

A Guide to Closer Fellowship With The Holy Spirit



**JUNE
2022**

DIVINE TOUCH
Daily Devotional

THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS IN MATTHEW 5-7

Philip O. Okoye

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Publications

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Divine Touch Daily Devotional

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INTRODUCTION

This Month's devotional is targeted at explaining the teachings of Jesus in Matt 5-7, which is popularly known as the Sermon on the Mount. The summary of the Law can be found in this portion of the Scripture. Jesus never came to destroy the Law as many religious claim; instead, He came to espouse the Law and to see it come true.

*“Do not think that I have come to do away with
the Law of Moses and the teachings of the
prophets. I have not come to do away with them,
but to make their teachings come true.”*

Matthew 5:17

Anyone who goes through the teaching of Jesus on the Sermon on the Mount, and chooses to obey them will be blessed by God. great is your reward when you obey and strive to obey everything commanded in the Scriptures.

An Opening Prayer To Begin The Devotional

Heavenly Father,

*If there are many things I ask of you this month, one of them is that
You give me the grace to obey You in all things in Jesus name.*

*Father, please protect me, my family, and Your children from the
ongoing crises that is savaging our country Nigeria, bring to book
those who have vowed that the innocent will not know peace, and
keep Your church safe in this turbulent times.*

Help us all I pray in Jesus name.

Amen.

June Edition

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- 1. Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit.***
- 2. Blessed Are They That Mourn.***
- 3. Blessed Are The Meek.***
- 4. A Godly Strive For Righteousness.***
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- 28. False Preachers.***
- 29. The Fate of Hypocrites.***
- 30. The Wise Builder.***

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

Wednesday | June 1 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 5:1-12

Bible Verse: "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for
theirs is the Kingdom of heaven."

KJV Matthew 5:3

In this teaching, Jesus is admonishing all who are conscious of their weaknesses or human frailties, and are always striving to getting better in their relationship with God, that the Kingdom of heaven is for them. It is so pathetic that self-righteousness and arrogance have made many proud, and thus rubbed them of their genuine relationship with the Father. God does not and will never align Himself with the proud. And this why we all must always remember that we are nothing without God, and that we can do nothing without Him either. See John 15:4-5.

Being spiritually poor means recognising the fact that our human efforts is useless if God is not with us. One who will enjoy God's backing in this world is one who knows that he will fall if God's grace is withdrawn from him (1 Corinth 10:12). We are all helped by God, and if God removes that help, what a great fall that will be. See 2 Corinth 12:9. When we approach God's presence, we should not come before Him like the Pharisee in Luke 18:9-14, who came to God's presence with his self-righteousness; and for this he was condemned by God. If the mentality you have when you approach God is like that of the Pharisee, then be sure to be condemned by Him. The conclusion of the whole matter is that if God removes His grace from us, we become a living dead.

Prayer Point: *Holy Father, hide me under the banner of Your grace.*

BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN

Thursday | June 2 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 5:1-12

Bible Verse: "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." KJV Matthew 5:4

"You will not succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up; then God will show mercy to you." Proverbs 28:13

This portion of the scripture is meant for those who are deeply sorry for their sins. They cry and sober because they truly desire a way out of their predicament. The encouragement for them here is that God will comfort them. Does this now mean that God is encouraging sin? God forbid! God is only encouraging them in His name so that they can be strong in order for them not to give up. See 1 John 2:1, Rom 8:34.

One of the saints in the scripture who truly mourned for his sins and was strengthened by God after he repented was David. When David fell into the sin of adultery and murder, the Lord forgave him because he genuinely repented. David unlike Saul did not try to cover up his sins, but he openly acknowledged his sins and the Lord forgave him. See 2 Sam 12:13.

"When I did not confess my sins, I was worn out from crying all day long. Day and night you punished me, LORD; my strength was completely drained, as moisture is dried up by the summer heat. Then I confessed my sins to you; I did not conceal my wrongdoings. I decided to confess them to you, and you forgave all my sins." Psalm 32:3-5

Wise Quote: *"Every star is known to be a thinker and every committed thinker is bound to be a star."* — Bishop David Oyedepo

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK

Friday | June 3 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 5:1-12

Bible Verse: "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5

One of the virtues that could easily been seen in Jesus was humility. Jesus was a man of humility, and this suggests why the scriptures encouraged us to follow after the footstep of our Master. See Phil 2:5-9:

"The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had: He always had the nature of God, but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God. instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had, and took the nature of a servant. He became like a human being and appeared in human likeness. He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death – his death on the cross."

Philippians 2:5-8

If we only we truly committed to walking as Jesus walked on this earth with all humility, we won't be defeated by pride and other wiles of the Devil. The meek have both earthly and heavenly rewards. The Lord promises to prolong their days on earth (and this will sure come with good health and sound mind). I have come to discover that most things that causes disagreement and bred strife is somewhat connected with pride. We live in world where everybody is right. Do you know that some bloodshed would have been avoided if men admitted their wrongs? If only we can always humble ourselves, we shall continually enjoy God's blessings.

Prayer Point: *Heavenly Father, help me to remain humble at all time.*

A GODLY STRIVE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Saturday |June 4| 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 5:1-12

**Bible Verse: "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst
after righteousness: for they shall be filled."
KJV Matthew 5:6**

This portion of scripture is the very reason why many Christians even though they are matured physically, are Eskimos spiritually. The truth embedded in this portion of the scripture is that God cannot fill you beyond your hunger and longing for Him. If you must have more of God in your life, then you must be ready to continually seek more of Him. See Matt 7:7-11. There are believers today who do not seek to grow spiritually, their interest are solely secular even though they proclaim Jesus daily. See 1 John 2:15-17.

In our Christian walk with God it doesn't matter how long you have been born again, what does matter is how fervent your walk with God is. Someone who is a born again in 1980 can be as dry as the dry bone described in Ezekiel 37, while someone who is born again in 2018 can be as fresh as the green leaves in a good vineyard. This is so because while the former have stopped seeking God, the latter is continually seeking God. And this is part of what causes spiritual death. If we must remain ever fresh in the Lord, we must never be tired of seeking Him.

The assurance we have in this portion of the scripture is that those who seek God in truth and in spirit will surely find Him. See Luke 11:13. It is one thing to seek God for His righteousness, and it is yet another thing to seek Him solely for material things. Learn to only seek God's promises.

Wise Quote: *"God loves you because of whom you are but He blesses you because of what you do."* –Mike Murdock.

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL

Sunday | June 5 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 5:1-12

Bible Verse: "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." KJV Matthew 5:7

The story of the unmerciful servant in Matt 18:21-35 will serve as a good example that can help drive home our point. From our Bible verse, it is crystal clear that it is only the man that shows mercy to others that is qualified to obtaining mercy from God. One thing we must understand about mercy is that it originates from God.

"It is of the Lord's mercy that we are not consumed, because his compassion fail not." KJV Lam 3:22

"So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of the God that showeth mercy."

KJV Romans 9:16

When Jesus was talking about the merciful obtaining mercy, He was simply referring to those who have chosen to walk in the path of forgiveness in spite the offences that may have come their ways. See Matt 6:14-15 about forgiveness. The story of the Unmerciful Servant has taught us that the Lake of Fire is the fate of those who choose not to forgive. We must make it our point of duty to keep on loving others no matter their offences because the Lord does not permit us to hate anyone.

"If thou, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared." KJV Psalm 130:3-4

Wise Quote: *"Retirement is not of age, it is of mind. If you renew your mind, you will re-fire and not retire."* –Anonymous

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART

Monday | June 6 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 5:1-12

Bible Verse: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." KJV Matthew 5:8

Being pure in spirit means when one has integrity; moral courage, and godly character. Anyone who is pure in heart is one who truly fears God in all things and tries to live in a way that will not stain their robe. Genuine fears and reverence for God begins right from the heart. You can know whether a man honours God or not from what goes on in that man's heart. And this is why we must always purify our hearts. See Jer 17:9.

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." KJV Proverbs 4:23
"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee."
KJV Proverbs 23:7

"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good thing? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." KJV Matthew 12:34

A man's way will never be awkward if his heart is right with God. The heart is like the gear of a man's life, while his tongue is the steering. The steering (tongue) can work only when the gear (heart) is at work. So, if you must control your words, you must first strive to control your heart. It is hypocrisy on your part that the brethren in the Church highly esteem you even when you are a defeated man in the secret.

Scientific Fact: *"Did you know the longest recorded flight of a chicken was 13 seconds"*

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

Tuesday | June 7 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 5:1-12

Bible Verse: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they
shall be called the children of God."
KJV Matthew 5:9

A man can be in serious trouble when he lives with troublemakers. When a man is living with men and women of peace, such a man will enjoy life even when he may not have all the slivers and gold in the world. For us to be good Christians, we need to always be at peace with our neighbours. See Prov 16:7. One of the reasons why it has become increasingly difficult for unbelievers to believe in our Jesus is because of the way we believers live and interact in our local communities, our places of work, and anywhere we found ourselves.

*"Follow peace with all men, and holiness,
without which no man shall see the Lord."*

KJV Hebrews 12:14

*"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you,
live peaceably with all men."* *KJV Romans 12:18*

The lynching of Deborah Samuel Yakubu that took place last month would have been avoided if and only if her killers were interested in allowing peace to reign. It is so appalling that we live in a society where people take laws into their hands. It shows that Islam is indeed a violent religion. But above all these, the teachings of the scriptures is that we live at peace with all men so that we can be called God's children.

Scientific Facts: *"Do you know Koalas sleep around 18 hours a day."
"Do you know 85% of plant life is found in the ocean."*

BLESSED ARE THE PERSECUTED 1

Wednesday | June 8 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 5:1-12

Bible Verse: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." KJV Matthew 5:10

"Everyone who wants to live a godly life in union with Christ Jesus will be persecuted."
2 Timothy 3:12

Persecution is the bottom line and the reason for the spread of the Gospel. If our fathers were not persecuted, then the Gospel wouldn't have gotten to men like you and I. The Good News of Christ was able to travel swiftly to hinterland simply because some martyrs paid with their blood when they preached our Master. In Acts 1:8 Jesus ordered His disciples to wait for power, and then in Acts 8:1, persecution drove out the Church to preaching the Gospel of Christ. Let Heb 11:35-38 strengthen you.

One secret the Lord had long hidden from the Devil is that it is through persecution that the Gospel is better preached. See 1 Corinth 2:8. Believers must be careful that they are not persecuted because they merited it. See 1 Peter 4:12-19. The more the blood of the saints is shed on this earth, the more it quickens God's judgement. See Lev 18:25.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of a good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

The summary of this discussion is found in the words of Tertullian:

"The blood of the saints is the seed of the Church."

Scientific Fact: *"Do you know that grasshoppers have white blood."*

BLESSED ARE THE PERSECUTED II

Thursday | June 9 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 5:1-12

Bible Verse: "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake."

KJV Matthew 5:11

One bitter truth about persecution is that no child of God will naturally wish to undergo persecution if not for the sake of Christ, and even when they are willing to undergo it and God withdraws His grace; such a person will deny Jesus without a blinking of an eye. It is the Holy Spirit that keeps us confident against all odds; this is why every believer must hunger to always be filled with the Spirit. Persecution is an integral part of our faith, and anyone who is not ready to be persecuted by the world is like one who claims to be a lover of Jesus but hates the cross

"And when he called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it, but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it." Mark 8:34-35.

Meditation: *It is hypocrisy to love Jesus and hate the cross.*

Scientific Fact: *"Do you know a bear have 42 teeth."*

SALT AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Friday | June 10 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 5:13-16

Bible Verse: "In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

One of the biggest misfortunes that have befallen many Christians is that they have failed to shine as the light; neither are they adding value, significance, and savour to the world. Whether we like it or not, people will never be eager to serve our Jesus if we ourselves are not willing to turn away from our wrongdoings. To preach Jesus is one thing, to live out that Jesus is yet another thing. Do you know that irrespective of where the world is heading to, if the Christians of this age are willing and are committed to walk as Jesus walked; men would have long turned away from their sinful and would have embraced Christ.

We are the Bible that men want to read. But how pathetic it is that many Christians are a wrong representation of whatever Christ stands for. Anywhere we found ourselves, sinners should be convicted of sin through the kind of lives we live. But these days, the reverse is the case. Our societies are filled with Christians who are saturated and obsessed with worldliness. What births skirmishes and squabbles among Christian are brethren are those very things that shouldn't be mentioned among them in the first place. If our lives is the very reason why men won't come to Christ, then we should be ready because God will hold us responsible.

Wise Quote: *"Some people spend their time, while some invest their time."*

—Sam Adeyemi

JESUS' TEACHING ABOUT THE LAW

Saturday | June 11 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 5:17-19

**Bible Verse: "Do not think I have come to do away with the Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets. I have not come to do away with them, but to make their teachings come true."
Matthew 5:17**

The book of Matthew is one book that showcases Jesus as the fulfilment of the Old Covenant. This means that Jesus in anyway do not contradict the Law, but has only come to espouse the Law and expose those who do evil while hiding under the provision of the Law. Jesus is God, and if God the Father and the Son are one (John 10:30), then He cannot be complicating the Law. If Jesus was truly against the Law as the Pharisees and the Teachers of Law claimed, then there would have been no need for Him to have keep quoting the scriptures as a defence for all He did.

Jesus's teaching about the Law in verse 18 is that the Word of God must be fulfilled before the close of age. We are living in the last days where the end time prophecies is being fulfilled before our very eyes. God is faithful, He will fulfil every single promises of His before the end of all things. The teachings of Jesus in Matt 5-7 is an indebt explanation to the Law of Moses, therefore we must strive to now begin to live according to the New Covenant which is found in the Gospels and in the Epistles of the Apostles. We are no longer living in the Old Covenant, so living in the Old Covenant rubs Christ of His death on the cross. And the summary of Jesus's teaching is that we must live holy to be able to inherit eternal life.

Scientific Fact: *"Did you know that 11% of people are left handed."*

JESUS'S TEACHING ON ANGER

Sunday | June 12 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 5:21-26

Bible Verse: "Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry:
for anger reseth in the bosom of fools."
KJV Ecclesiastes 7:9

The foundation of Jesus's teaching on anger in Matt 5:21-26 is that anger is equivalent to murder if one do not repent of it. Most persons that has been charged or convicted with murder cases are those folks who were so saturated with hatred and anger that they had no control over themselves. A man who has no control over his anger is prone to fall.

*"If you cannot control your anger, you are as
helpless as a city without walls, open to attack." Proverbs 25:28*

*"People with hot temper do foolish
things; wise people remain calm." Proverbs 14:17*

Anger has led many to doing drastic things that they would have avoided if they had learnt to put their temper under control. When you always get angry at any slightest provocation, you are unknowingly harming yourself. See Prov 19:11. Constant bitterness can lead to unforgiving spirit.

*"If you want people to like you, forgive
them when they wrong you. Remembering
wrongs can break up a friendship." Proverbs 17:9*

You see from our Bible study of today that God is not in any way interested in your offerings as much as He is in your relationship with your neighbour. No man can hide his inside from God, He alone knows you well. Learn to forgive your offenders and God will forgive you.

Fact: *"Did you know lemon contains more sugar than strawberry."*

ADULTERY

Monday | June 13 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 5:27-30

Bible Verse: "But now I tell you: anyone who looks at a woman and wants to possess her is guilty of committing adultery with her in his heart."
Matthew 5:28

Adultery is one of the sins that the Devil is using to hold many folks captive today. The reason why many are entangled in this sin is because they thought that they could just indulge in this sin for a season, but they don't know that they have walked into a killer trap. This teaching of Jesus on adultery encompasses all sexual sins. If you read Proverbs 5-7, you will see the series of warning given by God against adultery, and then you will come to agree with me that it is foolishness for anyone to openly walk into this pit. Men without grace, who don't fear God, and are not disciplined, are those that fall into this pit called adultery.

One of the reasons why men fall into this sin is because of their inability to control their sexual desires. The teaching of Christ here is that whatever is capable of leading us into sin should be put off. It is God's perfect will that all men overcome lust. Today, sexual sin is one of the biggest sins the Devil has used to trap man. To be disciplined pays.

"I found something more bitter than death – the woman who is like a trap. The love she offers you will catch you like a net; and her arms round you will hold you like a chain. A man who pleases God can get away, but she will catch the sinner."

Ecclesiastes 7:26

Scientific Fact: *"Do you know an Ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain."*

DIVORCE

Tuesday | June 14 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 5:31-32

Bible Verse: “But now I tell you: if a man divorces his wife, for any cause other than her unfaithfulness, then he is guilty of making her commit adultery if she marries again; and the man who marries her commits adultery also.” Matthew 5:32

The issue of marriage has become too controversial that many have seen divorce as the only way to resolve any marital differences. It is appalling that so many Christians rely on the Court to settle the dispute in their homes. The death of Evangelist Osinachi a Nigerian Gospel singer, whose demise was alleged to have been due to the perpetual domestic violence she faced in her marriage have posed a serious threat to the marriage of many who now believe that divorce is permitted at any slightest provocation. Love, endurance, and tolerance is no longer preached and emphasized. As children of God, we mustn't allow the world determine the outlook of our marriages, instead we should be their teacher on that.

It is so unfortunate that many diluted teachings have crept into the Body of Christ, encouraging divorce not separation. I wonder how divorced preachers can preach on marriage. Emphasis must be laid on the fact that the only scriptural basis for divorce is infidelity. But I strongly advise that in the face of domestic violence, that a woman is permitted to be separated from her husband because of her life. In times of trouble, couples should learn to run to God in prayer because He is the alpha and omega.

Scientific Fact: *“Do you know 8% of people have an extra rib.”*

JESUS TEACHING ON VOWS

Wednesday | June 15 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 5:33-37

Bible Verse: "Just say 'Yes' or 'No' – anything else
you say comes from the Evil One."

Matthew 5:37

It is so unfortunate that we live in a world where most people are just not sincere in their dealings with their fellow human. And because of this, in some part of the world; the best way to show people that you are saying the truth is to take an oath. If men were sincere with themselves and with their words, then there wouldn't be any need for anyone to take an oath before assuming political offices. In a country like Nigeria, men do the direct opposite of their manifestoes even after they swore with either the Bible or other religious books to govern well.

The emphasis of Jesus's teaching here is that as God's children, we ought to keep our promises. Men who always keep their word will never have to swear before they get peoples' trust, and they will be highly respected in their societies. Funny enough, there are men who come to God's house and make promises they know they are incapable of fulfilling. See Eccles 5:1-6. People who always feel that the best way they can express their innocence or sincerity is by swearing are not following the teachings of Christ. If men will not believe you unless you swear, then it's of tow ways; it's either you are scam or those folks have been cheated on numerous occasions so they just choose not to trust anyone again. But as for you dearly beloved, you mustn't fall into this trap of vow.

Wise Quote: *"Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm."* – Winston Churchill

REVENGE

Thursday | June 16 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 5:38-42

Bible Verse: “But now I tell you: do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, let him slap your left cheek too.” Matthew 5:39

It is against the teachings of Christ for you as a believer to take vengeance or retribution into your hands, reason being that God Himself wants to be the one that should be responsible for the whole offences committed against His children. The Law Court will not hesitate to sentence you if in the course of trying to pay back you did something drastic. But if God was the one who did that, who can sentence Him?

Jesus's teaching on revenge doesn't mean that one should be stupid; this teaching was meant to curtail violence which was a norm used in settling crises in the old covenant. Nigerian Christians need to learn to be subservient to the Law which permits self-defence. It is foolishly for a man's life to revolve around revenge. This is why even while the Muslims and other religious folks alongside governments of the world persecute us, we are confident in the fact that vengeance belongs to God. Shalom!

Wise Quote: “*Disability cannot deter a determined soul.*”

–Anonymous

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Friday | June 17 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 5:42-48

Bible Verse: "You must be perfect – just as your
Father in heaven is perfect!"

Matthew 5:48

This is one aspect of Jesus's teaching where most believers and even preachers have failed to keep. You know, in the true sense, it is somewhat very difficult to love your enemy. If you notice, Jesus did not only mention that we are bound to love our enemies; but He also stressed that we are to pray for them. This is what makes God's children different from the world, and there is a great reward for keeping this teaching.

*"If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are
thirsty, give them a drink. You will make them
burn with shame, and the LORD will reward you."*

Proverbs 25:21

By loving and praying for our enemies, we are bringing God's Kingdom down to this earth. Do you know that there is a kind of love that you will show to people, even the unsaved will choose to be saved because of that? But cognisance must be taken to the fact that there are some enemies in our lives that need to die because of the height of their wickedness.

*"Though favour be shown to the wicked, yet they do
not learn righteousness; in the land of uprightness they
deal perversely and refuse to see the majesty of the Lord."*

AMP Isaiah 26:10

"Thou shall not suffer a witch to live." *KJV Exodus 18:22*

Scientific Fact: *"Do you know 1/4 of your bones are in your feet".*

TEACHING ABOUT CHARITY

Saturday | June 18 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 6:1-4

Bible Verse: “So when you give something to a needy person, do not make a big show of it, as the hypocrites do in the houses of worship and on the streets. They do it so that people will praise them. I assure you, they have already been paid in full.”
Matthew 6:2

This teaching of Jesus on charity is meant for the proud, and those hypocrites who make public show of their almsgiving. The centrepiece of this teaching is that no one should boast of what he or she does for a needy person. But unfortunately, for every good works some folks do, it will be posted on social media. The scriptures said that those who do that have been paid in full, because instead of God to reward them on the last day they have rather preferred the praises of men. So, all Jesus is saying in essence is that giving is good, but making a big show of it is wrong.

The rich ought to be taught how to give and not make the world praise them as though they are God. Men feel injured when you help them and the whole world is aware of it to the point where people can make jest of them that they are surviving at your mercies. Many occultists think that they can escape God's judgement by becoming a philanthropist. This is pathetic. Giving does not take away the place of salvation in a man's life. If almsgiving was all that was needed to be saved, then there wouldn't have been any need for a man like Cornelius to be saved. See Acts 10:1-33. You are inexcusable if you choose not to help a needy person. Shalom!

Key Point: *God wants you to give alms to the poor without boasting.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sunday | June 19 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 6:5-15

Bible Verse: "Do not be like them. Your Father already
knows what you need before you ask him."

Matthew 6:8

For a baby Christian, learning to pray the Lord's Prayer is good, but as one who wishes to grow in the Lord; it is important that we move beyond that. The Lord's Prayer is only a guide that Jesus gave His disciples. Praying amiss is one of the reasons why many prayers are not answered.

*"And when you ask, you do not receive it,
because your motives are bad; you ask
for things to use for your own pleasures."*

James 4:3

The Lord's Prayer has so many truths in it that Christians do not apply most times when they engage God in the place of prayer. When we pray, we must first learn to hallow God's name; and also seek to see His Kingdom established on this earth. A man can run into many headaches when in his prayers he doesn't seek for God's will. The reason why there is so much suffering in the world today is because men have moved out of the will of God, and are not giving any thought whatsoever of retracing their steps. In the Lord's Prayer, the Lord taught us that it is not out of place for one to pray for material things, but we also remember that that is not the first on the topmost list of Lord's Prayer.

And finally, Jesus emphasised that when we pray, we should forgive others their wrongs so that God will forgive our wrongs (Matt 6:14-15).

Meditation: *There is no place in heaven for men with unforgiving spirit.*

WHAT IS FASTING?

Monday | June 20 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 6:16-18

Bible Verse: "And he said unto them, This kind can come
forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting."
KJV Mark 9:29

From the above Bible text of today, we see that Jesus is teaching us about how best we should fast. There are some religious groups in Christendom who don't believe in fasting. If you read the beginning of verse 16, Jesus emphatically said: "And when you fast..." He did not say: "And if you fast..." which would have meant that fasting wasn't necessary. But rather He said, "And when" meaning that believers need to fast as Jesus Himself fasted. See Matt 4:1-11.

There are many things that fasting does for you as a believer, and one of them is that it helps to build your spirit man. Fasting do help in bringing your flesh under control when you really humble yourself during that exercise. It helps you deny those things you would have naturally craved for especially food. If there is one thing that Jesus spoke against when we fasting it is that we shouldn't make a big show of it like the heathen do. When you in the habit of making people know that you are fasting, you are no better than the Muslims who do public awareness when they fast. Nobody is permitted to know much we fast. It is private business, and it is only God that is permitted to know about your fasting life because when you fast; it is Him you seek and not man.

People can know how much we fast when it is needful. Great power is unleashed to the man who always fast when there is a need.

Wise Quote: *"All achievement have their beginning with an idea."* Hill

RICHES IN HEAVEN

Tuesday | June 21 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 6:19-21

Bible Verse: "Command those who are rich in the things of this life not to be proud, but to place their hope, not in such uncertain thing as riches, but in God, who generously gives us everything for our enjoyment." 1Timothy 6:17

Anyone who is a friend with the world is automatically an enemy of God. And no one in this life can serve both God and mammon (money). Directly or indirectly, money has been the major causes of most death cases in Nigeria and all over the world; and as children of God we must be conscious of our dealings with money. It is evil to highly estimate money above all things. At all times, it is the heartbeat of God that we put Him first in our lives. See 1Timothy 6:7-8, Matt 6:24. The Word of God is not lying when it says that a man's heart will always be where his riches are.

"Workers may or may not have enough to eat, but at least they can get a good night's sleep. The rich, however, have so much that they stay awake worrying."

Ecclesiastes 5:12

The common notions that most rich and wealthy folks have that deter them from giving is that they made money all by themselves. See Psalm 127:2, Matt 5:45. They always remove God from the scene. The scriptural verse below is the only reason why God blesses men.

"The richer you are, the more mouths you must feed. All you gain is the knowledge that you are rich." Eccles 5:11

Scientific Fact: *Do you know an average man falls asleep in 7 minutes.*

THE LIGHT OF THE BODY

Wednesday | June 22 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 6:22-23

Bible Verse: "The eye is the lamp of the body; so if your eye is clear (spiritual perception), your whole body will be full of light (benefit from God's light)."

Matthew 6:22

To have a bad sight is to be spiritually blind. There are many believers today who are spiritually blind because they do not pay attention to spiritual things. When Jesus was talking about the eyes being the light of the body, He wasn't referring to the physical eyes; instead, He meant the spiritual perception of a man. When believers are not sensitive to the dealings of the spirit, it means they are blind. So, what Jesus was trying to do in essence is to compare our physical eyes which have the capacity to see and give signals among other things to our spiritual sensitivity which helps us to navigate through this wicked world.

As it is not good for a blind man to walk around all by himself, and do many things all by himself; so it is not good for a Christian to be spiritually blind and not understand the dealings of the Spirit. This is why every believer must strive to come to maturity or adulthood where God can relate with them not as children or babes, but as grown up. See 1 Corinth 14:20. It is the will of God that the eyes of our understanding be enlightened so that not only can we understand the things of the Spirit, but we can also be partakers of the moves of the end time. It is saddening that there are many Christians today who are lost in this world and are like the mixed multitudes that followed with God's people during their exist.

Prayer Point: *Lord Jesus, help me always to be sensitive to the Spirit.*

WHY WORRY?

Thursday | June 23 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 6:24-34

Bible Verse: "This is why I tell you not to be worried about the food and drink you need in order to stay alive, or about clothes for your body. After all, isn't life worth more than food? And isn't the body worth more than clothes?"

Matthew 6:25

The situation of Nigeria today and the world at large, have left many with nothing than to worry. Worry is a killer disease! It has nothing good to offer to you as a believer, instead it is capable of taking away everything from you (including all hope), and leaving you depressed which can lead you to taking drastic decision. See 1 Peter 5:7.

"Leave all your worries with him because he cares for you."

1 Peter 5:7

In Matthew 6:24-34, Jesus gave substantial reasons why we as God's children shouldn't give in to worry. And one of those reasons is that God loves us beyond all His creatures. The Lord compared us to the birds of the air, who even though they do not plant nor harvest, they never go hungry; why, because God takes care of them. It is high time we come to the knowledge that we are highly esteemed before our heavenly Father. See Zach 2:8. Whatever is depriving us of our joy in the Lord cannot be from God. So let's watch out to know when the Devil is coming in.

"The more you worry, the more likely you are to have bad dreams." Ecclesiastes 5:3

Meditation: *Depression is one of the Devil's greatest arsenals.*

SEEKING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Friday | June 24 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 6:31-34

Bible Verse: "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God,
and his righteousness; and all these
things shall be added unto you."

KJV Matthew 6:33

If there is one thing that God wants us to do, I believe it is to seek Him and to keep on seeking Him until we have found Him. Even when we found Him, God expects us to keep on seeking Him because there is no end to Him. In Him is our sufficiency, and it is in Him that we found solace and rest for our troubled soul.

*"For in him we live, and move, and have
our being; as certain also of your own
poets have said, For we are also his offspring."*

KJV Acts 17:28

A man that does not have Christ will not experience true peace, because genuine peace comes from the fact we have a home in heaven. Until the world comes to the point where they believe that outside Christ there is no life, man's troubled will continue to hover the earth looking for a place of rest. If a fish cannot survive outside water, then no man can survive outside God. It is just a pity that we have bunch of Christians who seek God only when they are in serious trouble. God longs to see men who will seek Him and Him alone amidst all the distractions in this world.

*"God is Spirit: and they that worship him
must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:24*

Meditation: *If God is not the first thing you seek in life, you will fail.*

JUDGING OTHERS

Saturday | June 25 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 7:1-6

Bible Verse: "Do not judge others, so that God will not judge you." Matthew 7:1

Throughout the scriptures, we as God's children are never permitted under any circumstance to judge anyone, because final judgement must await the day when Christ is revealed. See Acts 17:31. This is not to say that we cannot give people advice, correct, or rebuke them when they do wrong (Prov 15:22, Prov 28:13, 1 Tim 5:20). I believe that one of the reasons why God said that we should not judge anyone is because when judging others, we are always biased and subjective; and our judgment is bound to be subject to our human frailties. Do you know that most times you judge people based on their weaknesses and not on their strength?

"Stop judging people by external standards, and judge by true standard."

John 7:24

People who are always quick to judge and nail others to the cross are sometimes guilty of the wrongs they accuse others of. God does not want us to be like the hypocrites, who condemn the very things they do. Consider James 4:11-12. Now, in view of all these things, the scripture surely permits us to judge our brothers in the faith. See 1 Corinth 5:9-13.

"But should you not judge the members of your own fellowship? As the scripture says, 'Remove the evil person from your group.'"

1 Corinthians 5:13

Scientific Fact: *Do you know your most sensitive finger is your index finger?*

ASK, SEEK, AND KNOCK

Sunday | June 26 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 7:7-12

Bible Verse: "Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you."
Matthew 7:7

There is no other way designated in the scripture by which men can receive from God except by asking. It is in asking that men receive answers to prayers. And this is why we must never be tired of asking from our heavenly Father, because He is never tired of hearing us. Our heavenly Father knows what we need even before we even ask (Matt 6:8), but He wants us to ask because if God answers our prayers without our asking; then there wouldn't be any Father-son relationship as it was with Jesus. Through our consistency in asking God for those very things promised in His Word, we build a strong relationship with him which is His desire.

There is no father on earth who will be happy if his son does not have a relationship with him whatsoever. We are not vagabonds so God doesn't want us to behave like one when it comes to our dealing with Him. We must note that God does not just want us to ask once and then give up; rather, He wants us to ask and keep asking until He does that which we have asked Him according to His Word. It is so unfortunate that so many Christians only humble themselves in the place of prayer when things are very tough. If we want God to answer us speedily, we must learn to always pray according to His promises and not out of our greed.

Wise Quote: *"Nurture your minds with great thoughts, for you will never go higher than you think."* – Benjamin Disraeli

Prayer Point: *Help me sweet Holy Spirit to learn to pray aright.*

THE NARROW GATE

Monday | June 27 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 7:13-14

Bible Verse: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man,
but the end thereof are the ways of death."
KJV Proverbs 14:1

Living a holy life is central to the Christian life. It is not negotiable! It is a command from God to all who professes to be His.

*"Try to be at peace with everyone, and try to live a
holy life, because no one will see the Lord without it."*

Hebrews 12:14

*"Instead, be holy in all that you do, just as
God who called you is holy. The Scripture
says, Be holy because I am holy."*

1 Peter 1:15-16

One of the greatest dangers in Christianity is that there are many who are walking the path of disobedience, and they sincerely think they that their lives are in alignment with God. This is the biggest tragedy that can ever befall a Christian when he thinks he is still on track while he has long drifted from the path of life. It is so unfortunate that many Christians died without repenting of their evil simply because they thought their names were in the book of life (were in right with God).

The narrow gate is the way of sacrifice. It is the way of the cross (self-denial and emptiness of oneself). It is the way where we surrender all to Jesus and let Him lead us in His infinite wisdom. Anyone who is walking the narrow gate is one who is dead to this world and all its pleasures.

Science Fact: *Do you know August has the highest percentage of births*

FALSE PREACHERS

Tuesday | June 28 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 7:15-20

Bible Verse: "Be on your guard against false prophets; they come to you looking like sheep on the outside, but on the inside they are really like wild wolves."
Matthew 7:15

One of the greatest challenges in the Body of Christ today is that many Christians lack discernment, and for this reason they are unable to distinguish between genuine preachers and false preachers or impostors. The rise of impostors is one of the strongest signs of the end time like we see today. See Matt 24:23-28.

"Many men, claiming to speak for me, will come and say, 'I am the Messiah!' and they will deceive many people."

Matthew 24:5

One of the reasons why the unbelievers mock the way of truth (Christ) is because of the increasing activities of false preachers. See 1 Peter 2:2. These men have invaded the Church and are busy committing heinous crimes and all manners of atrocities in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"For some godless people have slipped in unnoticed among us, persons who distort the message about the grace of our God in order to excuse their immoral ways, and who reject Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord. Long ago the Scriptures predicted the condemnation they have received."

Jude 4

Anyone whose teachings conflict the Scriptures is a false preacher.

Scientific Fact: *Do you know a Giraffe can clean its ear with its 21 inch tongue?*

THE FATE OF HYPOCRITES

Wednesday | June 29 | 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 7:21-23

Bible Verse: "I have told you this many times before,
and now I repeat it with tears: there are
many whose lives make them enemies of
Christ's death on the cross."

Philippians 3:17

In Matt 7:21-23, Jesus predicted the fate of the hypocrites, and that fate is the Lake of Fire. This is why every child of Go must be utterly sincere with God, shunning evil and striving to live a holy life.

*"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath
appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying
ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly,
righteously, and godly, in this present world."*

KJV Titus 2:11

Not all Christians will rejoice on the day when Jesus appear. Those who will rejoice are those who have been washed in the precious blood of the Lamb, and they did all in their power through the help of the Spirit to remain holy. Those whose garments have been stained with dirt (sin), who were not conscious to purify themselves will be sent to eternal condemnation. Many preachers will be shocked as to what they will get on the last day. Do you remember Moses in Num 20:8-11, that even in his disobedience water still gushed out of the rock. But in Deut 3:23-28, the Lord punished Moses. Be warned beloved, our God is a consuming fire.

Wise Quote: *"Focus will keep you personate, creative and persistent."*

Scientific Fact: *Did you know that your foot has 26 bones in it.*

THE WISE BUILDER

Thursday |May 30| 2022

Bible Study: Matthew 7:24-27

Bible Verse: "So then, anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock."

Matthew 7:24

It is one thing to hear and study God's Word, and it is yet another thing to apply it. The application of God's Word has been the biggest problem of Christians today. Many Christians in Nigeria are very religious, they go to Church and do other Church activities; but with a close examination to the kind of lives they are living; you will see that their life is defeating what it stands for (Christ).

"Do not deceive yourself by just listening to his word; instead, put it into practice. Whoever listens to the word but does not put it into practice is like a man who looks in a mirror and sees himself and then goes away and at once forgets what he looks like. But those who look closely into the perfect law that sets people free, who keep on paying attention to it, and do not simply listen and forget it, but put it into practice – they will be blessed by God in what they do."

James 1:22-25

It is the careless study of the scriptures and the wrong application of God's Word that has put many into serious headaches. To have God's Word in you is to have life because that Word refreshes us daily.

Wise Quote: *"No one can defeat us unless we defeat ourselves."* Dr. Dye

CLOSING PRAYERS

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for how You been with me so far, thank You because You have never failed; and may Your infinite love abide with me forevermore.

Even as I proceed with the next month's devotional, open my eyes to see the truth embedded in Your Word, and help me to live in accordance to Your will for my life.

Thank You.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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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.

