



grenepages

Issue 12

**turning
my need
to a seed**

**little
light,
poor
reflection**

**the little
yeast's
vaccination**

the
power
of
little things

9

TURNING MY NEED TO A SEED

Tosin Babalola

THE PREVAILING
WORD



10

HOW BELIEVERS SHOULD GIVE UNDER GRACE

Sanmi Akintayo

WORD ALIVE



12

THE POWER OF LITTLE THINGS

Femi Babalola

FRESH BREAD



THE PROMISE THAT NEVER FAILS

Bimbo Joan

MINISTERING
RHYTHMS

4



THE JOURNEY OF AWELEWA 10

Adeyinka Oresanya

THE DAUGHTER'S
INSPIRATIONS

6



EXPECTA- TIONS...

Tobi Olowookere

GRACEDPAGES

18

14

LITTLE LIGHT, POOR REFLECTION

Adeoye Akinwumi
AKINWUMI'S HAND-
WRITING(S)



16

THE LITTLE YEAST'S VACCINATION

Ope Rowland
THRIVE



12th word

In the English dictionary, little
is the opposite of much.

In reality, little means so much.

Just a little salt is enough to make the food taste good. You
don't need so much. Just a little yeast makes the flour rise. It
doesn't have to be as much as the flour. The little things often
taken as insignificant, turns out to mean much more than we
imagine.

The woman with the widow's mite had just little. That money
was too little to do anything. She could have delayed her giving
until the day she would have something bigger. Yet out of love,
she gave the little. Despite all the big offerings, Jesus noticed
the little. Her blessing obviously was in no way little.

Welcome to our 12th issue of [grenepages](#).

THE SUMMARY OF LIFE

Samuel Adeseko
REFLECTIONS

19

Tobi Olowookere



THE PROMISE THAT NEVER FAILS



Joan Abimbola

MINISTERING RHYTHMS
joanministeringrhythms.wordpress.com

He that puts his trust in man
Making him his greatest pal
Praising him with all names
Will see nothing but shame

Man may promise to impress
Or cheer-up the distressed
But the moment his promise's been said
He may forget all but himself

The promise that never fails
The promise that God says
Our confidence in Him alone
Gives us more than we ever know

In His promise is direction and light
In His promise is abundant life
In His promise is unending wealth
In His promise is health and strength

In His promise are those 'Godsend'--
People and resources He sends for our help
In Him is all that we need
To become all we must be

MEDITATION: GOD is enough

***It is better to trust in the
LORD than to put confidence
in man. It is better to trust in
the LORD than to put
confidence in princes.***

Psalms 118:8-9



THE JOURNEY OF AWELEWA 10



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

It's a work-free, owambe-free, quiet Saturday—a rare and wonderful time to relax and just SLEEP after a crazy week of attending to disgruntled customers—and I had spent the greater part of the day pacing my bedroom, trying to memorize the Bible passage for my poem rendition in church the next day. That was one of the beautiful activities we started at The Christian Liberty Centre, Bodija, to encourage us young people to be conversant with our Bible.

We had the freedom to choose any chapter we wanted as long as it hadn't been rendered before. of **all** the passages in the Bible, your girl chose Psalms 107. You see, I just started attending CLC last year, and while I was active in the ushering subgroup, this would be the first time I would mount the altar for any presentation and I was so eager to do excellently. I should have known excellence came with a price. This is 4:15 P.M. and I had only been able to memorize 25 out of 43 verses.

I groaned. Holy Spirit I need your help!

I heard keys jingling and the front door creaking open. One of my flatmates had just arrived. My bedroom door burst open and Sara sashayed in, starry-eyed and smiling. It looked like my memorization would have to wait.

“Babe,” she said.

I raised my eyebrow. “What happened to knocking and waiting to be asked into other people’s rooms?”

Sara waved it off and flung herself on the bed. “That’s for strangers, not BFFs.”

“Whatever.” I flopped on the rug. “The way you are grinning, I take it your gig went well after all?”

Sara laughed deeply. "Awe, I'm glowing, I'm glowing and I know!" she sang.

I rolled my eyes. "Out with it already."

Sara sat up. "I was making up the bride when this guy walked in. Awe, the room suddenly went silent. All our eyes went in the same direction. Girl, this guy is the walking definition of F-I-N-E."

"Hmmm," I replied.

"For real o. The bride was so excited and just flew into his arms with a scream. I couldn't help staring, girl. The good thing is he met my eyes back, of all the girls in the room, and stared for some seconds before Kiitan introduced him as her brother, Ifetokunbo. Apparently he just flew in from the UK for the wedding."

"Ehn ehn?" I intoned. "So she's Kiitan now, I thought her name was Cold Eyes." I teased, referring to the nickname she gave the bride because of her aloofness during the trial session. "Forget that jo," she pouted. "Kiitan is just being her. In fact, I think she was stressed up and missing her Bro because she lighted up and stayed in good mood throughout after he showed up."

I raised my eyebrow. "Mm-hmm."

She clucked her tongue. "Na you sabi. You haven't heard the best part yet."

I nodded.

"I was packing up my stuff at the changing room after the reception when Ifetokunbo came in, complimented my job on his sister and asked for

my comp card," she smiled, "We exchanged numbers and he promised to get in touch."

"Hmmm," was all I could say.

She swayed her body from side to side. "Awe, this is the real deal. I can feel it deep inside."

I chuckled. "Feyisara! How sure are you about that? You just met him."

"Seriously, I just know deep inside. I feel this—"

Her phone began to ring and she leaned to take it out from her purse. Her hand flew to her mouth. "Oh my God, oh my God! He is calling already."

I just continued to stare at her.

She jumped up. "Awe, I have to take this....in my room."

I nodded.

"Hello," My friend's accent instantly changed to a foreign one.

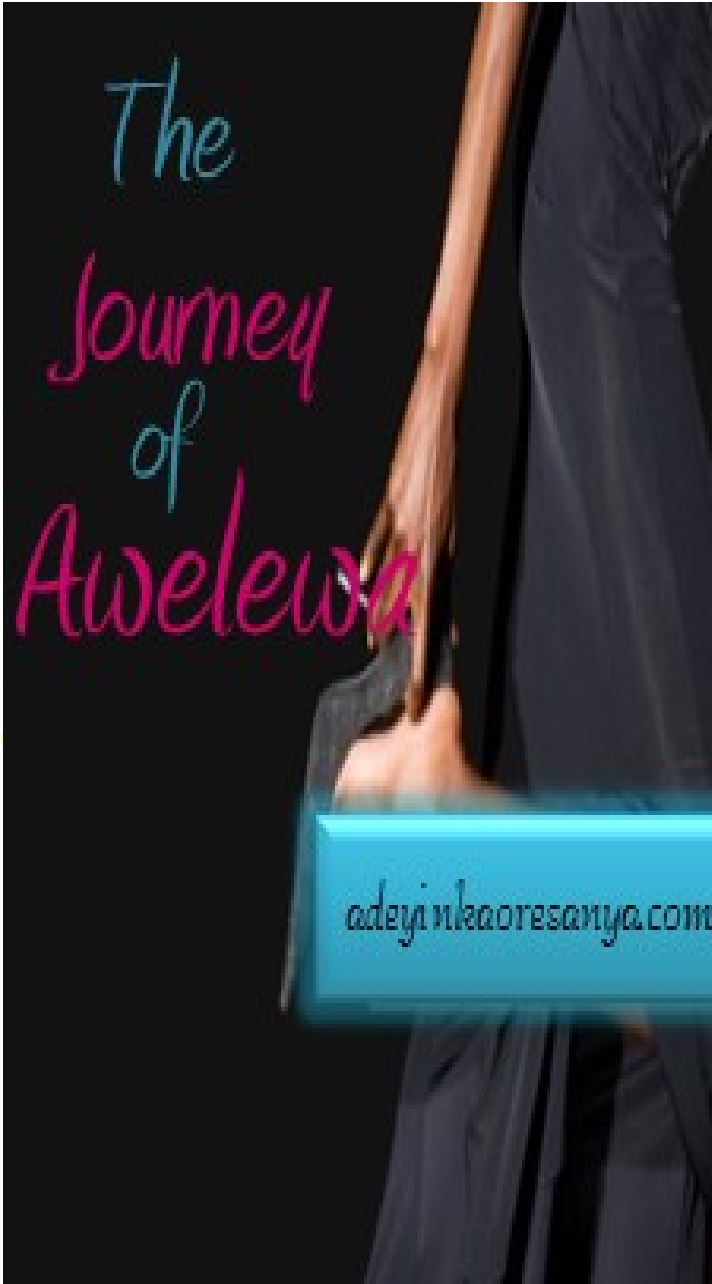
I rolled my eyes.

"Be careful," I mouthed at her and she winked as she walked out of my room.

Feyisara.

The rate at which she "fell" in love at first sight never ceased to amaze me. After the saga with Bukunmi, I was sure that would never happen to me again. Love at first sight was good in movies and books, but in real life? Nah. Too risky.

I thought of my friend as I lay on the bed, and I shook my head. I couldn't understand why a girl would be looking everywhere for love when it was sitting right in front of her, waiting to be



acknowledged.

Wale was a wedding photographer and media consultant Feyisara had introduced to me at The Eventmakers Conference I accompanied her to last October. He was the most responsible guy I had ever seen with Feyisara since we became friends. And a real Christian, too, which was rare these days.

Still, Feyisara always insisted they were friends and could only remain best of friends, but I saw how this guy acted around her, they were actions of a guy in love, yet Sara had never seen it and I didn't think she would, not with all these hot guys she was chasing around.

I sighed.

Pray for her, I heard the Holy Spirit say to me.

I would definitely pray for her. Later. When I was done memorizing my poem for tomorrow.

I yawned.

To be continued...

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TURNING MY NEED TO A SEED



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I am at a point in my life where I am learning that since I do not have enough substance/wherewithal to make happen that which I desire, then I will have to use what I have (which is rather insignificant and not enough) as the seed which will have to go into the ground, decompose and sprout up with the actual substance that I am believing God for.

At the wedding in Cana (John 2: 1-9), the miracle worker was in attendance and he did the miracle in a very simple way.

Our God is not complex at all. He made use of water (an element already present at the venue of the wedding). Likewise, the indebted widow (2 Kings 4: 1-7), she was asked to use the very same pot of oil, which she already had.

It behoves us as believers to heed God's instruction in every circumstance that we find ourselves and listen for the simplest instructions. Having heard the instruction, then we must be willing to obey. We must never ever disobey or neglect what He asks us to do. It would have been easy for the wedding attendants to despise "ordinary water" and for the widow to relegate her "small pot of oil" but in these little things, which they had in their hands (and were willing to let go), were the actual big miracles that they needed.

Further reading:

1Corinthians 15:36-38 *How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. (NIV)*

Ecclesiastes 11: 5 *As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things. (NIV)*



HOW BELIEVERS SHOULD GIVE UNDER GRACE



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It's no doubt that we are in the era of grace. The death and resurrection of Christ established the Covenant of grace and brought us into the dispensation of grace. Our entire life is now under grace in Christ. Therefore we can't select the aspects of our lives that will be lived under the grace or otherwise. This is the foundational truth about our status in Christ. There are a few opinions here and there on what giving under the new covenant of grace should be like. Is tithe** under the grace? What happens if you don't pay tithe under the new covenant of grace? These and a few other issues need sound clarifications that are rooted in the Word of God.

As believers in Christ we are fully under grace and not under the law. It's important that we know that God does not intend that we should live partly under the law and partly under grace. We are to live solely under grace in Christ.

Is there giving under the grace? Yes, absolutely. There is a place of giving under grace but it is not exactly the same as giving under the law. Giving under the law was an obligation that must be fulfilled without which there would be negative consequences which sometimes could be huge. Malachi 3:9 shows some of the consequences of failing to give under the law.

Under grace the story is totally different. Two main things should guide our giving under grace. The first is that you should give as you purpose in your heart. This is the very clear position of the New Testament scriptures.

"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7 NKJV

"You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.' " 2 Corinthians 9:7 NLT

You are at liberty to decide what you want to give under

grace. Each one of us

should decide what

we want to

give in

church or

to other

godly or

humanitarian courses. Under grace no one

should give under compulsion. You should give willingly as you purpose in your heart.

The second thing that should guide our giving is the leading of the Holy Spirit. This is very important. As believers the Holy Spirit lives inside us and if we listen to His leading He will guide us on how to give, when to give, where to give, to whom to give and how much to give. When we are led by the Spirit we are totally free from the dictate of the law. The law was their guardian in the old Covenant, therefore they did everything according to the law including giving.

"Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith.

And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian." Galatians 3:24-25 NLT

"Now, the law is no longer our guardian. The Holy Spirit is our guide. The bible says He will guide us into all truly"

John 16:13.

Instead of worrying ourselves

to do what the law says we

should rather pay attention

to the leading and guidance

of the Holy Spirit. If you give as led by the Holy Spirit you can't be wrong because the Holy Spirit it can't be wrong. We should focus on responding to the leading of the Holy Spirit so that we will give when God wants us to and as He wants us to.

**** Editor's note:**

Tithe is used here as an example of the several 'givings' mentioned in the Bible.

Tithe predates the law. Abraham (Genesis 14:18-20) and Jacob (Genesis 28:22) gave tithes at their discretion.

In addition to 'substance offering' represented with the tithe, Jesus emphasized 'life offering' (Matthew 23:23).

Instead of worrying ourselves to do what the law says we should rather pay attention to the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit. I We should focus on responding to the leading of the Holy Spirit ...



THE POWER OF LITTLE THINGS



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FRESH BREAD
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“Let me watch it a little more.” “Let me eat it a little more.” “Let me sleep a little more.” “It is just a little time.” “It won’t cost too much; just a little money.” “I am not earning so much, the salary is little.”

These and many more are the kinds of statements that we often use to underestimate little things.

Consequently, our lives today are reflections of how we have managed little things. We are either victims or victors depending on our disposition to little things. The little time, the little money, the little space, the little prayer, the little kindness, the little idea and all other little things can influence our lives in a big way.

Little things make men little. Little things also make men great. It is all a matter of disposition.

Think about this. The seconds is the smallest unit of time but that little seconds is what has added up to you current age. By implication, your life currently is a reflection of how you have used those little seconds of your life. Your life tomorrow will also reflect how you will use the little seconds henceforth.

The Scriptures speak copiously about the power of little things.

Proverbs 6:10-11 and 24:33-34 tells us the impact of “a little sleep, a little slumber and a little folding of the arms to rest; so shall your poverty come like a prowler, and your need like an armed man.”

Paul tells us that a little yeast is what is required to raise the whole dough just as a little salt sweetens

our food (1 Corinthians 5:6; Galatians 5:9). Bakers can confirm this.

Also, “dead flies putrefy the perfumer’s ointment, and cause it to give off a foul odor; so does a little folly to one respected for wisdom and honor” (Ecclesiastics 10:1).

This sounds like a prayer that every one of us ought to pray every day. We ought to continually ask God to “catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines, for our vines have tender grapes” (Songs 2:15).

We all can point to those deleterious little habits in our lives that can destroy us. Most singles are technical virgins. They are serial rapists in the heart though they have never undressed a girl in reality. Won’t you ask God to catch for you that little fox before it destroys the tender grapes of your destiny?

It does not have to be so much; just a little can destroy. Every act of sexual immorality begins with a little thought that was not arrested immediately.

The Bible further tells us that our tongue is a little member but it can set our whole life on fire if misused (James 3:5).

Someone said, “A little thing is a little thing but a little faithfulness in a little thing is a great thing.”

Jesus said a similar thing in Luke 16:10, “If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities” (NLT).

What more can I say or write of the power of little things and how we have mismanaged the little resources God brought our way. No wonder God has not answered our cry for more resources.

Andrew despised the five loaves of bread and two fishes. “But what are they among so many?” he said with disdain (John 6:9). Yet Jesus used the same little lunch pack to feed five thousand men with twelve baskets left over.

A little cake and a little water given to Elijah the prophet by the widow of Zarephath led to the miraculous refilling of the jar of oil and the jug of wheat until the famine was over.

May the Lord give us a revelation of the power of little things. May we be given fresh understanding that big things starts small and that little things can affect our lives in a big way. Amen.

**It does not have to be
so much; just a little can
destroy.**



LITTLE LIGHT, POOR REFLECTION



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I kept looking so pretty in the bathroom mirror, day in, day out and it seemed as though my pimples have largely disappeared. Then today I snapped out of the deception and cleaned the mirror a little more.

The light that served the bathroom was also minimal.

You can keep looking good to yourself even though your ways are not right, because you serve yourself with minimum light. When you are unsure whether to go to Church or not, the people you ask are not people that will chastise you. You ask people who are less serious than you are. People who would say, "Did you not attend last week?"

You know when you are failing in school, there are some friends who are far behind, who you are a local Champion to, and when you check with them, they tell you, "If you don't like your result, *abeg* make we exchange." So you pat yourself on the back again unto your downfall.

Your mirror is dirty.

The light in you is not pure enough.

Don't let anyone spare you on the subject of

sin and holiness. They were reiterated in the bible.

Don't have pre-marital sex with a woman and check with a friend who will say, "Sebi she is not pregnant". Or even console yourself that you are not pregnant if you are the lady.

Growing up as a believer, we were asked why we would not have premarital sex: is it as a mark of obedience to God or for fear of teenage pregnancy?

The New Living Translation puts Matthew 6:23b this way...

'And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how great is that darkness.'

We are going to get before God finally, and many people will find out the light -

the one their Pastors and Prophets preached endlessly and vigorously with

sweat- they presumed to have was darkness.

They will find out it was a scam after all:

that confessing Jesus Christ and not re-

nouncing evil works is a total sham! That

their supposed mentor -their perfect example of light- is the

darkest thing that can happen to darkness after the devil. That the *rhemas* were darkness, since they were too lazy to study the Scriptures; they got the expected outcome.

Nobody dies of discipline. You will only become great for it.

Be sure your mirror is fully flooded with the light of the gospel!

It does not matter how much you struggle to align to them, He will not compromise on His standard!

**You can keep looking
good to yourself even
though your ways are not
right, because you serve
yourself with minimum
light.**



THE LITTLE YEAST'S VACCINATION



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To avoid an organism having a negative effect on human and animals, a substance is deliberately introduced to stimulate the body's production of antibodies and provide immunity against the disease caused by such organism, prepared from the agent that causes the disease, or a synthetic substitute long before contact takes place. This is the principle of vaccination.

One infection we should be wary of is that of false teachings.

Peter devoted a substantial portion of his writings to address the issue of false teachers and teachings. For this topic to have dominated his expressed thoughts, it must have been very important or/and very prevalent in his days. Unfortunately, this topic is still relevant in our day as false teachers and teachings are rampant.

Jesus had earlier warned Peter and the other disciples to be on their guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees (Matthew 16:6). For clarity, Jesus made it plain that he was referring to the teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees (Matthew 16:12). The Pharisees and Sadducees occupied prominent positions and played vital roles in the religion of the Jews. Yet there was the warning to be cautious of their teachings. False teachings often emanate from within the church through respected leaders.

Teachings occur via instruction, correction and demonstration. We are to be wary of the several teachings that flow from our supposed religious leaders either via their words or via lifestyles. While some are careful to sieve them, several fail to put their lifestyle to the test. Hence, many are being 'leavened' by these demonstrated teachings.

Paul warned,
For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. Their future is eternal destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and all they think about is this life here on earth. (Philippians 3:18-19 NLT)

These teachings are not forceful or huge but very impactful; typical of the way yeast works, “a little leaven leavens the whole lump” (Galatians 5:9 NKJV). Little wonder Jesus refer to the deceptive teachings as yeast. It take a little dose of these words or/and life-styles that is passed down from leaders and imbibed by followers to spread rapidly. Paul compared it to cancer (2Timothy 2:17). These teachings are subtle with scriptures used as their foundations. That is why it is not enough to know the ‘it is written’ but to know the ‘it is also written’.

The goal of these deceptive teachings is to influence your heart to influence you. This is why “above all else, guard your heart, for it affects everything you do” (Proverbs 4:23 NLT). The two major gates to the heart are your ears and eyes. This is why the teachings come via (the instructive and corrective) words you hear with your ear and demonstrated lifestyle you see

with your eyes. There is a battle to possess these gates to gain control of your heart and you. Since you no longer need to go to these false teachers, as they now come looking for you via both the traditional and new media, we need to guard our gates.

Having seen the activities of the predicted yeast, Peter charged thus:
Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (2 Peter 3:17-18 NIV)

We grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ through the ingestion and application of God’s word. Eating alone does not lead to growth but obesity and sloppiness. It is when the body is exercised that growth occur. You exercise when you put the word into practice. Eat and exercise the word! Since growth is continuous, we need to continue this cycle consistently.

Since false teachings are based on the scriptures, we need to be constantly vaccinated with the correct understanding of the scriptures to escape infection whenever we encounter false teachings.



EXPECTATIONS



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Going by the things you have been through, it is expected that you will never be happy.

Going by the family you were born into, you are not expected to live beyond a certain age.

Going by your genotype, it is expected that you will live a short crisis filled life.

Going by your course of study or grade, it is expected that you won't get a good job.

You did not go to school, so it is expected that you won't amount to much.

Going by your financial status, it is expected that you won't be able to achieve your dreams.

Being that you started late, it is expected that you will either not finish, or catch up with your colleagues.

There are several things men expect you to be or not to be, but God does not just deliver from evil, He also delivers from the expectations of men.

Are the expectations of men always evil? No. Not all men wish you evil always. Several people out there wish you well, but always with an expectation.

Many times, we are driven to become what men expect us to be, instead of what we were born to be, or what God wants us to be. From all such expectations, we surely need to break free. You need to come to yourself.

And when Peter came to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews. Acts 12:11 KJV
 If it happened for Peter, it can happen for you.



THE SUMMARY OF LIFE



Samuel Adeseko
REFLECTIONS

I like to think I am the best,
Until I saw my best at work,
Alas my challenge still unresolved,
Then I knew I need a help.

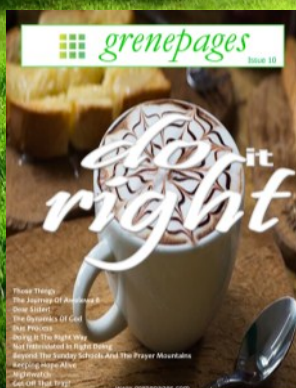
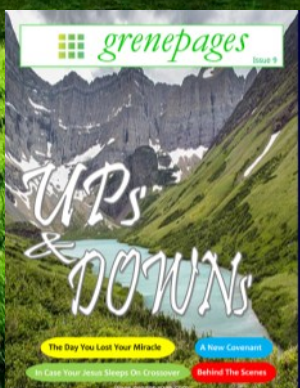
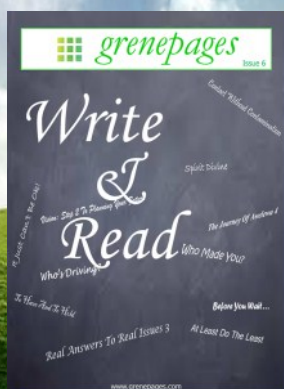
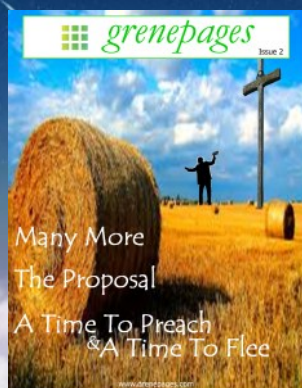
Though, in time I felt aloft,
For I did improve in life,
Then in new challenge I'm found,
Again, I learnt that life is war.

To win I need to be myself,
And care also for those in need,
Giving and sharing the things I have,
My joy in life to keep alive.

Broad is the way that leads astray,
Though it's hidden you find a link,
To win your fear you say it's right,
Until in abyss you find yourself.

Narrow and strait, we know for fact,
Is the road that leads to life,
Though it be before your eyes,
You look away ignoring it.

A call to you is made today,
To serve and praise Jehovah God,
Answer the call of God today,
And take the path that leads to life.



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