you faring at home? Do you run errands for the elderly ones? How about time management? Do you beat deadlines? Can you speak with congruence and confidence before a crowd? What about your character and interpersonal relationships? Can you single handedly take the right decision in a crisis situation? Can you work with or without supervision? Do you know how to manage your emotions? Can you survive under pressure to go against your convictions? What about money management? Do you live within your means or you are a spend drift? Are you hospitable? Do you know how to cook?

There are no curriculums for such things in our formal schools. This is the reason why a medical doctor can still be a smoker. It is the same reason why a PhD holder beats his wife. Your certificate

paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, he good wife. You can be the best in animal huswill deliver me out of the hands of this philistine." bandry and still be the worst of husbands. While His brothers could not stop him because they you pursue your degree, pursue a higher degree have never killed a lion or a bear despite their – to be the kind of person God wants you to be. Jim Elliot was the one who made the popular quotation, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." He was part of the missionary martyrs that opened up part of Ecuador to the gospel. While he was in college, his goal was to earn another degree called AUG (Approved Unto God) apart from his school degree. He did have it and went to field of missions afterwards.

> Only the wise are able to locate the training opportunities for destiny fulfillment sandwiched in the ordinary course of life. Do not be part of those who have master's degree but who have not mastered the basics of life. Receive grace to recognize and make the most of every informal training God will be bringing your way henceforth. They are the experiences that make the real impact on your life or else your generation will ask you one of these days as they asked Moses, "Who made you?"

Now that you have started your journey of life with prayer, then you need to realize the power of vision. Vision is your foresight about your future, it simply means where and how you see yourself in the nearest future.

So if I may ask,

where do you see

yourself in the nearest future? How do you see yourself in the future?

What do you see yourself doing in the nearest future?

# VISION: STEP 2 To PLANNING YOUR FUTURE

ing
without a
vision
equals to
roaming
about in
darkness. Imagine if you

Liv-

have to walk within a house with your eyes closed? You may fall and fall very bad. You may be fortunate not to fall. Nothing guarantees your success in the house when your eyes are closed. That is what happens when you live without a vision, without a foresight of what,



where and how you want to live your life in the future.

So have you got a vision? If no then lets discuss how vision can be birthed. You just don't sit and birth a vision because you watch a movie and you like something about a character that touches you so much, and you want to be like him/her. Vision is an inspiration from God Almighty and when He gives you that inspiration about something you should do, He gives you peace of mind, enhances your level of confidence that enables you to do it. Then inside of you are potentials and talents that are needed to actualize the vision. Major benefits of God given vision are that you are sure that He will help you, give you grace to move on in the face of difficulties and He surely will prosper you at the end if you stay faithful to the vision. We must know that some people develop their

vision and stay true to it, but it is best when

V

you wait on God to give you a vision to run with, because you may not have His support or grace to run a vision He didn't give you. Sometimes you may be frustrated out of the vision when challenges come. A self-oriented vision is not likely to bring you fulfill-

ment at the end, even when you have prospered and acquired wealth. That is why we have many unhappy millionaires today.

I guess you will be thinking that how do you know when it is a God given vision?

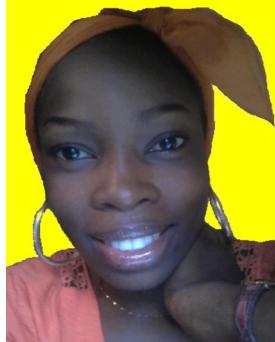
God speaks to us in diverse ways, through His word, prophets, dreams, visions or trance. He can even speak audibly to you. However, He speaks to those who have a relationship with Him, especially those who are passionately expecting to hear from Him. In addition, when He speaks to you, He gives you peace of mind that

that you are on the right track. My dear friends, when you start your journey with God praying to Him, wait on Him for a vision to run with, you will never regret doing so in Jesus' name.

assures you

## Maximizing Teen-hood

Ibukun Abraham <a href="http://pathofloveteens.blogspot.com/">http://pathofloveteens.blogspot.com/</a>





Title: grenepages issue 6

Published: June 2016

Publisher: grenepages.com

Adeyinka Oresanya, 'Femi Sobayo, Ibukun Abraham, Joan Abimbola, Olufemi Babalola, Ope Rowland, Writers:

Sanmi Akintayo, Tobi Olowookere, Tosin Kehinde, Toyin Seth-Ogungbe', 'Wunmi Falodun

Pages: 32

Language: **English** 

Formats:









