

A Guide to Closer Fellowship With The Holy Spirit



MAY
2022

DIVINE TOUCH

Daily Devotional

Philip O. Okoye

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Divine Touch Daily Devotional

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DIVINE TOUCH

Daily Devotional

An Opening Prayer To Begin The Devotional

Heavenly Father,

My uttermost desire this month is to serve You better and to be committed to obeying Your will like never before. But for this, all I pray for is the help of Your Holy Spirit.

I recognise the fact that on my own I can do nothing, and this is why I am beckoning on You to please come to my aid. Do not allow the world to conquer me. The days are evil, and for me to survive and thrive in You, I need You.

Help me Father, so that at last, all GLORY will be Yours, now and forever.

Amen.

May Edition

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LAUGHTER

Sunday |May 1| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Genesis 21:1-7*

Daily Bible Verse: *"Sarah said, "God has brought me joy and laughter. Everyone who hears about it will laugh with me." Genesis 21:6*

Before somebody will laugh, there must have been a precursor. Something always precipitate laughter, it doesn't just come out of the blues. The truth is that nobody laughs for nothing. People most times laugh when something good have come their way. Laughter can only come from the innermost part of a person's heart, but the irony of the whole matter is that most persons laugh and are happy for the very things they should be ashamed of.

As for Sarah in our Bible study, the source of her happiness was Isaac. And this accounted for joy because the Words of the Lord has been fulfilled in her life (Gen 18:10). Cognisance must be taken to the fact that when the Word of God first came to Sarah, she laughed out of doubt (Gen 18:12). This means that there are many persons today who laugh the laugh of doubt. Do you know that it is not only ridiculous but that it is a sin to belief that your problem is bigger than God? The assurance we have today from God's Word is that He has never failed before and that He will never fail. If Sarah can laugh the laugh of joy at her very old age, the good news to you today is that you will also laugh in Jesus name.

*"For surely there is an end; and
thine expectation shall not be cut off. KJV Proverbs 23:18*

Prayer Point: *Father, please cause me to laugh the laugh of triumph.*

UNITY IS STRENGTH I

Monday | May 2 | 2022

Daily Bible Study: *1 Corinthians 12:12-26*

Daily Bible Verse: *"There would not be a body
if it were all only one part."
1 Corinthians 12:19*

One of the major problems of the Church today is that we are not united. There has never been a house that can stand without being united. Satan knows that he does not stand a chance against God's people if they are united, and this is why he is always trying to put disunity among them. Satan will never dare challenge a united body of Christ, because he knows that he will be expelled immediately. So, if there is one thing that the Devil doesn't want to see among God's children, I believe that one of it is *unity*. A united body can never fall prey to the Devil.

One thing we children of God must learn and know is that no one is an island on its own. We need each other. Nobody can achieve greatness all by himself. In life, if you must go far, then it's obvious you need each other. We can and will always achieve much when we work together (as a team), rather than when we work in isolation. Even though you are sure of the ministry and gift that God has deposited in you, the bitter truth is that you need men to be able to fulfil that ministry.

It is heartbreaking each time I come to see how divided God's children are. Many denominations we see today were borne out of the disunity and crises that rocked their mother Church. Preachers don't agree with each other, brethren are in strife with one another. And when this is the order like we see today, skirmishes is inevitable if we don't retrace our steps.

Key Point: *A disunited body will sooner or later fall.*

UNITY IS STRENGTH II

Tuesday |May 3| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *1 Corinthians 12:12-26*

Daily Bible Verse: *"If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness."*
1 Corinthians 12:26

The ignorance of most ministers today is that they think that they can excel, grow their ministry and be accepted by others when they fight their fellow preachers. You can never grow your Church by trying to scatter the ministries of others. One of the major reasons why Africans were easily conquered and colonised by the West was because they were never united. And this has continued to be one of the greatest challenges of a black man.

This also applies to various ministries. The body of Christ cannot be built in disunity. If and if only believers know that they need each other to build the body of Christ, I believe they would have longed to be united for God's sake. Envy and jealousy have robbed the Church of the power of the Holy Spirit that is available to her. How do you expect the Holy Spirit to move effectively in your Church meeting when your brethren in that local body of Christ are not united? How do you expect the Church of God to march forward when the brethren are divided into various parties?

There are some ignorant fellows who think that they don't need others simply because of the anointing they think they possess. If anointing is all you need to build the body of Christ, then you should go ahead and conduct a full Church service all by yourself; or rather, go ahead and manifest all the gifts and ministerial offices. *Never overestimate yourself.*

Meditation: **Never forget that you need others to move forward.**

A UNITED SELF

Wednesday |May 4| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *James 1:7-8*

Daily Bible Verse: *"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." KJV James 1:8*

Do you know that sometimes all you need to go far is just to be united within yourself? It is a decision you have to take on your own. You must be determined within yourself to take certain steps or moves. The Devil is not afraid of your riches, neither is he afraid of your gifts because he himself got some; the Devil is rather afraid of your decisions.

A decided man is a dangerous man, whether he is set to do good or evil. The power of right, proper, and positive decision have made many what they are today; while indecision on the other hand have kept many in their servitude position. The fear of making the wrong decision have actually kept many in bondage, whereas the biggest mistake that one can make is the abstention from taking a decision. There are many today who would have been great if only they had made the right decision in the earlier part of their lives.

So, the essence of today's discussion is that you have to be united within yourself in order to make the right decision. Before you take a decision or carry out a project, try to find out if you are united within yourself because you have to bear the consequences of your actions and inactions. Let no man, pressure, or circumstances force you into doing or taking a decision you know you will likely to regret in the future. At all times, allow the peace of Christ in you to direct you in your decisions (*Col 3:15*). There is no hope for a man who always fears to take decisions because of mistakes.

Meditation: **Be careful of your decisions because of its consequences.**

A UNITED FAMILY

Thursday |May 5| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Romans 16:2-5*

Daily Bible Verse: *"For if a man does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of the church of God?"*
1Timothy 3:5

The Devil stands no chance against a united family, because the popular saying is true that *"a family that prays together stays together."* The Devil knows he is not only invited into a divided home, but that he can as well do as it pleases him. There are many homes today where the Devil is sitting with a golden chair simply because there is division. You can't pray the Devil out of a divided home if you refuse to be united with your spouse or the other members of your family. If there is one thing the Devil loves so much, it is when he sees husbands and wives in strife.

The Devil does not fear your fasting and prayer as much as he fears your unity. The Devil has seen many Christians pray, fast, and perform their Christian duty in disunity. And this is why he doesn't fear the many gimmicks and antics that there are in the Church today because he has seen that Christians have never made any progress with pretence. When husband and wife trust each other, there is no height that is impossible for them to clamp.

The ministry of Priscilla and Aquila is a good example of how a Christian home should look like. This couple were united marital and ministerial wise that they got the commendation of Apostle Paul (*Rom 16:3-5*). Beloved, the truth remains that the Devil fears a united home.

Key Point: **Strife and disunity is one of the Enemy's greatest weapons!**

A DIVIDED HOME

Friday |May 6| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Genesis 25:27-28*

Daily Bible Verse: *"Isaac preferred Esau, because he enjoyed eating the animals Esau killed, but Rebecca preferred Jacob."*
Genesis 25:27

The problem of Esau and Jacob did not begin from them, it began from Isaac and Rebecca who were guilty of loving one child over the other. The preference of one child over the other has always contributed to the major cause of division in many homes today. The Devil does not possess any power over the home of a believer if he is not given the go-ahead. All the Devil wants is a foothold for him to come in and perpetuate his heinous crimes. What the Devil does in such situation where he finds out that parents love one child over the other is to sow the seed of envy, hatred and bitterness in the hearts of those children who are not loved as much as the others. And when this does happens, the end product is disaster.

It is wrong for you as a wife to connive with some of your children to work against your father or vice versa. Some women do this in order to weaken the powers of the man in the home. Some women incite their children to rebel against their father. Now, when you as a woman is doing this, don't you know that you have invited the Devil to come take possession of your home? When the peace of a home is threatened, the husband and wife must unite to fight that aggression. It is foolishness to take ungodly counsel from friends to use against your spouse. For peace to reign in a home, parents must love their children equally.

Key Point: **The Devil loves a divided home. Be warned!**

SATANIC KINGDOM IS NOT DIVIDED

Saturday |May 7| 2022

Daily Bible Study: Matthew 12:25-26

Daily Bible Verse: *"So, if one group is fighting another in Satan's kingdom, this means that it is already divided into groups and will soon fall apart."*
Matthew 12:26

If only satanic kingdom was divided, it would have long gone into extinction because those principalities in that kingdom would have destroyed themselves. That someone is delivered from demonic affliction by an agent of Satan does not mean that such a person is whole. If only some Christians are conversant with the scripture, they won't be fooled with the deception going on in many altars all in the name of miracle. One thing we must know is that nothing free comes from the Devil.

People who are cured by demonic powers have unknowingly given demons free access to their lives; this is because by allowing demons to cure anyone they now have access to that person's life. This does not mean that demons are united, they are only united for the sake of destroying humanity and leading as many as they can to hell. But the good news is that through the blood of the Lamb, Devil has lost the battle even though he is working hard to keep the world in disobedience (*Col 1:20*).

Demons unite under one goal and that goal is to destroy believers. That has always been an effort in futility, and that's why the Devil is trying to make believers live in disunity. Demons are so wise that even when many of them possess someone, they are never in strife. Let's watch out!

Meditation: **What do you expect later if an agent of Satan healed you?**

UNITED, THE CHURCH STAND

Sunday |May 8| 2022

Daily Bible Study: Acts 15:13-20

Daily Bible Verse: *"When the believers heard it, they all joined together in prayer to God: "Master and Creator of heaven, earth, and sea, and all that is in them!"*
Acts 4:24

A local body of Christ that is divided among itself cannot stand. Unity and love was what preserved the early Church. They were so united in their fellowship that when they lift up their voices in prayer, there is nothing that was almost impossible. The early Church could achieve much and could experience more of the moves of the Holy Spirit because they were united in spirit. This is where we the 21st century Christians must pay attention to, we must endeavour to pay whatever prize it may cost us to preserve the unity in our local body of Christ; because when that unity is gone, division and disintegration is unavoidable.

In *Acts 15*, the early Church had a controversy that would have divided them if they did not apply wisdom. They denied themselves to preserve that unity that Christ purchased for all who believe through His blood. Division in a Church starts through gossip, envy, pride, nepotism, false or heretic doctrinal teachings and many others.

Do you know that if not for the wisdom of Peter and James, the skirmishes that broke out in *Acts 6:1-2* over the daily distribution of funds would have divided the Church? God will punish you no matter how much you are gifted and anointed provided you're causing unnecessary division.

Prayer Point: **Father, help me never to be a Korah to the body of Christ.**

LISTENING TO GOD'S VOICE

Monday |May 9| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Isaiah 50:4-5*

Daily Bible Verse: *"Thus saith the LORD, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask to the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." KJV Jeremiah 6:16*

As the coming of Christ draws nearer, we as God's children must endeavour to always seek and get direction from God. It is not right and proper for you as a child of God to always do anything without seeking the counsel of God. The more we seek God's counsel and strive to always hear from Him before we make any crucial move, the safer we are. A man who has no use for the counsel of the Almighty, who solely rely on what he thinks he knows; will sooner or later realise that he is headed for ruin.

If there is one thing we must always desire from the Lord, I believe it is to hear from Him. A man who constantly waits on God to speak is God's son. See *Rom 8:14*. That you are a Christian doesn't mean that you are a son and daughter of God. Many Christians today are Christians simply because they inherited it as a religion from their parents. If only most Christians will come to the understanding that Christianity is not a religion but a fellowship with God, what a difference it would have made. If you care less about God's counsel, then there's no doubt you're a rebellious Christian. If you mingle with folks who are moved by their instinct, sooner or later you will come to understand *Prov 14:12*. The man who has learnt to seek the face of God in all things will always succeed. See *Prov 3:5-6*.

Prayer Point: **Holy Father, please order my footsteps from today.**

DISCERNING GOD'S VOICE

Tuesday |May 10| 2022

Daily Bible Study: 1 Kings 13:11-22

Daily Bible Verse: *"There are, may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without significance."*
KJV 1 Corinthians 14:10

Inasmuch as it is good to listen to God before we act, it is also very important we become very careful with the kind of voices we listen to. The Spirit of God is not the only spirit that is speaking in the world; there are many spirits that speak and disguise themselves to be Gods. And this is why many Christians today are confused as how to know that God is the one speaking through this fellow or that fellow in a church meeting.

Without the help of the Spirit (discernment), there is no way that one can be able to know the spirit or voice in operation. And this is why every believer must cry to God to give him the spirit of discernment. Not knowing the voice in operation has led many believers to be subject to the gimmicks and antics of false prophets.

From our Bible study of today, we saw how the young prophet stood before God and receive directives, and we also saw how this wonderful prophet was fooled by the old prophet because he lacked discernment. Before he left for the journey, it was God Himself who spoke to him, now if God must changed his mind why couldn't this same God speak to him; why must He has to go through someone else knowing full well that he is on a delicate assignment. There are divergent ways God speaks, and for this we must wait upon Him to be sure to know how He speaks to us.

Meditation: **You will run into trouble if you care less about God's voice.**

I SHALL NOT DIE

Wednesday | May 11 | 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Isaiah 65:20-23*

Daily Bible Verse: *"In him I trust and I will not be afraid.
What can a mere mortal do unto me?"
Psalm 56:11*

1. Heavenly Father, like You accepted the Prodigal Son when he returned to You, please accept me and forgive all my sins.
2. Lord Jesus, through the blood that You shed on the cross and through the help of Your Spirit, help me to be an overcomer of sin, that sin will no longer have dominion over me. *Rom 6:14*.
3. Lord Jesus, in the same way You were tempted but never sinned, grace me that at all times I will learn to follow Your foot step and resist evil. *Heb 4:15*.
4. Father, even as a dog will go back to its vomit, and pig go back to the dirt after being washed; help me Lord never to return to my past life. *2 Peter 2:21-22*.
5. You demon of sin (mention the name of that sin that you frequently fall into), I command you in the name of Jesus to evacuate my life; for my body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

Meditation: *If you truly want to be free from sin, then follow Jesus.*

DISOBEYING GOD'S VOICE

Thursday |May 12| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Jonah 1:1-3*

Daily Bible Verse: *"Those who are led by God's Spirit are God's children."
Romans 8:14*

Not listening to God's voice and not being able to discern God's voice is not as severe as disobeying God's voice when you are certain that it is God who is speaking. It can be disastrous when a man openly chooses to disobey the voice and leading of the Almighty. It is just not good enough to find out that there are Christians today who openly disobey God simply because they don't wish to die to their will. The more we obey God, the more matured we become in the things of the Spirit.

"This is what the scriptures says: "If you must hear God's voice today, do not be stubborn, as your ancestors were when they rebelled against God."

Hebrews 3:15

If I must say, I will say that as children of God, we must endeavour to always seek to obey when we are sure He is the one speaking in one area of our life. God knows more than the wiser man in the world (*1 Corinth 1:25*). He has never led anyone astray and He will never do that, this is why we must trust and wholly follow his leading. If there is one thing you must remember always, it is that those who disobeyed God paid dearly for it. No matter how wise you think you are, God is just wiser than you do, so; if you follow His leading you will always surmount dangers. To obey God is life, to disobey Him is death; so, choose one!

Key Point: *If you hear God's voice, learn to obey it without murmuring.*

SEEKING STRANGE VOICES

Friday | May 13 | 2022

Daily Bible Study: **1 Chronicles 10:13-14**

Daily Bible Verse: *"Do not go for advice to people who consult the spirits of the dead. If you do, you will be ritually unclean I am the LORD your God."*
Leviticus 19:31

In quest to hear and obey God's voice, we must never go ahead to seek it at all cost. When we term to seek God's voice at all cost, we might end up making the mistake that King Saul made when he went after strange voices in search for direction. People who are too eager to hear God's voice may run into the danger of hearing Demonic voices. Demons term to prey on Christians who are not patient with God.

Christians are in danger when they fully depend on the voice and utterances of their Prophets before they can act. These set of Christians are always stranded when there are no utterances from their Prophets. This is why it is not good for you as a minister to build up Christian babes with prophecy. They must learn to make the Word of God their *primus inter pares* (first among equal). In Nigeria today, most Christians want to attend ministries and Churches that prophesy; and when there are no prophecies they quickly consult diviners. It is terrible!

Even though a man with familiar spirit is able to predict your future correctly, God has warned us sternly in His Word not to consult them.

*"Regard not them that have familiar spirits,
neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by
them: I am the LORD your God."* KJV Leviticus 19:31

Meditation: **If you want to hear God's voice, begin from His Word.**

WHOM DO YOU FOLLOW?

Saturday |May 14| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *John 8:42-47*

Daily Bible Verse: *"They answered him, 'Our father is Abraham.'" "Jesus replied, 'you would do the same thing that he did.'" John 8:39*

The time has come and now it is when all men who have breath in them will profess whom they follow. I believe there shouldn't be any hanky-panky about this. If you say you belong to Jesus, beloved, it is high time you learnt to walk as Jesus walked. The world is now mocking Christians because we claim to be followers of Jesus while we live like the heathens. Living up to the standard that God has set for you is a great gain (*Eph 4:1*). It is high time we draw the line so that people will know where we truly stand, we can't claim to be followers of Jesus, yet our lives do not commensurate with that Jesus.

Do you know that some persons just want to see you live like Christ before they can come into the sheepfold of Christ? There are many Christians today who follow Satan under the disguise of Christ. But this is all wrong. God wants every man to decide whom he will follow (*Luke 16:13*). But if I will advise you, please chose Jesus above evil. It is too pathetic that some Christians have chosen money over God. They are still some who honour, fear, and respect men more than they do for God. Some value their Pastors more than Jesus. Some so trust in their fellow human being that they have been frustrated. Your spiritual maturity is seen when you chose God over and above everything else in life. God bless you!

Prayer Point: **Holy Father, help me to follow You all the days of my life.**

OUR HEART

Sunday | May 15 | 2022

Daily Bible Study: Matthew 12:33-35

Daily Bible Verse: *"The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately wicked: who can know it?"*
KJV Jeremiah 17:9

In life, it is impossible to know everything about a person. We as human can only know people to a very reasonable extent, but the major things about those persons are still hidden from us because we don't know their hearts. What goes on in the hearts of men is unimaginable and can be pretty pathetic. There is no way you can familiarise yourself with people unless you hear what the person always says and master how the person thinks, because out of the heart proceeds the issues of life (*Prov 4:24*). Through peoples' actions, you can always predict or read what their thought is like.

When a man thinks in an ungodly way, there is no way such a man will act in a godly way. The lives of men is pioneered and powered by their thoughts. Although you may not know, but the simple truth is that you have always said and acted what you thought. Your thoughts will always find expression in your words. So, if you want to control the way you talk, you must first control the way you think. Your thoughts and your words work in synergy to defining you.

To forgive, hate, love, envy and other things as these always begin in the heart of a man. Men are subject to their thoughts. When we learn positively, we will save ourselves from the many headaches that there is in the world today. In a nutshell, learn to think good towards others. Shalom!

Prayer Point: **Heavenly Father, purify my thoughts and purge me.**

A REPENTANT HEART

Monday |May 16| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Psalm 51:16-17*

Daily Bible Verse: *"I will get up and go to my father
and say, Father, I have sinned
against God and against you."
Luke 15:18*

As children of God, it is true that we ought to abstain from sin, but it is also of great importance that we learn to repent from committed sins; and through the help of the Spirit never go back to those sins. Sin is like a vomit, and I believe that there is no man in his right senses who will literally go back to his vomit. Before God the number of our sins do not matter, although He does not condone sin, but the heart-beat of God is that all His children who have fallen will find their way back to the top through His grace and the help of the Holy Spirit. See *Luke 22:31-32*.

There is hope for a sinner who acknowledges that he is one, than for one who like the Pharisees will pretend to be holy (*Luke 18:9-14*). It is very dangerous for you as a child of God to think that you can cover your sins from God. See *Psalm 139:1-12*. Let your pride never keep you from setting your ways right with God when you mistakenly fall. See *Prov 28:13*. A man is in big danger when he feels there is no need to repent since he is now a born again. God can accomplish much with a man who acknowledges his wrongs and is always struggling to live an overcoming life. Our Christian life is in progression, while some are overcomers already, some are still struggling to get there. And for this, we must never judge people on the basis of where they fall or even look down on sinners.

Meditate: **Do you know that your unrepentant sin can lead you to hell?**

ABBA FATHER

Tuesday | May 17 | 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Galatians 4:4-7*

Daily Bible Verse: *"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry, Abba, Father."*
KJV Romans 8:15

Every believer is called sons and daughters of God not because of our righteousness or our good works; rather, because of the works of Christ. Without God the Father sending in His only begotten Son (the Redeemer of the world), all of us would have been victims and slaves to the prince of darkness. Because God has saved us, we are not supposed to be under the Law again but under grace.

The freedom and emancipation we enjoy today is because of the love of our heavenly Father who does not want anyone to perish. See *John 3:16*. Because our Father has shown us unconditional love, we also must endeavour to reciprocate that love to others as we continue to shine as the light of the world. The death of Christ on the cross has reconciled us back to our heavenly Father, and this is the very reason why the Father wants us to have a living communion with Him.

When men from other religion worship their god, we on the other hand are communing with our Father who is alive, has no beginning and has no end. God does not want us to pray to Him as other religious folks do; rather, He wants us to have constant fellowship with Him. He doesn't want us to approach Him as a God, rather, as a Father. God bless you.

K-Point: **God wants us to approach Him as a Father and not as a God.**

DANIEL CHAPTER 1

DECISION, KEY TO LIFE I

Wednesday | May 18 | 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Daniel 1:3-16*

Daily Bible Verse: *"Daniel made up his mind not to let himself become ritually unclean by eating the food and drinking the wine of the royal court, so he asked Ashpenaz to help him."*
Daniel 1:8

Like today's topic suggests, decision is the key to success and a victorious life, and it must be the right, prudent and godly decisions to be precise. In *Lev 11*, the Lord ordered His people not to eat unclean animals. This Law was only restricted to God's people and not to nations of the earth like Babylon. Judah fell to the Babylonians as predicted by Prophet Jeremiah in the third year of King Jehoiakim of Judah (*Daniel 1:1-2*). Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were among the young men of Judah that were taken into captivity. Babylon was a heathen nation. The Lord used her to judge His people and other godless nations.

Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon gave orders that the young men from Judah should be trained so that they can serve in the King's palace. When Daniel learnt that his recruitment to the King's service would demand he eat the King's meal which was unclean, he purposed not to eat of it. This was an opportunity that many folks of his days would never deny. But because Daniel feared God, he decided to obey Him in the face of whatever may be the consequences. Because Daniel made that decision not to defile himself with the King's portion, the Lord saw him through.

Meditation: **Your faith is tested when you stand amongst compromiser.**

DANIEL CHAPTER 1

DECISION, KEY TO LIFE II

Thursday |May 19| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Daniel 1:3-16*

Daily Bible Verse: *"Daniel made up his mind not to let himself become ritually unclean by eating the food and drinking the wine of the royal court, so he asked Ashpenaz to help him."*
Daniel 1:8

Daniel unlike many Christian youths of today would have compromise their faith for temporal enjoyment. You know, the opportunity that Daniel denied himself is the very opportunity that many young folks are craving for. The decision that Daniel made had far reaching impact in his life, his future, to the Jews, and for Babylon as a whole. This is what many people don't know, they stupidly think that their decision is just about them. People don't know that their decisions always affect not only them but it has far reaching impacts even unto the posterity.

Daniel's decision was what brought revival in Babylon. There are three sets of people in Babylon that can be likened to the people of God. The first is Daniel, the second is Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and the third is the entire Babylon. Daniel represents those Christians that will always stand up to God's will so that the three Hebrew men can stand, while these men will now move to win the entire nation.

It is so pathetic to know that many Christians are bunch of compromisers. They have never stood for God anywhere. They are self-centred, always seeking their belly and comfort.

Key-Point: **Your decisions have far reaching impact even to your posterity**

DANIEL CHAPTER 2

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD I

Friday |May 20| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Daniel 2:36-45*

Daily Bible Verse: *"Fools say to themselves, "There is no God."
Psalm 14:1*

Truly, it's only a fool that will study the universe and come to the conclusion that there is no God. Everything in this world is an indication or a pointer to a Supreme God. If at all you believe in the existence demonic activities, how much more would you deny the existence of God? Our God is a mysterious being, supreme above all, and He reigns forever.

Daniel chapter 2 is centred on the sovereignty of God. Everything on this earth is a replica of things in heaven, just as we have earthly kings; there is also a heavenly King who reigns eternally above all. King Nebuchadnezzar was an earthly king the Lord raised to judge rebellious and sinful nations. Nebuchadnezzar's dream is a clear indication that God is truly in charge of the affairs of men. Times and seasons are in His hands. Nobody irrespective of his race, sex, tongue, influence, can have anything if the Lord doesn't give it to him. Any man who is still doubting the existence of God needs to know that God is just patient with him waiting for the day when he will come back to his senses. See 2 *Peter 3:9*.

In *Daniel 2*, we see that indeed all mysteries belongs to God, and anyone He chooses to reveal these mysteries to He will. Even the King's wizards, magicians, fortune tellers, and astrologers were all blind and unable to interpret the king's dream because the Lord Himself concealed it from them. From this we learn that all powers indeed belongs to God.

Prayer Point: **Father, shake the earth once again that all may fear You.**

DANIEL CHAPTER 2

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD II

Saturday |May 21| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Daniel 2:36-45*

Daily Bible Verse: "Fools say to themselves, "There is no God."
Psalms 14:1

Those who run to fortune tellers to inquire of the future from them should know that all powers come from God. See *Isa 44:25, Heb 1:10-12, Col 1:16*. One of the major differences between God and Satan is that God is Omni-Potent (All powerful), Omni-Science (All knowing), and Omni-Present (All present). Because the Devil couldn't reveal any mystery to his servants, it means that he possesses a very limited power. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a giant statue, having a head made of gold represents Babylon, a chest made of silver represents Medes and Persian, a waist and hip made of bronze represents Greece, and the legs made up of partly iron and partly clay represents four empires represents the Roman Empire which was the longest reigned empire.

From this we can see that it is God who raises an empire and dethrone the other. The lesson here for us is that God destroyed that statue with a stone, and that stone represents Jesus who is called Ebenezer (Stone of Help). That stone represents God's Kingdom which Christ came to establish. See *Daniel 2:44*. And we see that indeed even when all other empires of the world have fallen, the Empire of our Lord Jesus Christ is still standing tall, and the Good News of the Kingdom is preached everywhere even in the face of persecution. Whether we like it or not, the simple truth is that our God is still in charge of His creation. Shalom!

Key-Point: Times and seasons are still in the hands of our Eternal Father.

DANIEL CHAPTER 3

FAITH DETERMINES FATE I

Sunday |May 22| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Daniel 3:8-18*

Daily Bible Verse: *"The King said, "...He sent his angel and rescued these men who serve and trust him. They disobeyed my orders and risked their lives rather than bow down and worship any god except their own."*
Daniel 3:28

With God there is no *fate*, what the scripture does recognises is *faith*. See *Heb 11:1*. As God's children, we ought not to quiver in the face of persecution or when our faith is being tried.

"If you are weak in a crises, you are weak indeed."

Proverbs 24:10

A time is coming when your faith as a child of God will be tried and tested. See *James 1:12*. Anyone who has not gone through some series of testing cannot be said to be an authenticated son of God. It is so unfortunate that many use their lips to exercise their faith. Your tomorrow (fate) is deeply rooted in your faith. Faith is the master key that unlocks every ancient gate. Most things that come to you as a child of God are not meant to devastate you if you put your faith to work.

You are just wasting your time when unlike the three Hebrew men you choose not to put your faith to work and expect God to help you. God wants us to come to that level where we shall stand for Him at all cost.

Prayer Point: *Help me Father that my faith fails not in the face of trial.*

DANIEL CHAPTER 3

FAITH DETERMINES FATE II

Monday |May 23| 2022

Daily Bible Study: Daniel 3:8-18

Daily Bible Verse: *"But even if he doesn't, Your Majesty
may be sure that we will not bow down
to the gold statue that you have set up."
Daniel 3:18*

It is so unfortunate that the Devil alongside the issues of life has made it complicated for our Nigerian youths to stand in the face of adversity. If the three Hebrew men can stand up to what they believe, then what about you? Most contemporary Christians will never risk their lives for Christ. God wants to see men who will stand up for Him in the face of death, because it is in it that He will glorify Himself. There are many Christians today who believe that their final destination is heaven, but if you ask them to lay down their lives for Jesus; they will never do that.

Although you may not know, but the truth is that some persons are counting on your faith for them to be able to stand. If you fail, always bear it in mind that millions have failed. And imagine what disappointment you would be to God on the last day when you stand before Him to be judged not as a triumphant man but as a failure. If Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had not stood for God in the midst of death, revival wouldn't have broken out in Babylon. How I wish Christians can openly profess Christ anywhere they found themselves, be sure that Christ will be glorified in all the nations of the earth. Faith disqualifies fate. Anyone who does not have faith should be prepared to live by fate.

Key Point: **Children of the world always substitute faith for fate.**

DANIEL CHAPTER 4
THE KING OF KINGS I
Tuesday |May 24| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Daniel 4:22-33*

Daily Bible Verse: *"So then, Your Majesty, follow my advice. Stop sinning, do what is right, and be merciful to the poor. Then you will continue to be prosperous."*
Daniel 4:27

Daniel Chapter 4 is an account in the Scripture that affirms God's superiority over all things, both in heaven and on earth. Man is the only creature among all other things that God created that has disobeyed God. And this is because God gave man a high level of intelligence and free-will determinism that was denied all other creations including animals. All the powers that be, whether in heaven or on the earth are all subject to the Lordship of Christ. No power exists outside His knowledge!

God is the one that divinely orchestrate the emergence and demise of great empires and rulers of the world. This is why one has to be very careful when one founds oneself in the position of authority, because God is still the controller of everything. See *Col 4:1*. In this chapter of the Bible, God humbled Nebuchadnezzar so that all may stand in awe of Him. Do you know that it is very easy for God to bless a man, but very difficult for Him to keep a man humble after blessing him? Some ignorant folks think that it was through their sweat that they made it. See *Deut 8:18*, *Hag 2:8*. If hustling is a guarantee for becoming rich, then it's obvious that hustlers would have been the richest folks on earth. God bless you!

Key Point: **No king of the earth exists outside the knowledge of God.**

DANIEL CHAPTER 4
THE KING OF KINGS II
Wednesday | May 25 | 2022

Daily Bible Study: Daniel 4:34-37

Daily Bible Verse: *"He looks on the people of the earth as nothing; angels in heaven and people on earth are under his control. No one can oppose his will or question what he does."* Daniel 4:35

In this second phase of discussing God as the King of Kings, we shall use the testimony of King Nebuchadnezzar as a yardstick to know God better. In the first phase of our discussion, in our Bible verse (*Dan 4:27*), Daniel warned the King to abstain from sin; but here we would see the aftermath of God's mighty hands on Nebuchadnezzar.

*"When the seven years had passed," said the king,
"I looked up at the sky, and my sanity returned.
I praised the Supreme God and gave honour and
glory to the one who lives for ever. He looks on the
people of the earth as nothing; angels in heaven
and people on earth are under his control. No one
can oppose his will or question what he does."*

Daniel 4:34-35

My joy in this passage of the Scripture is that the fear and mightiness of God was established through the mouth of a heathen king. The amazing thing about God is that even though he stunned Nebuchadnezzar by making him eat grass for 7 years, out of his mercies He still forgave him.

Meditate: **Nigerian politicians must learn from King Nebuchadnezzar.**

DANIEL CHAPTER 5
A DAY OF RECKONING I
Thursday |May 26| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Daniel 5:1-8*

Daily Bible Verse: *"Weight, you have been weighed on
the scale and found to be too light."
Daniel 5:27*

Only a wise man tries to live a godly life knowing full well that a day is coming when he will receive his reward from God according to his works while he was alive. Fools live their lives as if there is no tomorrow or Judgement Day. One thing that the living must constantly remind themselves is that a day of reckoning is coming, when all men will gather before the throne of the Almighty to be judged by Him. For this, I implore you to read the book of Revelation. So, we must always live our daily lives with the consciousness of eternity. The Lord will always deal with those who act proudly because of their positions in life. From *Daniel 5*, we see that all powers belongs to God, and that He can give it to whomever He so pleases. The story of King Nebuchadnezzar did not teach King Belshazzar (Nebuchadnezzar's successor) a lesson. He himself fell into the same snare sin of pride which made God punished his predecessor (Nebuchadnezzar).

Now, because Belshazzar paid no attention to the dealings of God to his predecessor, his own punishment was not madness but death. History has shown that men don't learn from historical occurrences, and when history repeats itself; it comes at a higher prize, and this was the fate of Belshazzar. If he had humbled himself, he would have lived.

Key-Point: **You're safer in life when you learn from the mistakes of others**

DANIEL CHAPTER 5
A DAY OF RECKONING II
Friday | May 27 | 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Daniel 5:1-8*

Daily Bible Verse: *"That same night Belshazzar,
the king of Babylon, was killed."
Daniel 5:30*

Through the book of *Daniel 5*, we have come to the knowledge that indeed there is a day of reckoning; a day when men will settle account with their Maker. We also see in this chapter that God hates luxury and ostentatious living. It is a sin for you to live an extravagant life while hundreds are languishing in penury around you. Remember the Rich Man and Lazarus in *Luke 16:19-31*. King Belshazzar was found guilty of living in luxury. It has been said that one of the major reasons why Rome fell was because of *hedonism*, although she blamed her fall on the Christians.

The major reason why God had to severely deal with King Belshazzar so that others can learn was that, the king insulted the Holy One of Israel by demanding to drink wine out of the golden cup dedicated to the Temple in Jerusalem. Through God's dealing with Belshazzar, men will not only come to fear God; but they will do well to abstain from blaspheming against God. Note, that same God who dealt with Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar has not changed, He is still on His throne.

Again we saw that it was Daniel who was able to interpret the handwriting on the wall which reads – *MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN*. This means that the secret things indeed belong to God. So, it is high time you stopped consulting soothsayers and come back to God.

Mediation: *If you choose not to fear God, then be ready to be terrified.*

DANIEL CHAPTER 6

PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE

Saturday |May 28| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Daniel 6:1-10*

Daily Bible Verse: *"...There, just as he had always done, he knelt down at the open windows and pray to God three times a day." Daniel 6:10*

From the story of Daniel in Dan 6, we see how a man of God stood his ground in the face of persecution; and how El Rohi rescued him. True and genuine Christianity is not in words but in actions. There are many today who profess Jesus with their lips but their hearts are really far from Him. And you can know this when the faith of these folks is being tested. The other two Supervisors appointed together with Daniel alongside the Governors of different provinces, chose to betray Daniel into the cold hands of death out of envy. This goes a long way to telling us that our faith in God is tested in the face of trial and persecution. See *Matt 5:11-12*.

Consciously or unconsciously, our faith as children of God is being tested everyday in our homes, schools, places of work, in the society we live in, and so on. Despite the fact that Daniel was acquainted that the law has being signed, and that his praying again means death; he choose to die for what he believed. May God help us to be strong for Him!

"But the people that do know their

God shall be strong, and do exploits." KJV Daniel 11:32

Prayer Point: **Holy Father, help me to stand in the face of persecution.**

DANIEL CHAPTER 6

ARE YOU A COMPROMISER?

Sunday |May 29| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Daniel 6:1-10*

Daily Bible Verse: *"...There, just as he had always done, he knelt down at the open windows and pray to God three times a day." Daniel 6:10*

In *Dan 6*, another lesson we can learn from the story of Daniel is that he was not a compromiser unlike many Christians today. As children of God, the tests we pass through in life are in phases. God will never allow our faith to be tested beyond its breaking limit. See *1 Corinth 10:13*. The Lord knew that Daniel could go through what he faced and that's why He permitted it to come to him. If there are thing we cannot avoid as children of God, it includes – test or trial, temptation, persecution and many others. Our everyday life is just a matter of test and temptation. While the Lord is the one who *test* us, the Devil on the other hand *tempt* us.

Every day of our lives, the Lord wants to see how much we can stand for Him. One thing we must also bear in mind as we ready our minds through the help of the Spirit not to deny Jesus or compromise; is that we can stand for Jesus and lose your life. The apostles and the early church lost their lives to persecution. So, until we come to the point where you have made up your mind to die for Christ we shall always be bunch of compromiser!

Meditation: **Beloved, it's high time you chose Jesus over compromise.**

TRUE REPENTANCE I

Monday |May 30| 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Psalm 51*

Daily Bible Verse: *"I have sinned against you – only against you – and done what you consider evil. So you are right in judging me; you are justified in condemning me."*
Psalm 51:4

1. Heavenly Father, like You accepted the Prodigal Son when he returned to You, please accept me and forgive all my sins.
2. Lord Jesus, through the blood that You shed on the cross and through the help of Your Spirit, help me to be an overcomer of sin, that sin will no longer have dominion over me. *Rom 6:14*.
3. Lord Jesus, in the same way You were tempted but never sinned, grace me that at all times I will learn to follow Your foot step and resist evil. *Heb 4:15*.
4. Father, even as a dog will go back to its vomit, and pig go back to the dirt after being washed; help me Lord never to return to my past life. *2 Peter 2:21-22*.
5. You demon of sin (mention the name of that sin that you frequently fall into), I command you in the name of Jesus to evacuate my life; for my body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

Meditation: **If you truly want to be free from sin, then follow Jesus.**

TRUE REPENTANCE II

Tuesday | May 31 | 2022

Daily Bible Study: *Psalm 139:23-24*

Daily Bible Verse: *"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."*
2 Corinthians 7:10

True and genuine repentance is not seen in mere words but in deeds. There are many who cry each time they fall into one particular sin, but they have never made up their minds to seek God to be drilled so that they can be remade. King David is a good example of a saint in the Scriptures that sinned against God, truly repented of his sins; and was conscious not to return to them. Your human rules and wisdom is of no help if you really want to be an overcomer of sin. It is more of God that you need if you wish to live above sin. All you need is the nature of Christ being imputed into you. When Christ gives you His nature, you will just be hungry and eager to be like Him even while you dwell among unclean men.

The pathetic thing about repentance is that self-righteousness has hindered many from seeing their sins. This was the sin of the Pharisees and the whole religious folks during the days when Christ walked this earth. They hated Jesus because He was a mirror that revealed their evils and hypocrisy. See *Matt 23*. When a man doesn't know he is a sinner, how then do you expect such a man to seek God for cleansing? Until we cry to God to examine us, we will never come to see our dirt and filthiness (*Isa 64:6*). When God examines you, you can be rest assured that the sins He will convict you of are those things you never knew were sin. Shalom!

Prayer Point: *Father, please take away my self-righteousness from me.*

CLOSING PRAYERS

Heavenly Father,

I thank You for how far You have led me this month. Am grateful because I have wouldn't have been able to have come this far if You weren't involved.

Lord, please, in these perilous times where sin and evil is the order of the day; keep me safe from the Prince of this world and the wickedness in it.

Help me never to backslide or lose Thy Holy Fire which is irreplaceable. Fill me with the hunger to continually seek You till the day I meet You in glory.

Thank You Lord Jesus because I know You have answered my prayer. All glory to Your Holy Name.

Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Philip O. Okoye is a minister in Zion Soul Winning Prayer Ministry (ZSWPM) in Lagos and works with the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG). He is a Teacher and an Evangelist in the vineyard of Christ with a mandate from God to preach holiness, correct errors, and heal all those who are being afflicted by foul spirits; and to save both the apostates and the unsaved.

He is the founder of Divine Touch Ministries, which is an NGO, saddled with the burden to minister to the moral, educational, and spiritual lives of the youths and young adults.

He is a the author of many books and poems yet unpublished, amongs which includes The Basic Facts That Ruin Students.

