



grenepages

Issue 13

someone touched me

**dear
church**

**more than
conqueror**



Someone Touched Me



Dear Church



When A Blessing Carries You Away...



Rapture! Are You Born Again?



How Be



There Is Room For You



Stars





More Than Conquerors

“SOMEONE TOUCHED ME.”

There were several people, probably in their thousands pressing on Jesus to get something from him. Some shook hands with him; “oh Rabbi, nice to see you.” Some hugged him; “You are really doing well Mr. Christ, please keep up the good works,” they must have said to him. Some stood afar off; they just wanted to see his face. Some held his hands as he walked along the way. Some were pulling his garments; they liked the colours.

13th word



Believers Should Give Under Grace 2



The Journey Of Awelewa 12

Some wanted to feel its texture. It was a mammoth crowd, all charging at one target - Jesus.

Of all that had happened that day, suddenly he stopped and asked; “Who touched me?”

Someone touched

me.” “I FELT HEALING POWER DISCHARGING FROM ME...”

Of all that charged at Him, pressed on him, shook his hands and hugged Him that day, only one person triggered healing power from Jesus. “Out of everyone here, someone has touched me,” Jesus said.

In this 13th edition of grenepages, our team have been inspired to call your attention to the fact that there is a need for you to pay attention to “Touching Jesus.” Be done with unhealthy traditions that bring no benefits, both individually and as a church. Touch Him.

Welcome once again. You’ll be blessed.



The Voice Of A Joyful Bride

Tobi Olowookere



MEDITATION:
God's Love not only shows us
an unfailing/everlasting affec-
tion, it completes our total
being.

the voice of a joyful bride

"When that day comes," says the Lord, "you will call me 'my husband' instead of 'my master.' I will make you my wife forever, showing you righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion. I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will finally know me as the Lord."

Hosea 2:16,19,20 (NLT)

All my days I'll rise
Pouring Him love all the time
I found a life that's right
A decision I do not fight

He leads me through the miles
His eyes assure mine
He speaks no lies
His words I'll never spite

Yes He paid the price
Yes I'm His bride
He brightens my smile
He wipes my tears when I cry

He's my unfailing might
My sure victory over all plights
All for me He took the stripes
Even now, I'm always on His mind

He keeps my garment white
He gives me bread and new wine
When I appear blind, He gives me sight
He's been there all the while...

Through the sun shining bright
His love's always on time
Through the thickest night
I still find Him kind

He's always by my side
He washes me clean and bright
He gives me the water of life
My spirit, soul and body come alive

Through every hill we climb
We hold each other tight
After earth's fruitful vine
We'll love on in home divine

In me I carry His light
And gladly, I let it shine
He is my lifestyle
My treasure, my delight

Our love daily thrives
Our love never dies
Our love radiates beyond the sky
Our love speaks of the Most High!



Treasures in Jar of Clay Femi Sobayo

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There is a super-dramatic event, which I consider life transforming and thought provoking in the book of Luke 8:44-45. We can see one or two lessons from the event.

There was a woman who had a haemorrhage (an escape of blood from a ruptured blood vessel, especially when profuse) for twelve years. Twelve long years mean about 4,380 days. She was weak, she was financially down and she was rejected. Even doctors could not help her situation; they made it worse by ripping her off her wealth. According to the Mosaic Law, she was an unclean person.

One eventful day, she saw Jesus in the midst of people who are crowding him. She then by herself, thought **within** herself... **“if only I can touch the helm of his garment’, I will be made whole”** She did just that! How this weak and sickly woman squeezed herself through the crowd to reach the helm of his garment beats me, but she finally did. Immediately she did, Jesus knew.

And Jesus said, “Who is the one who touched Me?” And while they were all denying it, Peter said, “Master, the people are crowding and pressing in on You.” But Jesus said, “Someone did touch Me, for I was aware that power had

someone touched

gone out of Me.” Verses
45 and 46

There are a lot of lessons one can learn from these golden verses, but for this discuss, let's place spotlight on the question of Jesus **‘who touched me?’** and the response of Peter, “the people **are crowding** ...you”. I am persuaded that Peter was surprised at Jesus' question **‘who touched me’**, because it sounded funny to ask such question in the midst of an unmannerly crowd. Even a CCTV will miss the answer.

One lesson stands clear: touching Jesus is not the same as crowding him as misunderstood by Peter. It is possible we crowd Jesus, without touching him. That is the

biggest surprise some will face on the judgement day. It is possible we are numbered in the 500,000-capacity church as part of the multitudes without having a definite contact daily with the Lord. We can be part of the Faith family but not be faithful. Little wonder Jesus expressed a concern:

... But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?" (Luke 18:8b)

Yes, he may find a church crowd, but would he find you and I still very active in the pure undiluted

Faith? Our Lord is sensitive to our faith in him.

It is a very busy world. We cannot afford to miss his touch for a day.

According to Lisa Harper, “God wired us for touch.” Medical studies have proven that physical touch boosts our immune systems, improves our psychological states, and can literally save lives. If this is true of physical touch, it is truer of spiritual touch. And if Jesus will meet you in faith when he comes, we must not just crowd him, we must keep being regularly connected to him daily.

who touched me



The Daughter's Inspiration

Adeyinka Oresanya
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I shook my head to clear the dangerous emotions coursing through my body and managed to finish up my recitation. Apparently, my slip was not noticeable because a thunderous clap arose and some of the congregation stood up to cheer me on, including my Sara.

I determinedly avoided P.J.'s eyes as I walked to my seat, so conscious of myself and trying not to slip on my way.

Awe, what's all this? Get a grip on yourself now. You are a spirit-filled, engaged sister. You shouldn't be caught doing this, I scolded myself and then resolved to concentrate on the message of the day without my eyes or heart straying.

When the service ended and grace was shared, I greeted the people beside me and picked up my purse, ready to leave.

Sara came to hug me. "That was a great one, dear."

I smiled. "Thank you!"

She leaned towards me and whispered. "We

The Journey of Awelewa

adeyi

Episode 12

need to go and greet cute pastor—welcome him into our midst, you know what I’m saying.” She placed a hand over her heart and I laughed, shaking my head.

“Sara, you are never serious.”

“Like seriously jo” she said, pulling me with her but I quickly pulled her back and led us towards the exit door.

Greet who? God forbid! Not today.

With what had just transpired between us, I wasn’t sure what would happen if I came face to face with him. But never in a million years would I admit that to Sara, so I looked for an excuse instead. “We need to get going, Sara. I’m so hungry,” I grabbed my tummy. “In fact, it’s Indomie Bolognese today.”

Sara rolled her eyes. “Awe, you are so boring. How many minutes would it take to greet someone and get to know them, eh, especially someone as cute as that?”

“Remove lust from your eyes and face front,” I replied, gently pushing her forward.

She clucked her tongue. “It’s you that should remove rigidity and

boredom from your life, *hian!*”

I shook my head but kept silent. I wasn’t really in the position to talk. Wasn’t I feeling the same way like Sara, except that she was more vocal about her feelings?

But, vocal or no vocal, this was not a feeling I could afford to dwell on. I was happily engaged. To a wonderful guy. Who, by the way, was cute also.

I tried to clear the thoughts running through my mind and turned to Sara. “So how did the call with Mr Cute From The UK go?”

Sara giggled. “It went so well. Ife-tokunbo is so lovely even on phone. Something tells me we will be seeing more of each other.”

“Mm-hmm,” I responded. “Just be careful.”

It’s you that should be careful, Miss Preacher, I silently told myself.

But then, I braced myself up. There was nothing to be careful about.

What happened in there was just body chemistry. It had nothing to do with my heart because that belonged to Akinyemi and no one else.

Sara waved it off. “There is nothing to be careful about. This thing that I am feeling is real, I know it.”

This time I kept silent. Who was I to preach?

We were polishing off our plates—mehn, Sara could cook some delicious Indomie noodles in a bolognese style with fried chicken; I almost bit my tongue—when Bola burst into the living room, threw her handbag on the couch.

She picked up a throw pillow from the floor and placed it in its right position.”Awe! Sara! Please, you need to help me clean up this place. I’m expecting someone special and he will soon be here. Sara jumped up. “Really? So we are finally meeting the mysterious Obi?”

I rolled my eyes.

Bola frowned. “Obi?”

It was Sara’s turn to be confused. “Oh, sorry. I thought the someone special was your boyfriend, Obi.”

“Arrgh,” Bola puffed. “Obi is bygone. Since when? I’ve dumped the fool.”

I sighed.

Sara’s jaws dropped. “Seriously? Ha Bola, you this girl. What happened again?”

“Help me clean and I will gist you.” Bola replied.

Sara packed out plates and ran into the kitchen.

Even though I was totally against Bola’s lifestyle and wasn’t too happy with how she carried on, I stood up to help. It was the Christian thing to do. Besides, I wanted to hear the story, too.

Sara came back with a broom and a dustpan and began to sweep. “Okay, so what happened?”

Bola began. “Arrgh, that ass—”

“Language!” I promptly interrupted.

Bola rolled her eyes. “I forgot Miss SU is around. Anyway the son of a—”

“Language!” I repeated.

This time, Bola eyeballed me but complied. “I thought I had finally found the guy for my life but clearly I missed road again.”

“What happened,” Sara asked.

“He asked me to meet him at his place one day , said he had something for me.” Bola hissed. “I was so excited because I thought he had a gift for me or something. When I got to his place, the fool—” she eyed me “—had two ladies in his house, half naked. Can you imagine? He wanted me to join a foursome with an anal on top.” She placed her arms akimbo and mimicked Obi. “‘It’s fun, you will enjoy it, I promise’.” She hissed.

My jaws dropped as I gazed at Bola.

Sara dropped the broom as she burst into laughter. Bola and I turned to stare at her.

“Sorry,” she stopped laughing, “really, what were you expecting? A guy that spoils you with all those expensive things would expect something expen-

sive too now. You can't get something for nothing, you know, even the free gift of salvation requires something from you—faith.” She looked at me for validation of that statement.

I merely smiled as I returned the remote control to the TV stand. Now that was one of the moments I was proud of my girl.

“Whatever,” Bola pouted, dismissing Sara’s words off. “I mean, I’m up for some loving sex,” Bola eyed me again, “but experimental sex? Nah! I love my body too much for that.” She flipped her hair back. “I just walked out on the guy and that was the end of our relationship. I don’t need that kind of guy in my life.”

Sara shook her head. “That was a tough one, Bola. God really helped you o. You could have been raped.”

“Me ke?” Bola exclaimed, pointing to herself. “Nobody can ever try that with me.”

Sara looked at her as if to ask, ‘what planet are you from?’

I chose to be silent. Thank God Bola had the sense to walk away from that kind of nightmare.

Foursome? Some people could be so careless with their lives. What fun could possibly be there in having sex with three people at the same time? All I could see was STDs and high risk of HIV/AIDs not to talk of a dead relationship with God.

I shook my head.

A phone began to ring. It was Bola’s.

“Hello, baby. You are almost here?” She smiled.

“Okay, I’m coming out of my building now to meet you.”

Silence.

“I love you, too,” she said.

Once again, I found myself staring at Bola. For all the time I had known her, this was the first time I would hear the magic word from her. The way she spoke softly, addressing this man, was so different that I looked forward to meet this guy.

Something was definitely brewing and it was worth watching out for.

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Akinwumi's
Handwriting(s)

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there is *now*

Only three years ago, I did not know about Victoria Orenze. In a couple of months I have heard her name over and again and then I finally saw her when she worshipped at the Church I attend. I thought to myself, there is always going to be a room for you if you want.

You know years ago, it seemed like Jim Lyke had acted all that there is to act in English Nollywood movies, but then the Soji Ajibade, the Uti Nwachukwu sprang up and are doing fantastically well, and we have never mourned the times of Jim Lyke.

My very intelligent Uncle said to me recently, whether you like it or not the next generation is going to force you off the stage at some point. I am just saying that you don't have to worry that Chimamanda Adichie has written all that is to be written in books, that Frank Edwards has sung all that is to sing, or that Oluwatobi Ogundele has styled all that is to style in *aso òkè*; if you start NOW, you will still carve your niche.

Room for you

And one amazing thing about God is that he created your audience when he created you. It does not matter how well you explain the awesomeness of Pastor Poju Oyemade, some people will never be enthralled by him. And they do not have to! Don't worry about how your father drooled over King Sunny Ade or Ebenezer Obey or Wole Soyinka or Isaac Kehinde Dairo, take your place on time, *ìgbàlonígbánlò*.

I am waiting for when 90% of my music collections will be sung by people in my network. I enjoyed listening to my friend's personal worship moment. I asked her to simply record her moment of worship for me, no studio effect, nothing. I trust her and her commitment to God.

I am going to make do with the graces and talents in my network because they are God's intentional gifts to me.

There is always room to spend your calling.



Word Alive
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In the part one of this teaching, I spoke about two key things that should guide our giving as new covenant believers living under grace. The first is that we should give as we purpose or decide in our hearts (2 Corinthians 9:7). There is no place for forcing people to give under the covenant of grace.

The second and very important consideration in giving is the leading of the Holy Spirit. Each one of us should learn to give, as we are led of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our number one guide under the new covenant (John 16:13). Having established these points, there are a few other things that will enhance our understanding of how we should give as believers in



how believers should give under grace

2

Christ.

First, our giving should never be considered as an obligation without which God will punish us. Let me say this loud and clear, God will not punish you for not giving. Yes, He won't. Most people give with the negative motivation that God will punish them for not paying tithe or for not giving offering. That mindset doesn't line up with the foundational truth of the new covenant, which predicated on grace. All the punishment that anyone of us can ever get as been put on Christ. God is not going to punish you for not giving. It is good to give to your church, a ministry, or humanitarian courses and I encourage it. However, you should give because it is the right thing and it is in the spirit of grace in Christ not because you are afraid of being punished by God. In fact, when we give, we are living out the grace of God in our lives.

Grace is generosity manifested to humanity. What other better way is there to manifest the grace, which we have in Christ than through generous and kindhearted giving? Giving should be an outflow of the grace of God that is operational in our lives. If we understand the grace of God under which we live,

we will be far more generous givers than trying to give to avoid the consequences of not giving. I would rather give as a manifestation of the grace of God in my life than giving out of fear of consequences. When we begin to give as people under grace, the world will see a new breed of givers that their giving goes beyond comprehension and explanation. They will see an outflow of the grace of God under which we are living in Christ.

If you get the point I am making here you will never give again as a way of avoiding some punishments from God and you will become the best king of giver possible. It is grace at work. Grace is not bound by the law and is not limited by fear. Under grace, we can spread our wings and allow the generosity of God to flow to the world through us. This is the very essence of the gospel of Christ. Living generously and free of fear is a true definition of grace.

The point I am making here is not whether to give or not to give. It is very clear that grace is the true foundation of giving without holding back. The point I am making is that we should give as ones under grace and giving through grace but not as people under the law who are trying to give to fulfill the law and avoid the consequences of not giving. Since we are saved by grace through Christ, our giving should also be done through grace in Christ. When you grasp this truth, all fear will disappear from your heart and your giving will come with fulfillment because it is flowing out of grace. You and I should be grace givers.



The Prevailing
Word

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Rapture is true but have we ever wondered how real it will be? Imagine the pilot in a flying aircraft disappears, drivers in moving vehicles, trains and ships vanish, surgeons evaporate in the middle of crucial sessions and their ward coats fall to the ground like pack of cards, guards of prison doors disappear, keys and chains dropping on the ground so loudly and more. Imagine the chaos, people running around and confused, suddenly realizing that they have been LEFT BEHIND.

rapture are you

e!

Born again?

Definitely, there will be blackout, electricity will cease and then looting with everyone trying to gather as much food that can last a life time (if that is possible). Government will not be able to help; it will be nobody's duty/responsibility to save another person. The tribulation will be so intense; there will be wars and natural disasters.

My thoughts went on and on and on, then i thought to ask you again, are you Born Again? If you are not, please receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour; accept that He died to take away your sins and that He rose again so that you will have eternal life. Just believe it in your heart and confess it with your mouth and that will be all.

You say Tosin, are you preaching? Please we are talking about a devastating damnation that is about to come upon humanity, especially as we approach the end of days. ES (Eternal Security) or no ES, just get them saved first. Almost every preacher preaches Eternal Security (Salvation); somehow they get to wrap it up in a theme - for some preachers the theme is 'We are the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God' while for others the theme is 'Love' or 'Prosperity' or 'Healing Power' 'Renewal of the mind' . Anyhow they choose to say it, ES is embedded somewhere in it. ONLY Christians will be raptured. Are you one?



when a blessing carries

“Gooooaaaaa!” The Super Eagles of Nigeria drew the first blood. It was my very first time of watching a live game in a stadium. The atmosphere was that of a game already won even though a ball had not been kicked. As the referee blew the opening whistle, everything changed. The same stadium that was up with laughter and optimism was down with tension. Everyone jumped into the air shouting as our team scored first on the 23rd minute. The referee pointed to the center circle, meaning it was a sure goal and our opponents should proceed to the center circle to pass.

Passing they did, just before we finished shouting goal. Our hands were still in the air, of course we were still standing and the supporters club were about to raise a new chorus. It felt like we had won the match and what did I see, the ball was right inside our net. The Tunisians had equalized in just about a minute. The whole stadium was silenced. It is very true when they say, “A team is most vulnerable to concede, when they have just scored a goal.” Nigeria scored another goal on the 80th minute and kept it at a 2-1 score until the final minute of regulation time. Just when everyone thought it was almost over, just when we had started celebrating, Tunisia struck again, ending the game 2-2. This brings some wisdom to me.



Jesus told the story of a man who worked so hard during the course of the year and was blessed. His farm had yielded so much that he planned to break down his storehouses and build larger ones. He planned to build new offices and buy the latest storage technology. His hard work had just paid off and he realized he has had enough. "Relax, Rest," he told himself. "There is no need to be stressed any longer. The rest of your life is insured." "You are a fool!" the Lord told him. "You won't even see tomorrow."

There is something about the times that follow a victory. There's something about times following great achievements. There's something about the days when we are happiest. There's something about successes recently achieved. There's something about the time when we tell our selves "calm down, it's time to rest." It most likely comes with a letting down of our guards, a desire to become lazy, meeting with the enemy's renewed vigour to get us. Only few make it through this time. Who would have thought that the first visitor Jesus would receive after a forty-day fast would be the devil? The devil was ready to strip him of all the strength he just received. But Jesus knew better...this is what we should know too.

When we need something from God, we are up and doing, we know how to abide and never leave his presence. We know how to stay away from sin, so that our prayers are not hindered. We know how to stay up in the night to pray or wake up early to spend time with God but when we receive our needs from him, we get carried away in the happiness that follows. In the same state of happiness we misbehave, we forget about the relationship or the fellowship that brought the joy in the first place. Then, we cap it up - we tell ourselves, "Calm down, it's time to rest. You don't need so much prayer any longer." Are you really trying to rest, or you just want to be lazy? Your days of redundancy are the most dangerous days of your life. Here is not the place to rest, our eternal home is. As long there is breath in your nostrils. There's something to be done for God. Don't get carry away by the same thing you were blessed with. Don't let down your guards.

... But a son that sleeps during harvest brings shame.

Proverbs 10:5 KJV



stars

Some people may have to leave the scene for you to be seen. You may have to leave the scene for others to be seen.

While men see stars, God sees a usable vessel.

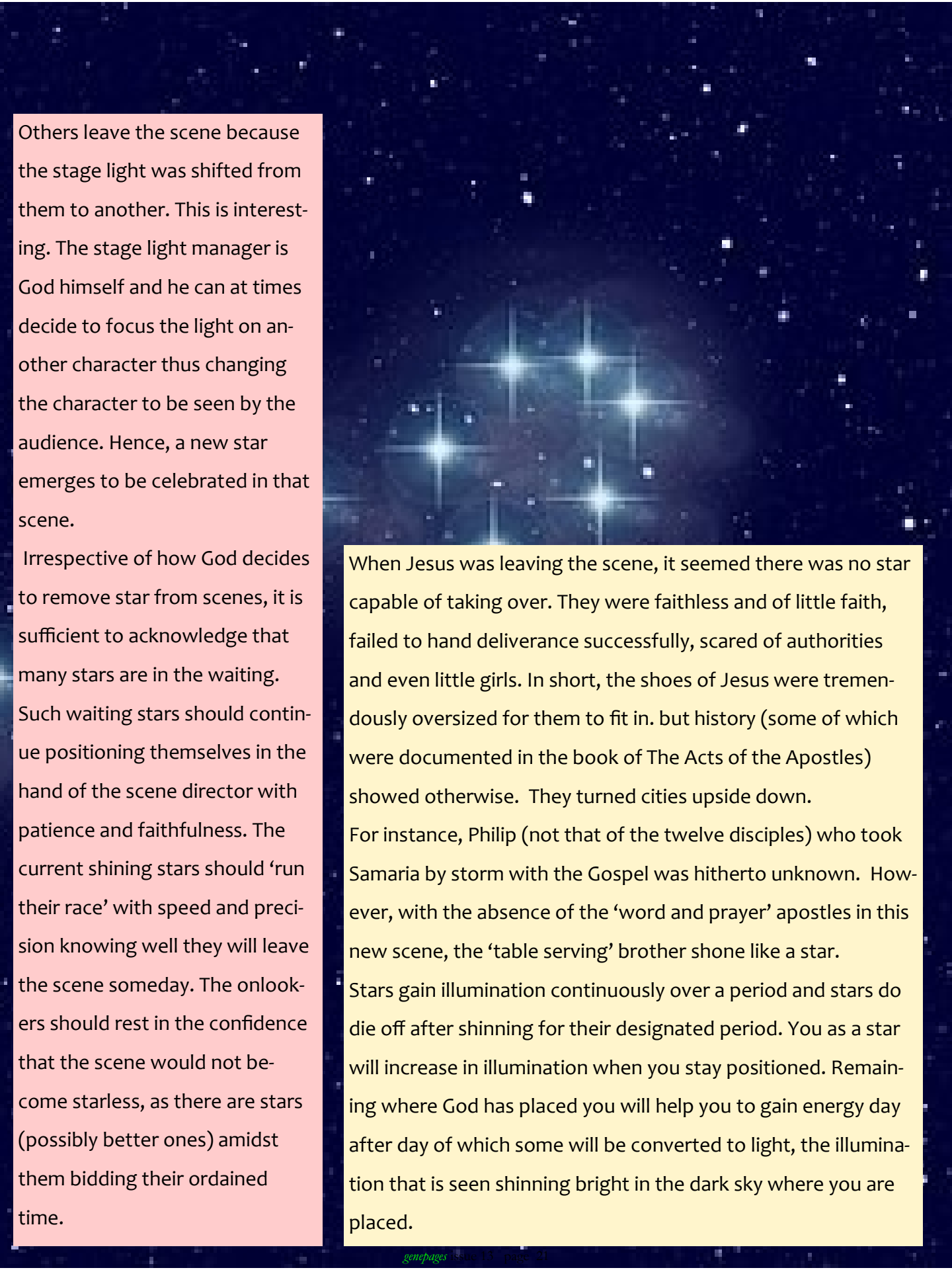
It seems as if God does not parade many stars in the same galaxy at the same time. He arranges things in such a way that each star receives enough attention in its time of reign.

Jesus did not start until John left the scene when he was arrested. Although, Jesus was already set, his latter was not established until the former was taken away. You could imagine what the reaction would have been when John was arrested.

Before John, there had been no prophet in the scene of Israel and Judea for a long time. Capturing this 'one in centuries' prophet would have left some in despair. "Would another period of darkness envelope them?" it was as if God has been shut out again. Another peri-

od of heavenly silence looms as the only voice of God at that time was removed from the scene. However, the star to sustain their illumination even in a better form was already with them. In fact, the succeeding star has been with them almost throughout the reign of this captured diminishing star, but they knew not. You see, for every scene, there are already succeeding stars even better ones around; they might only not have been identified, partially because it is not yet their time and not to threaten the reigning star. However, one day, the present star would leave the scene and another would be seen.

A star might leave the scene by the natural order of aging and death. Some leave by the human order of tenure and term expiration.



Others leave the scene because the stage light was shifted from them to another. This is interesting. The stage light manager is God himself and he can at times decide to focus the light on another character thus changing the character to be seen by the audience. Hence, a new star emerges to be celebrated in that scene.

Irrespective of how God decides to remove star from scenes, it is sufficient to acknowledge that many stars are in the waiting. Such waiting stars should continue positioning themselves in the hand of the scene director with patience and faithfulness. The current shining stars should 'run their race' with speed and precision knowing well they will leave the scene someday. The onlookers should rest in the confidence that the scene would not become starless, as there are stars (possibly better ones) amidst them bidding their ordained time.

When Jesus was leaving the scene, it seemed there was no star capable of taking over. They were faithless and of little faith, failed to hand deliverance successfully, scared of authorities and even little girls. In short, the shoes of Jesus were tremendously oversized for them to fit in. but history (some of which were documented in the book of The Acts of the Apostles) showed otherwise. They turned cities upside down. For instance, Philip (not that of the twelve disciples) who took Samaria by storm with the Gospel was hitherto unknown. However, with the absence of the 'word and prayer' apostles in this new scene, the 'table serving' brother shone like a star. Stars gain illumination continuously over a period and stars do die off after shining for their designated period. You as a star will increase in illumination when you stay positioned. Remaining where God has placed you will help you to gain energy day after day of which some will be converted to light, the illumination that is seen shining bright in the dark sky where you are placed.



Fresh Bread
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Indeed, God does not see as man sees. God's way of evaluating a situation is different from the way a man judges things.

Little wonder, it was prophesied of Jesus "He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor." (Isaiah 11:3-4 NKJV).

In the school of faith, our eyes are useless. We walk by faith not by sight. This is why we must know God's perspective about a situation before we draw our conclusion; else, we may find ourselves resisting God's counsel.

We must actively seek God's truth about our so-called reality because what is real to us is a mirage under the illuminating light of God's word.





ore guerrer

A thing may be factual here but over there, in the presence of God, it is virtual. It does not exist. While not denying your condition you should find out how God defines it. What is God's verdict about it?

What will you say about Joseph who was a houseboy in Potiphar's house and later the head of prisoners, yet God said he was a prosperous man?

Prosperity in our context is defined in terms of how much you have in your bank account or you are worth. It is folks like Mark Zukernberg, Bill Gates, Aliko Dangote and Jeff Bezoz that comes to mind when we talk of wealth or prosperity today, but here was God calling a prisoner a prosperous man. God was defining him by his end not his status.

This is why you should not wait for physical manifestations before you believe what God has said concerning you. What happens in the physical has nothing to do with what God has done for you. Even if you feel pain all over your body right now, it does not change the fact that He bore your infirmities on the

cross and by His stripes, you have been healed.

This was why Paul concluded there is nothing in heaven or on earth potent enough to drive a wedge between him and the love of God in Christ Jesus. He came to this understanding that his trials and predicaments have nothing to do with what God has done for Him.

No wonder he confidently declared in Romans 8:37, "*Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*"

What I want you to take note is the phrase, "in all these things." In other words, Paul was as good as a victor while he was still a victim. While he was still being beaten by the trials and troubles of life, he declared that he was not just a victor; he was more than a victor.

Perhaps, there are also "all these things" in your life right now. May be you have been grappling with a lot of trials and troubles. Maybe nothing is working or nothing seems to be giving you joy. Maybe your life can be described with these words, "troubled on every side" (2Corinthians 4:8). This is what God's word says about you,

Yet in all these things you are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Romans 8:37 NKJV

Friend, if you are not a victor in your trials, you are not a victor outside of them. Real winners won before they won. They fight as victors not victims. They fight knowing they already won.

This is why your disposition in the season of your trials is critical to your victory. You must be careful of what you say and do. You must learn to say and act what God is saying con-

cerning you even though you do not feel so or see so.

If you wait until you begin to feel so before you say so and act so, you may never feel so. Saying and acting so even when you do not feel so releases forces that ignites the feelings that you desire.

Our words commands the power required to create the feelings that we need. Words have creative powers. It is by the word the world was created. People go to comedy shows just to hear words that will make them feel funny. A depressed soul can enter such shows and after listening to few words get excited again. He did not feel so in the beginning but he heard some words that created the feelings that he needs.

How much more, when empowering words flow out of our own mouth? Tony Ribbons in his book, Awaken the Giant Within, said, "The words you habitually choose affect how you communicate with yourself and therefore your experience."

This is why the Bible said, "Let the weak say, I am strong" (Joel 3:10 KJV). God knows that if the weak continue

to declare strength, he automatically receives strength. The problem with the weak is that he finds it difficult to say he is strong while he feels weak. He is waiting for when he begins to feel strong before he says so.

The pathway to create the experience that you want in your life is to begin to use the vocabulary of that kind of life while you are still “in all these things.” Declare health even when you are sick. Declare that you are holy and righteous even though you are often tempted. Speak strength even when you feel weak. Declare prosperity even when you are poor and in debt. Declare fruitfulness even when you have no child yet. Speak about your house though you now rent or scoot. Be like God who calls those things, which be not as though they were.

Every aspect of your life has an ear and they will do your bidding. They will respond to the command that you give them. Your blood, nerves, kidney, womb, finances, etc. have ears. Give them the command. Tell them what to do and say it until they respond.

Do not say I believe in my heart; say it with your mouth. Faith is incomplete with the belief in the heart. This is why most peo-

ple who believe in the heart do not experience what they believe.

If you indeed believe it then say it. What we say is what completes the faith in our hearts. "For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Confession has to be made in order to experience salvation. We must confess it. If you cannot confess it, then you do not believe it.

It is time to release the force of faith through the confessions of your mouth. Break the chains of sickness, debt, lack, poverty, etc. through the power of the words that flows from your mouth.

Remember Sarah. She used to be called Sarai but the day her name was changed to Sarah, the mother of nations, her dead womb began to respond. There was resurrection. Each time, Abraham called her Sarah, her hormones began to respond to motherhood until she conceived and gave birth to Isaac.

This is why I am saying again that you do not have to feel so before you say so. Say so even when you do not feel so. If you say so long enough, you will not only feel so, you will see so and even experience so. Let us declare it with Paul today despite our trials that, *“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”*




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This is my first open letter to you. I want to start by saying I am as guilty. When you read, you will know what I mean.

Let's go back to the basics before the doctrines, the rules, the biases and the judgment that has beclouded the truth in its raw state. God's word did not change because the times changed. There is a reason He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Stop making it look like God changed. Maybe we changed and somehow want to justify it by the times.

dear ch



Dear Church, we are losing the battle, because we have forgotten we are at war (supernatural warfare). We bother ourselves with frivolities that do not affect God in the real sense. We tear each other down and cannot even agree on the core things like the cross, salvation and eternity. What does tribe, race and denomination have to do with the love of Christ? Why are we encumbered with thoughts about whose Church are better? Why does it now bother us who sings with who? Why do we rejoice when our brethren back-

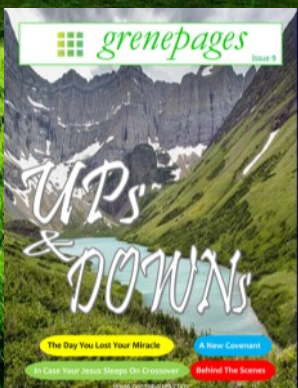
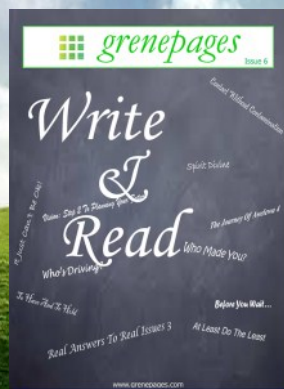
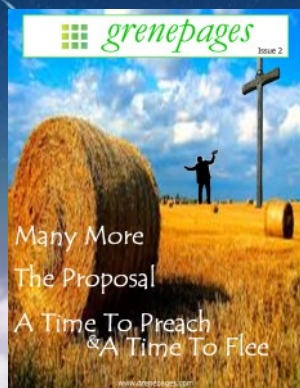
slide (does that word even still exist?); Why do we sin because 'Pastors are doing it'? Is salvation now congregational or personal? Why is it we are so bothered about the methods and ignore the depth of the message and if it leads to eternity? How did we get to the point where we now trade God's free gifts to his people and collect money for it? Has heaven and hell changed because of the times too?

Dear Church, we are losing the battle. Our young ones don't know the power of the Holy Spirit or the faith we embraced because we have watered it down to attract them and forgotten to thicken it to prepare them for the battle they signed up for. The few of our elders who hold on to the core of the great commission are termed 'old school'.

Dear Church, how do we reproduce God's generals in this generation if we do not go back to the very core? He did not come to die for us to look or feel good, it had to be for more!

I make a commitment to seek him and his righteousness much more as from today and to make his salvation simple enough to embrace those He came and died for - the weak and lost; not to chase them farther away into the ever open arms of the enemy with my self-righteousness.

Do you?



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